

Preface

This volume contains the texts of the invited plenary lectures given at the Fifth International Symposium on Novel Aromatic Compounds held at St Andrews, Scotland between July 15th and 19th, 1985. The symposium was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and was organised by the Perkin Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry, with financial support from the Royal Society. The previous four symposia were held at Sendai, Japan; Lindau, FRG; San Francisco, USA; and Jerusalem, Israel. The proceedings of the conferences at Sendai, Lindau and Jerusalem were also published in Pure and Applied Chemistry.

St Andrews was an appropriate choice for a conference on aromaticity in 1985 since the participants were able to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Armit and Robinson's famous paper on the aromatic sextet at its birthplace. Professor Wilson Baker, a student of Robinson and the doyen of British chemists in this area, was unfortunately unable to be present, but we were delighted to be able to welcome Professor Tetsuo Nozoe, in whose honour these symposia were initiated.

Besides the distinguished plenary lectures published here, there was also an extensive and stimulating poster session, to which Professor Nozoe contributed, and a well attended discussion evening on the interaction of theory and experiment, superbly chaired, introduced and stimulated by Professor Larry Schaad.

The Chemistry Department at St Andrews provided excellent facilities, and the participants, from seventeen countries, were also able to sample Scottish hospitality with receptions by the Fife Regional and North East Fife District Councils and by the University. Eleven students from three countries were awarded bursaries with monies generously provided by Beecham Pharmaceuticals, British Petroleum, Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Glaxo, Kodak, Lancaster Synthesis, May & Baker, Pfizer, Roche, Smith Kline & French, and the Wellcome Research Laboratories.

The Organising Committee would like to thank the speakers, the chairmen of the sessions, the contributors to the poster session and the discussion evening, and all the participants for the success of this symposium. They would also like to thank Mr P D Gujral of IUPAC for his care in arranging for the publication of these proceedings, Miss Gina Howlett and Mrs Lorraine Curzon of the RSC Secretariat for their charming efficiency in organising the meeting, and the University of St Andrews for their hospitality.

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