

Preface

The Institute of Polymer Research Dresden and the Institute of Macromolecular and Textile Chemistry of the Dresden University of Technology have organized Dresden Polymer Discussions on different topics of the polymer science since 1986.

The sixth in this series of discussion meetings held within a limited circle of invited researchers was held in Meissen near Dresden from April 14 to 17, 1997. It was dedicated to the field 'Surface Modification' and included topics like

- Adsorption of functional polymers
- Polyelectrolytes, polyelectrolyte complexes, surfactants
- Ordered thin layers
- Surface characterization
- Polymers in solutions and at interfaces
- Grafting

The meeting assembled more than 40 scientists from 12 countries with researchers from the Dresden institutes. They discussed 30 oral and 25 poster presentations.

Particular attention was paid to the relevance of surface phenomena and surface modification for practical applications. The participation of a number of representatives from industry stimulated discussions in this respect.

Interface phenomena and optimized design of interfaces have been gaining increasing importance in technological processes; however their scientific fundamentals have not been established yet. The gap between advanced theoretical works and understanding of real systems and processes needs to be closed in joint efforts.

I wish that the meeting and the publication of this *Macromolecular Symposia* volume may contribute to further progress in this field.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of the meeting. In this place my special thanks are to those who have handed in their manuscripts for publication in this volume.

Dresden, July 1997

Hans-Jörg Jacobasch
Symposium Editor