

## PREFACE

The XIXth European Congress on Molecular Spectroscopy was held at the University of Technology, Dresden, G.D.R., from September 4th to 8th, 1989.

Badly damaged during the 1939–1945 war, the city has made an excellent recovery and the easy accessibility of the University from the main hotels made Dresden an efficient centre for EUCMOS.

EUCMOS XIX was organised by the Department of Chemistry of the University of Technology, Dresden, with the active participation of:

Chemische Gesellschaft der DDR

Physikalische Gesellschaft der DDR

and the following institutes of the Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR:

Zentralinstitut für Optik und Spektroskopie

Zentralinstitut für physikalische Chemie

Institut für Biochemie der Pflanzen

Our grateful thanks are due to these organisations.

The congress was most successful in achieving its major aim of providing an up-to-date forum for important areas of molecular spectroscopy in both its pure and applied aspects.

The format of this meeting consisted of ten plenary lectures, thirty-four invited lectures and ninety-two oral contributions; in addition, very fruitful poster sessions were held in which over four hundred participants displayed their work.

One of the most felicitous features of the meeting was the great mix of scientists from Eastern and Western European countries able to attend. These were leavened by leading workers from the U.S.A., Canada and Japan. This led to lively and valuable interaction at both the scientific and personal level.

These published "Proceedings" are based on a selection of the papers which fall within the framework of this journal; a further selection is published in the more appropriate *Journal of Molecular Liquids*. The plenary and invited lectures are collected together in the first volume whilst two further volumes contain other contributions, sub-divided into seven major topic areas: structural problems, molecular constants, surface phenomena, crystals and solid state, hydrogen bonding, biological molecules, polymers and dyes.

The editors are extremely grateful to the National Advisory Committee and the International Committee for their help and encouragement.

The XXth EUCMOS will be held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in the autumn of 1991.

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