

Foreword

Little by little, the joint Croatian-Slovenian Crystallographic Meetings are becoming traditional. They are held alternately in Croatia and Slovenia. According to a mutual agreement, when held in Slovenia, conference papers based upon the general lectures are published in *Acta Chimica Slovenica*, and when in Croatia in *Croatica Chemica Acta*.

THE SEVENTH SLOVENIAN-CROATIAN CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC MEETING was held in Radenci, Slovenia, from June 18 to 20, 1998. Four plenary lectures were given by Professor M. Kaftory (Haifa, Israel), Professor A. M. Tonejc (Zagreb, Croatia), Professor E. Tillmanns (Wien, Austria), and Dr. K. Djinić Carugo (Heidelberg, Germany). Forty scientific communications were presented by the participating crystallographers.

THE EIGHTH CROATIAN-SLOVENIAN CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC MEETING was held in Rovinj, Croatia, from June 17 to 19, 1999. Fifty-two scientific papers, covering all fields of crystallography, were presented by the crystallographers of both countries, but also by the participants coming from 9 other countries. It was a small but interesting international meeting. Five plenary lectures were given by:

Professor Guy G. Dodson (York, United Kingdom), *The chemistry and evolution of the catalytic structures in serine hydrolases*;

Professor Dmitry Yu. Pushcharovsky (Moscow, Russia), *Recent contribution and modern perspectives in XRD studies of minerals*;

Professor Martino Bolognesi (in collaboration with M. Rizzi, D. Bordo, M. Tonetti and A. D. Flora) (Genova, Italy), *The crystal structures of GDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-mannose epimerase/reductase, a key enzyme in the biosynthesis of activated L-fucose*;

Dr. A. Demšar (Ljubljana, Slovenia), *The inclusion of ionic fluorides in soluble organometallics*;

Professor Gligor Jovanovski (Skopje, Macedonia), *Spectra-structural study on metal saccharinates and their complexes with N-donoring bases*.

Many thanks go to all authors as well as to the Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* for giving us space to publish *in extenso* the plenary lectures presented at the EIGHTH CROATIAN-SLOVENIAN CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC MEETING.

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