

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of this symposium I bid our sincere welcome in Leuven to all participants of this second microsposium on PHOTOCHEMICAL PROCESSES IN POLYMER CHEMISTRY, sponsored by the I.U.P.A.C. and organized at the occasion of the 550th anniversary of our University.

The subject of this meeting was intentionally concentrated on photochemical and photophysical processes occurring in polymeric systems, and the Scientific Committee agreed to limit the lectures to be presented in order to allow adequate time for discussion, and for the presentation of related papers.

Excepted the opening plenary lecture of Professor TURRO devoted to recent advances in organic photochemistry and the fundamental principles of energy transfer processes in organic molecules all invited lectures are directly concerned with macromolecules.

They can be grouped under a few headlines:

Polymerization kinetics will be considered by prof. LEDWITH with respect to photoinitiation especially by charge transfer processes, by prof. WEGNER concerning solid state polymerization, i.e. stepwise four-center type photopolymerization of diolefines and the polymerization of diacetylenes via carbenoids intermediates, and by professor IRIE concerning photoinduced ionic polymerization of different vinyl monomers.

Photophysical processes and energy transfer in polymeric systems will constitute the second general topic of this meeting. Dr. J. PEARSON will present his lecture on photoconductivity phenomena of high polymers; related problems will be considered by Dr. Zachariasse, Dr. Klöpffer and Dr. Soutar.

Professor GEUSKENS will treat essentially energy transfer phenomena including photodegradation; photostability problems which are directly related to this theme will be considered by professor Rabek and Dr. Balint.

Special attention will be given to laser spectroscopic methods in professor FAURE's lecture, as well as in the related papers of Prof. Schnabel and his coworkers, and of Dr. Ewald.

Photochemical processes in high polymers will be the third main topic. Photooxidation of high polymers will be the theme of Dr. WINSLOW's lecture, as well as that of Dr. Kubica.

We deeply regret the absence of professor A. TROZZOLO who was obliged to cancel his participation at the very latest moment, and who did accept to treat the problem of the photochemical reactions in high polymers. Some aspects of these problems will be presented by professor Knoesel. New developments in photochromic polymers and in photoimaging processes will be presented by Professor KRYSZEWSKI and Dr. J. WILLIAMS.

A special session is devoted to photochemical phenomena in biopolymeric material, of which the importance should be stressed: they will be considered by Prof. ELAD.

The Scientific and Organizing Committee of this Symposium wants to express its very sincere thanks to the National Research and Science Foundation (N.F.W.O.) and the Academic Authorities of this University, as well as to the Ministry of National Education for the appreciable financial support given in this occasion.

The Scientific Committee appreciates very much the presence of professor C.G. Overberger, president of the macromolecular division of the I.U.P.A.C., who will briefly underline the important role of the Union in the organization of international meetings.

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 Microsymposium. We wish all of you a fruitful Symposium, a well deserved success and a happy stay with us. I declare open the I.U.P.A.C. Microsymposium 1976 on "Photochemical Processes in Polymer Chemistry".

G. Smets
Chairman of the Symposium