



## Preface

At the Business Meeting of most Scientific Societies, the participating scientists studiously avoid the Chairman's eye when it comes to the item "Election of Chairman" because of modesty? Yes, but also because this post in our Society is associated with organizing the next meeting and that's "bad news" in terms of work: not least, in raising sufficient funds in these difficult financial times. So, you will understand that Professor Ingolf Lamprecht was a trifle hesitant at agreeing to become Chairman of the Society and, thus, principal organizer of the 9th Conference of the International Society of Biological Calorimetry. The balance between princely honour and serving drudgery is a fine one! Anyway, Ingolf is (or, at least, was! after this experience . . .) too much a gentleman to turn his back.

He set about finding an hospitable venue, isolated from the fleshpots of Berlin and, more importantly, he displayed his usual quiet determination in raising the funds necessary to attract participants of the highest quality and of the greatest diversity. He succeeded in both, of course! The meeting was held in a recently upgraded conference centre near the small village of Schmerwitz SSW of Berlin, in the "Flaming" area, which is vaguely in the general direction of Magdeburg from Potsdam. To most of us, this was an unfamiliar region, having been locked behind the "curtain" for so long! In looks and feel in some ways it still has a flavour of "over there".

The success in obtaining monies was reflected in the largest ISBC meeting for some years, with a diversity of disciplines, subjects and topics broached by as multinational a group as one could wish! Ingolf did not wish to impose a theme to the conference and so it goes from "bugs to birds", from "microbes to man", from "ecology to etiolation", almost as a reflection of his diverse interests. The Ingolfian stamp was there, however, also in at least two other respects. First, there were many scientists from the east, from the former Soviet sphere, and they were so welcome — we hope this conference was something of an antidote to their difficulties to pursuing science! Secondly, there was a hint of the Berlin speciality of measuring the heat production of anything small that hops, jumps, leaps, slithers, slides, flies or flowers!

It is becoming customary to publish the Proceedings of ISBC conferences and the Chairman had already made an arrangement with Elsevier when others of us realized that a Festschrift was appropriate for him. The situation was complicated by the pleasant difficulty of having a large number of scientists who wished to

present papers. This necessitated dividing the programme into main lectures and, because of time constraints, short ones, with posters for each section. The latter have positive advantages for presenter and audience and must not be considered “second best”, deserving equal status with the short oral reports.

The difficulty was resolved by Elsevier who suggested that we make two issues! Having recovered from the shock, it seemed to be an excellent answer. We let the authors decide, but asked them to submit papers within tight enough deadlines to allow peer review and still publish well within a year of the conference. So many succeeded that, indeed, we do have two issues: the first (volume 250, part 2) is an arrangement of the invited papers, kicking off with the Third Lavoisier Lecture (see *Thermochimica Acta*, 219 (1993) for the *raison d’etre* and first two lectures), and constituted the Festschrift; and the second is a colourful collection of many of the papers presented at the conference which gave it body and mind, substance and soul.

The editors are most grateful to all around them who were tolerant of a busy summer; to the authors, most of whom were stoical to our criticisms and obedient to our deadlines; and to Elsevier for friendly advice and patient instruction on our many small problems. All contributors were told that

The editors for the special issues of *Thermochimica Acta* are keen to ensure that the Proceedings convey a flavour of the Conference and will ask the Chairpersons of the sessions to write a short commentary on current developments, issues and controversies aired at the meeting — a series of “Berlin Statements”, if you will! Accordingly, papers invited from participants should also reflect the contemporary state of affairs and not be simply Sunday’s lunch dressed up for Monday’s supper.

Only the reader can judge our success!

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