

## Preface

The Sixth International Workshop on Glasses and Ceramics from Gels took place in Seville, Spain from the 6th to the 11th of October 1991. These were unforgettable days for the Organizing Committee, the culmination of many months of hard work. We felt rewarded for our efforts by the magnificent welcome of our scientific community which was responsible for the success of the conference, not only because of the interesting discussions of the scientific sessions but also for their participation in the social events.

Editing the Proceedings is a task in which the lack of time is even more critical than usual in a scientific publication. The numerous referees merit particular praise and thanks for the efficiency, rigour and speed with which most of them prepared their reviews despite their personal work load. I must also pay tribute to the outstanding cooperation of our secretary, Maria Pumarejo, whose help was invaluable. These obstacles had already been experienced by my predecessors in the organization of previous Workshops: Professor Gottardi (Padua, 1981), Professor Scholze (Würzburg, 1983), Professor Zarzycki (Montpellier, 1985), Professor Sakka (Kyoto, 1987) and Professor Aegerter (Rio de Janeiro, 1989). For me it has been an honor and an undeserved good fortune to follow in their footsteps.

The Committee and myself want to take this opportunity of the edition of these Proceedings, to thank the 217 participants for their collaboration in the Workshop and for the great number of oral and poster contributions; 21 of a total of 188 papers submitted were invited papers. Included in this volume, you will find the manuscripts that were submitted on time and accepted by the referees after reviewal. Please be advised that, as in all human endeavor, there is always the possibility of error. I also wish to make special mention of the invited lecturers, presidents of the sessions and members of the Local and International Committees, for their support in making this conference such a success.

We can now confidently confirm, ten years after the first edition of this series, that Sol-Gel processing is now a well established branch of Materials Science. In our closing session, during the open debate, it was emphasized that there is no limit to what we can expect in future meetings.

The contents of the Proceedings have been arranged in the same fashion as the Conference, that is, six principal parts with seventeen subsections following the natural sequence from fundamentals to perspectives in the future.

We again wish to thank all our sponsors of the conference whose names appear on the following page and also the Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Cádiz for their important financial support in the edition of these Proceedings.

The next Workshop will take place in Paris, France, 19–23 July, 1993 and will be organized by Professor J. Livage of the University of Paris VI.

### *Special Thanks*

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