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Thermochimica Acta 259 (1995) ix-x

thermochimica
acta

Preface

The 13th International Conference on Chemical Thermodynamics (ICCT) was held jointly with the 25th AFCAT Conference (Association Française de Calorimétrie et d'Analyse Thermique) under the sponsorship of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) through the Physical Chemistry Division and Commission I.2 on Thermodynamics. Reliable thermodynamic data concerning properties of pure substances and mixtures as well as chemical reactions are of prime importance for both the pure and the applied sciences. They are the basis for theoretical advances and the development of new materials and processes. Despite tough economic times, 450 scientists (plus 150 accompanying persons) from 45 countries registered. The 13th ICCT hosted 21 main lectures (plenary and invited), including the 10th Rossini Lecture, 204 oral communications, and 224 poster presentations, which were organized in 10 symposia devoted to experimental, theoretical and applied aspects of thermodynamics in the following areas:

experimental thermodynamics, nonelectrolyte mixtures/molecular fluids, aqueous solutions at superambient conditions, interfaces/polydispersed systems/colloids, biothermodynamics/health/environment, advanced materials and new technologies, polymeric materials, nuclear materials, fluid phase/energy/industrial, databases/databanks.

The impressive number and the scope of the papers communicated in Clermont-Ferrand are testimony to the unabated, rapid growth of chemical thermodynamics.

The abstracts of the 449 presentations have been collected in the Conference Program book. A portion of these papers is contained in this special issue of *Thermochimica Acta*. Others—depending on the topic—will be published in special issues of *Fluid Phase Equilibria* (H. Renon and J.H. Dymond, editors), *Journal of Thermal Analysis* (S.L. Randzio, editor), and *Journal of Nuclear Materials* (H.J. Matzke, editor). As usual, the text of the main lectures and of the Rossini Lecture will appear in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* (J.-P.E. Grolier, editor); the Rossini Lecture will also be published in the *The Journal of Chemical Thermodynamics*. In recognition of his many achievements in, and contributions to thermodynamics, the IUPAC Commission I.2 has honored *Hendrick C. Van Ness*, Institute Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, USA, by electing him as the tenth Rossini Lecturer. The topic of this lecture, i.e. *Thermodynamics in the Treatment of VLE Data*, is of pivotal importance in chemical thermodynamics.

The 13th ICCT was admirably organized by Professor J.-P.E. Grolier with congenial support from an active International Scientific Committee and an enthusiastic Local

Organizing Committee. All papers in this special issue were peer reviewed, revised by the authors and edited whenever necessary. Of the 25 manuscripts submitted for publication, I have finally accepted 17. The primary contribution of journals to science is *not* the proliferation of minor technical papers, but to guarantee a reasonably high level of quality of published work. We must constantly remind ourselves that a journal is only as good as its review process. Thus, as guest editor for this special issue of *Thermochimica Acta* I am indebted to all the referees for their support: through their objective criticism and helpful suggestions, the manuscripts have certainly been improved and have become more readable. The following 15 scientists (i.e. 5 from Austria, 5 from Germany, 4 from France and 1 from Canada) have donated their expertise and time:

G.H. Findenegg,	Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
J. Gmehling,	Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany
J.-P.E. Grolier,	Université Blaise Pascal, Aubière, France
G. Höhne,	Universität Ulm, Ulm, Germany
F. Kohler,	Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany
H. Ipser,	Universität Wien, Wien, Austria
I. Lamprecht,	Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
V. Majer	Université Blaise Pascal, Aubière, France
J. Mikler,	Universität Wien, Wien, Austria
H. Neugebauer	Universität Wien, Wien, Austria
H. Posch,	Universität Wien, Wien, Austria
J. Rouquerol,	CTM, CNRS, Marseille, France
A.H. Roux,	Université Blaise Pascal, Aubière, France
R.D. Weir,	Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Canada
E. Wilhelm,	Universität Wien, Wien, Austria

Finally, I am pleased to acknowledge the very agreeable cooperation with Elsevier.

Emmerich Wilhelm