

Book Review

Proceedings of the 6th International Symposium on Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis, Wiesbaden, F.R.G., September 24–28, 1984
(Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis, Vol. 8),
edited by H.-R. Schulten, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1985, 594 pp., U.S.
\$140.25/Dfl.435.00.

This special volume of the Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis contains 44 contributions from the 6th International Symposium on Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis. These are complete papers, averaging about 13 pages in length, and not mere extended abstracts. The papers are a good collection as they present a cross-section of apparatuses and techniques which are in the process of development at the present time.

The contents include sections on: Instrumental and Methodological Developments, Chemistry and Mechanisms of Thermal Degradation Reactions, Exploration and Characterization of Fossil Fuels, Biomass Utilization and Characterization, Thermal Recycling Processes, Application in Medicine, Biochemistry and Biology, Forensic Applications of Pyrolytic Methods, and Pyrolytic Studies in Food Chemistry and Tobacco Combustion.

Analytical pyrolysis has come of age in the section on polymers where novel techniques and molecular modeling of considerable sophistication are applied to these reasonably well-defined systems. In contrast, characterization still dominates in areas treating more complex substrates such as coals, biomass and biological materials.

It is obvious that the editor and contributors made a special effort to make this volume more than just typical symposium proceedings and, as a result, it is a useful reference for both those interested in material characterization and those interested in the mechanisms of pyrolytic reactions.

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