

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Since the symposia of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry have grown in importance and in size, several colleagues and members of the Macromolecular Division of the IUPAC have found it most desirable to take account of the broad diversity of polymer research in order to organize microsymbosia, of which the subjects may be concentrated upon only one theme. In this sense several microsymbosia have already been held in Prague and there will be two more in 1972, one on macromolecular matrices and carriers of biological functions and the other on mechanisms of inhibition processes in polymers.

For the same reason we are holding this microsymbosium here in Louvain; it will be devoted to photochemical processes in polymer chemistry. The Scientific Committee of this meeting only agreed to limit the number of lectures to be presented within this framework in order to allow adequate time for discussion.

Three plenary lectures will present some recent and fundamental aspects of photochemistry, independently from polymer research. They will open, as we hope, new research paths and stimulate new ideas in the domain of high polymers. Each theme of the Symposium will be the subject of a main lecture; it will locate the sphere in which the following discussions and communications presented by participants will lie. We hope that this arrangement will improve the exchange of scientific information and contribute to the establishment of new relations between different research laboratories.

In a general scheme, the Symposium can be subdivided into three main parts, the first of which is concerned with more physical aspects and energy transfer problems occurring in polymeric systems. The second part will be devoted to photochemical initiation processes, while the third will be focused mainly on organic photochemistry problems. In this way, we shall attempt to cover the most important fields of research. We had also hoped in fact to have a lecture on photoconductivity in conjugated polymeric systems, to be presented by our colleague A. Berlin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow; we can only regret his absence with us today.

The Scientific and Organizing Committee of this Symposium wants to express its very sincere thanks to the Koninklijke Academie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België for sponsoring this Symposium, as well as to the Ministry of National Education for the appreciable financial support given on this occasion.

The Scientific Committee wishes to extend its very sincere thanks to the lecturers and discussion leaders for their much appreciated collaboration.

Finally we give a sincere welcome to all the participants and colleagues who have accepted our invitation to participate in this Microsymbosium. We wish all of you a fruitful Symposium, a well deserved success and a happy stay with us. I declare open the IUPAC Microsymbosium 1972 on 'Photochemical Processes in Polymer Chemistry'.

G. SMETS,
Chairman of the Symposium