REPORT ON XX CONGRESS AMPÈRE, TALLINN, USSR, 21-26 AUGUST 1978

The Groupement AMPÈRE is a European society, founded in 1952, to promote the advancement of radio-frequency spectroscopy through international conferences, colloques, and summer schools, and over the years meetings have been held in most European countries. Major international congresses covering all branches of the subject are held biennially, for example, Bucharest, 1970; Turku, 1972; Nottingham, 1974; Heidelberg, 1976. This year the XX Congress AMPÈRE was held in Tallinn in the USSR, the first meeting of the Groupement Ampère in the Soviet Union.

Attendance was high, about 800, rather more than half coming from the USSR, many Soviet radiospectroscopists taking their first opportunity to participate in an Ampere meeting. The rest of Europe, North America, and other parts of the world were represented though their numbers decreased with remoteness from Tallinn.

The organization closely followed the pattern of previous Ampere Congresses, and Professor Lippmaa and Dr. Saluvere and their colleagues are to be warmly congratulated on their excellent arrangements. The meetings were held in the Tallinn Polytechnic Institute. Tallinn itself, an old city on the Baltic, is a place of great charm and interest, and it is currently preparing itself for the sailing and other aquatic events of the 1980 Olympic Games. Congress participants were agreeably received by the mayor of Tallinn in the old City Hall and entertained to a program of Estonian folk music.

The format of the Congress consisted of plenary lectures from invited speakers in the mornings. In the early afternoon until 4:00 P.M., there were selected orally delivered papers in four parallel sessions, and after that, poster sessions until 7:00 PM. Unusually for a conference in the Soviet Union, all papers were delivered in English. All posters were in English too, though some Soviet participants provided a parallel text in Russian. The poster sessions were very well attended and popular. It was particularly appreciated that all participants, invited speakers included, provided a poster on their work.

The subject matter covered all branches of radiospectroscopy in the general context of physics, including chemical physics and biophysics. The book of abstracts records some eight hundred papers. The scope of the meeting can be judged by the titles of the sessions: *High Resolution NMR in Solids, Multi-Quantum Coherence, Tunnelling Processes, Acoustic Resonance, Jahn-Teller Ions, Paramagnetic Centers, Rare Earths, Antiferromagnetic Resonance, Spin Waves, Biopolymers, EPR, EPR in Biology, Phase Transitions, Magneto-Optic Effects, Membranes, Complexes in Solutions, Chemical Polarization, Semiconductors, Triplet States, Free Radicals, ENDOR and ELDOR, Ferroelectrics, Ferromagnetics, Liquids, Liquid Crystals, Optical Nuclear Polarization, NQR, Mossbauer Spectroscopy, Cyclotron Resonance, One-Dimensional Systems, Metals, New Techniques.*

Plenary invited papers were given by R. Blinc (Ljubljana), E. Brun (Zurich), U. Haeberlen (Heidelberg), R. R. Ernst (Zurich), O. Jardetzky (Stanford), J. S. Waugh (Cambridge, Mass.), V. A. Atsarkin (Moscow), M. A. Teplov (Kazan), A. Pines (Berkeley), J. Bargon (San Jose), E. L. Frankevich (Moscow), Y. N. Molin (Novosibirsk), E. R. Andrew (Nottingham), B. Schneider (Prague), V. G. Fleischer (Leningrad), N. J. Poulis (Leiden), J. Smidt (Delft), T. Haavasoja (Helsinki), A. Losche (Leipzig), and E. I. Fedin (Moscow).

The proceedings of the conference are being reproduced photographically from typed manuscripts handed in at the Congress, and the organizers hope to have the volumes of proceedings ready for publication early in 1979.

The XXI Congress AMPÈRE, organized by Professor J. Smidt, will be held jointly with the 7th International Magnetic Resonance Symposium, in Delft, The Netherlands, in August 1980. The XXII Congress AMPÈRE, organized by Professor J. Stankowski, will be held in Poznan, Poland; and the XXIII Congress AMPÈRE, organized by Professor A. Muller, will be held in Zurich, Switzerland.

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