

Preface

The International Symposium on "Macrocyclic Ligands for the Design of New Materials" for environmental, extraction and recognition purposes took place at the University of Surrey (UK) on 14-16 September, 1992. The Symposium was organised by the European Latin American Research Group (ELARG) in this area. The group consists of scientists from European and Latin American institutions. Sponsors of this Symposium were: International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry, European Community (International Scientific Cooperation), U.S. Army (European Office) and Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI).

Delegates from thirty-one countries attended the Symposium. Eight Latin American countries (Argentina, Peru, Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Mexico) were represented. It was the first Symposium in a series of international meetings to be organised by ELARG on a biennial basis, alternatively in Europe and Latin America.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- (i) To make Latin American scientists aware of the interest of their European counterparts in collaborating with Latin America and to encourage their participation in an area of research which, despite its applications, has hardly been developed in Latin America.
- (ii) To give European scientists an insight into the problems facing their Latin American counterparts in order to help with the formulation of research projects geared to their needs.
- (iii) To encourage teaching and research collaboration between universities and industries in Europe and Latin America.
- (iv) To facilitate contacts between scientists from both sides with complementary skills.

In order to achieve these objectives the programme consisted of: (a) Scientific Sessions and (b) Round Table discussions.

- (a) Most aspects of Macrocyclic Chemistry were discussed in four sessions consisting of plenary (ten) and invited (eight) lectures given by experts in the field. Most of these contributions are published in this issue of "Pure & Applied Chemistry". In addition there were seventeen oral and twenty-five poster presentations. Besides the programme on Macrocyclic Chemistry, a session was devoted to Research Activities in Latin America, described in oral presentations of fifteen minutes given by various delegates from Latin America, as well as in poster presentations. These contributions were informative and highly appreciated by the delegates from non-Latin American countries.
- (b) Two Round Tables were organised. These were:
 1. Academic Links with Latin American Universities : New Strategies. Panellists: C. Kessler (EC), P. Moyna (Uruguay), I. Wadsö (Sweden) and R. Herrera (USA).
 2. The Role of Chemistry in the Industrial Development of Latin America. Panellists: R. Cohen-Adad (France), P. Zuñiga Alvarado (Costa Rica), B. Grieverson (UK) and F.H. Marquardt (Chile).

Both Round Tables were followed by active participation of the delegates. Based on the success of this Symposium it has been decided that the Second Symposium of this kind will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 1994.

Finally, I would like to thank the sponsors of this Symposium, in particular the European Community (Scientific International Cooperation) which made possible the participation of a considerable number of delegates from Latin America. Special thanks are due to all of those who contributed to the scientific programme and the Round Table discussions.

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Angela F. Danil de Namor
Chairman