

# XIth European Congress on Molecular Spectroscopy

Tallinn, 28 May - 1 June 1973

The XIth European Congress on Molecular Spectroscopy was held from 28 May - 1 June 1973 in Tallinn, capital city of Estonian SSR, USSR. It was organized by the Academy of Sciences of USSR and by the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR, and was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and by the European Physical Society (EPS). This Congress was one of the series of congresses on molecular spectroscopy held biennially in Europe; the previous congresses were organized in Basel, Paris, Oxford, Freiburg, Bologna, Amsterdam, Budapest, Copenhagen, Madrid and Liège. The Congress was located in the Polytechnical University of Tallinn.

At the opening session the participants were greeted first by K.K. Rebane, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR, and later by V.I. Klauson, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, member of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. After this, P. Vodar (France) representative of IUPAC and the present writer, as a representative of EPS, addressed the audience on behalf of the supporting organizations. Then S.E. Frish, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR conveyed the compliments of the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Finally I.H. Kallion, Mayor of the city of Tallinn, welcomed the participants.

The Congress covered the optical spectroscopy of molecular crystals, impurity molecules and molecular aspects of point defects in ionic crystals, matrix spectroscopy of molecules, the Shpol'sky effect, intra- and intermolecular energy transfer, Fourier transform techniques and pulse methods in NMR and heteronuclear magnetic resonance of liquids. 19 plenary lectures were delivered and, because of the wide range of subjects, participants heard about 140 lectures organized in three sections.

The scientific sessions were accompanied by successful social events. After the sightseeing, a cocktail party was given by the Organizing Committee on 27 May, and was followed by a concert of Estonian traditional music and dances in the Rocca al

Mare Open-air Museum on 28 May. A show of films about life in Soviet Estonia was performed the next day in Cinema 'Cosmos'. On 30 May, there was a performance of Ballet 'Joanna Tentana' by Eino Tamberg in Opera and Ballet Theatre 'Estonia'. On 31 May, a concert by the Female and Male Choir of the Estonian Academy of Sciences was organized for the participants of the XIth ECMS in the 'Estonia' Concert Hall; and, finally, on 1 June, the Mayor of Tallinn received some persons in a very nice restaurant.

From a scientific point of view the Congress is widely believed to have been fully successful. The fact, however, that the time allotted for each lecture and subsequent discussion was strictly limited was reflected not only by the succinctness of lectures but by the shortness of discussions. Discussion in depth went on outside lecture halls, in hotels, at receptions, in corridors of the Polytechnical University, and in other places. Such informal discussions have ever been the most valuable feature of a congress, since it is through these opportunities that a wide and lively exchange of experiences takes place, scientific contacts are made, and interchange arranged. Further, it was made possible for the leading experts and research workers from all parts of the world and for scholars of that particular branch of science to meet and to become acquainted with each others' results and methods and, thereby, to further advance molecular spectroscopy.

At the Conference, 615 persons took part: 384 from the Soviet Union, and 231 from 11 countries, most of which were from Europe, but also from America, Asia and Australia.

Concurrent with the Congress, during the lunch-break on 31 May, the Provisional Board of the Molecular Physics Section of the Atomic Physics Division of EPS held its annual meeting.

The participants of the Congress would wish this reporter to express their full satisfaction with the success of the Congress and their thanks to the Organizing Committee, and its head, K.K. Rebane, for his excellent organization and kind hospitality.

I. Kovács

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