

Preface

Taking into account the increasing importance of calorimetry and other thermal methods as a tool for catalysis and surface characterization, there is a crucial need for interaction and collaboration at the international level in this domain. One of the best ways to achieve this purpose is through regularly held conferences that bring together leaders in the field and provide opportunity for discussion of the most recent results in calorimetry and thermal analysis while simultaneously ensuring their dissemination towards a broader audience. In this spirit, a highly successful first meeting on Calorimetry and Thermal Methods in Catalysis was held in 1996 in Puerto Rico, as a post-congress satellite conference of the 11th International Congress on Catalysis held in Baltimore. The above considerations prompted me to organize another similar meeting on the occasion of the following ICC, held in July 2000 in Granada: the Second International Symposium on Calorimetry and Thermal Effects in Catalysis, held in Lyon on 5–7 July 2000.

The topics discussed during the meeting cover an amazingly broad range of issues, from the most fundamental chemistry to the most applied. The conference provided valuable insight into new applications

of thermal methods to catalysis, many of them focusing on the use of microcalorimetry to characterize the active sites of various solid acid catalysts. It was also an opportunity to review recent results, to discuss the latest equipment designs, and to outline future directions for research in calorimetry and thermal analysis.

I would like to thank the various people who have provided a tremendous amount of help for the organization of the conference, as well as the institutions which provided much needed financial support, and the Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse for lending the necessary infrastructure; the editors of *Thermochimica Acta*, and the referees who kindly agreed to spend time reviewing the many high quality articles that have been contributed to these proceedings; and above all, the 110 participants of the symposium, and particularly the speakers, who contributed immensely to make it such a successful event.

Finally, I hope that the upcoming years will see many more international meetings on calorimetry and thermal effects, and that these meetings will be highly successful.

Aline Auroux