

Conference report

27th International Vacuum Microbalance Techniques Conference 16–18 July 1997, UMCS Lublin, Poland

Poland was the first country in Central Europe to host one of the series of *International Vacuum Microbalance Techniques Conferences*, the 27th, in 1997. The Thermal Analysis Group in the newly created Department of Physical Chemistry of Solid State (Department of Physical Chemistry, Chemistry Faculty, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin) organised the Conference. Joint sponsors of this conference were the Polish Chemical Society, Science Society of Lublin and Polish Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis. The conference was also sponsored by IUPAC, BKM Mainz (Germany) and 17 different companies from Lublin (Poland).

Seventy participants from 10 countries (Argentina, England, Germany, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine) and 5 exhibitors of scientific apparatus (C.I. Electronics Ltd, England; Mettler-Toledo, Warsaw; Perkin Elmer, Warsaw; Projekt & Montat - TA Instruments, Warsaw; TAK Poland, Warsaw) took part in the 27th IVMT Conference.

Unfortunately, just before the start of the conference more than a dozen potential participants cancelled their participation because of disastrous floods in Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany. Because of this, the conference program was slightly changed. A number of pio-

neers and specialists in microbalance vacuum techniques and thermal analysis (Th. Gast, Germany; F. Paulik, Hungary; J.A. Poulis, Netherlands; E. Robens, Germany; J.C. Bazan, Argentina; V.A. Tertykh, Ukraine; V.I. Bogillo, Ukraine and L. Stoch, S.L. Randzio, W. Rudzifiski, W. Brzyska, S. Halas, R. Leboda, G.W. Chadzynski from Poland) took part in the conference.

The opening ceremony was attended by: M.C.-Skłodowska University Rector—Kazimierz Goebel, M.C.-Skłodowska University v-Rector—Zbigniew Krupa, Chemistry Faculty v-Dean—Jan Rayss, Chairman of the International Steering Committee—Erich Robans, IUPAC Representative—Adam Hulanicki and Conference Chairman—Piotr Staszczuk.

The chairpersons of the plenary sessions and meeting of the International Steering Committee were:

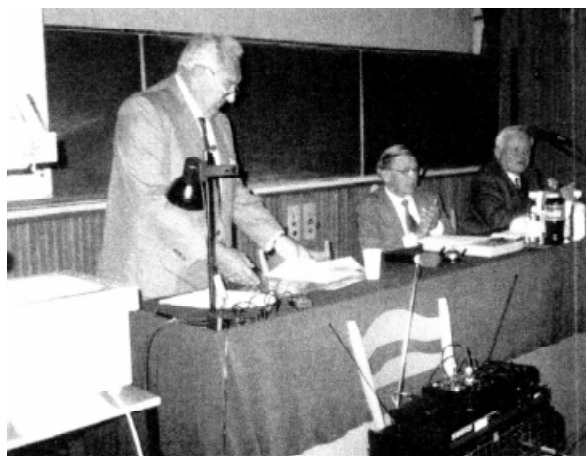
- I A. Hulanicki (Poland) and L. Stoch (Poland),
- II W. Brzyska (Poland) and G.W. Chadzynski (Poland),
- III F. Paulik (Hungary) and Th. Gast (Germany),
- IV J. A. Poulis (Netherlands) and J.C. Bazan (Argentina),
- V C. Pesquera (Spain) and S.L. Randzio (Poland),
- VI S.V. Tertykh (Ukraine) and S. Halas (Poland) and
- VII E. Robens (Germany).

The opening lecture was presented by: Th. Gast (Germany),

The six plenary lectures were presented by F. Paulik (Hungary), E. Robens (Germany), L. Stoch (Poland),



Opening ceremony. From the right: Adam Hulanicki—IUPAC representative. Erich Robens—Chairman of the International Steering Committee; Kazimierz Goebel—M. C.-Skłodowska University Rector-Welcome and introduction; Zbigniew Krupa—M. C.-Skłodowska University v-Rector; Jan Rayss—Chemistry Faculty v-Dean; Piotr Staszczuk—Conference Chairman.



Prof. Ferenc Paulik's plenary lecture. Chair persons: Prof. L. Stoch and Prof. A. Hulanicki (on the left).

S.L. Randzio (Poland), Z. Ali (England), G.W. Chadzynski (Poland). There were an additional 18 lectures and 31 posters.

The topics of the conference included measurement of the change of sample mass loss in vacuum and in a controlled atmosphere, balance history and modern technical studies and applications, thermal analysis and its special techniques and applications, sorption measurements, chemical reactions and phase transitions. The participants presented new and pioneer methods, results and practical applications of the microbalance techniques and special thermal analysis methods. The



Conference welcome social at Stary Tartak near Koziowka. M. C.-Skłodowska University Popular Dance Group sing the Hungarian song for Prof. F. Paulik and his wife.

results of the studies of important materials (adsorbents, zeolites, superconductors, minerals and new chemical compounds) by means of new apparatus and their theoretical interpretation were presented. During the plenary and poster sessions there were many discussions, exchanges of opinions and papers and many new contacts and plans for co-operation were made.

The conference was summarized by the Chairman of the International Steering Committee—Erich Robens. The 28th IVMT Conference will take place in Kiev (Ukraine) in 1999 and 29th RMT Conference in Middlesbrough (UK) in 2001. Erich Robens was confirmed as Chairman of the International Steering Committee and Grzegorz Chadzyfiski (Wroclaw, Poland), Piotr Staszczuk (Lublin, Poland) and Amara Jayaweera (Middlesbrough, UK) were elected as vice-Chairmen. Information about the 27th IMT Conference was published on the Internet and on local Lublin radio and TV. The proceedings will appear as a special issue of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis* (1998).

I would like to mention with gratitude the work of the Science and Organizing Committee members. Meetings took place in an excellent, friendly atmosphere. Three excursions allowed the participants to see the historic town and some of the lovely countryside. The Organizing Committee received many letters from participants congratulating it on a successful international event.

Piotr Staszczuk
Conference Chairman

News

Professor Mthembeni 'Mac' Zulu

It is with sad regret that we have to inform you of the passing of Professor Mthembeni 'Mac' Zulu. He died in a head-on collision on the 18th October 1997. He was a member of Commission II.2. The funeral was on 25th October.

1998 Wolf Prize in Chemistry

Jerusalem—Professors Gerhard Ertl of the Fritz-Haber Institute, Max-Planck Gesellschaft, Berlin, and Gabor A. Somorjai, of the University of California and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, were named the 1998 Wolf Prize winners in Chemistry for their outstanding contributions to the field of surface science.

The Israel-based Wolf Foundation announced today that both distinguished scientists will share the \$100 000 award for their elucidation of fundamental mechanisms of heterogeneous catalytic reactions at single crystal surfaces.

Gerhard Ertl, born 1936, and Gabor A. Somorjai, 1935, have laid the foundation of our present conceptual understanding of catalyzed chemical reactions at surfaces, of enormous importance in industrial technology as well as basic science. Modern surface technologies are applied in many industrial processes such as chemical catalysis, electronics, lubrication, and materials science. Efficient surface catalysts help as well to sustain a clean environment by promoting reactions which destroy toxic pollutants.

Gabor A. Somorjai, has been Professor at the Univer-