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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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Preface

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PREFACE

The 7th International Conference on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium (ICCST-7) was held July 20-25, 1997 at Vaalsbroek Castle (NL) near Aachen, Germany. The conference has met with much acclaim in various international reviews and can be considered an unqualified success.

The ICCST Conferences are a forum for the exchange of new results, concepts, and ideas in Se/Te chemistry through oral communications and posters. They also schedule overviews within selected areas of research, presented by leading scientists. The previous conferences took place in the following cities: ICCST-1, New York - USA (1971; Wolfgang H.H. Günther, chairman); ICCST-2, Lund - Sweden (1975; Salo Gronowitz); ICCST-3, Metz - France (Mme D. Cagniant); ICCST-4, Birmingham - England (1983; William McWhinnie); ICCST-5, Oak Ridge, Tennessee - USA (1987, Ralf A. Zingaro); and ICCST-6, Osaka - Japan (1991, Noboru Sonoda).

The ICCST-7 addressed the following topics:

- Section 1 - Organic Chemistry
- Section 2 - Inorganic Chemistry
- Section 3 - Biochemistry and Natural Products
- Section 4 - Structural and Theoretical Studies
- Section 5 - Advanced Materials.

The sections were not of equal size: This reflects the present research activities, where a growing volume of biochemical investigations is opposed to a diminishing one in the materials sciences, at least as far as basic research is concerned. The majority of the papers published in the Se/Te field are still devoted to synthetic and mechanistic aspects of organic and metal-organic chemistry: An increasing amount of novel work in inorganic chemistry is manifest, however. As the assignment of a paper to one or the other section is often arbitrary and tenuous, only the specifically invited section lectures are arranged according to their section in the following. Otherwise, the papers are presented in alphabetical order as to the senior or presenting author.

The program comprised both invited plenary and section lectures and invited and contributed communications. Altogether, 164 participants from 31 countries, with the large majority from outside Germany, presented 56 invited papers and 87 contributed communications. It is noteworthy that the largest delegation came from Japan, but also the sizable participation particularly from Brazil, Russia, and India should be mentioned.

We are glad that the Editor-in-Chief of this Journal, Professor Robert R. Holmes, readily agreed to publish the Proceedings of the ICCST-7, as he had also done in the case of the preceding conferences. We hope to enhance the activities and the scientific interest in Se/Te chemistry by providing this overview over the actual research scene. All lecturers were given the opportunity to have their papers included in these Proceedings: As a result, we are in a position to present here 90 contributions, including the great majority of the invited lectures. As the Organizing Committee considers all contributed communications to be equally important in principle, no differentiation as to the mode of presentation (oral or poster) is made in the Proceedings. It will be noted that the length of the papers varies: The standard length was set at 16 pages for plenary/section lectures, and 4 pages for communications. Many contributors are not native English speakers. Also for the Organizing Committee, including the Conference Editor, English is not the first language. We have to apologize for occasional

language imperfections, but we trust that the scientific contents of the papers be not impaired by such deficiencies.

Aachen is the home of Europe's largest Technical University RWTH (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule). The support of the RWTH was essential for the successful organization of the ICCST-7. The Organizing Committee wishes to acknowledge in particular the cooperation of the staff and students of the Chemistry Department. Especially, I wish to thank Mr. Krzysztof Radacki, the Conference Secretary, who has been instrumental in the organizational work including the preparation of these Proceedings.

The ICCST-8 is tentatively scheduled to take place in São Paulo State in Brazil in the year 2000 (João V. Comasseto, chairman); a prospective Conference might some day take place in India: The world-wide interest in Se/Te chemistry seems to increase still; may the ICCST, by providing a focus for this field, continue to flourish.

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