

Impressions of ICPS'98

The International Congress of Photographic Science (ICPS) was held in 1889 for the first time, and has been held every four years recently. The latest one, ICPS'98 International Congress on Imaging Science, was held in Antwerp, Belgium, on September 7-11 this year under the sponsorship of The Royal Flemish Chemical Society (KVCV), Photonics Section, and the International Committee on the Science of Photography (ICSP).

First of all, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee of ICPS'98, including Dr. Klaus Seeger, General Chair, Dr. Christian Van de Sande, Vice-President, Dr. Rene De Keyzer, Program Coordinator, Mr. Jan De Roeck, Secretary, and many other members for achieving such a successful congress. The congress was highly successful; there were many participants (more than 700!), many interesting papers and discussions, and attractive and gorgeous events all organized with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. I am sure that all the participants were satisfied with this congress. On behalf of ICSP, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the organizing committee, and especially to Agfa-Gevaert N. V., which strongly supported the Congress.

I was much impressed that Track 1 dealing with silver halide photography, which has always been the main and traditional area of ICPS from its beginning, was filled with such a large number of papers, indicating its high and growing activity. I am sure that many participants in Track 1 were interested in the presentations on various tabular silver halide emulsion grains, including new approaches and ideas on traditional {111} tabular grains, as well as descriptions of new tabular AgCl and AgBr grains with {100} surfaces. New experimental and theoretical methods were successfully used to reveal the structure and physical properties of silver halides. Spectral sensitization with J-aggregated dyes is still a very interesting topic. New aspects of clusters of photographic importance attracted keen interest of the audience. It was the first time that photothermography had its own session in ICPS with many interesting papers, indicating the rapid increase in its technological importance. The session dedicated to the late Prof. Friedrich Granzner was solid with many scientifically and historically interesting presentations.

One of the challenges of such a large and fruitful congress is the difficulty for an individual to attend all the sessions of interest. I, for example, could not attend all of the sessions within Track 1, because they had to be held in parallel owing to the large number of papers. It was the first time for ICPS to make an extensive effort to include the activities in new and growing technological areas such as non-impact printing (Track 2) and electronic photography (Track 3). These tracks were also successful, and I believe that we should continue to make this effort in future congresses.

The many attractive events planned by the organizing committee were pleasant and satisfying. They re-energized us and provided us with opportunities to become acquainted, and to communicate with each other. These events were gorgeous and well-organized with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness under the guidance of the congress chair, Dr. Seeger, in accord with his policy, "It's the balance of work and pleasure that motivates a person".

The activity of ICSP was advanced during the Congress. The officers of ICSP for the coming four years (1998-2002) were elected at their meeting on September 8. I was re-elected as the President. Mr. Chris Roberts of Kodak, Ltd., retired as Secretary according to the Statutes of ICSP, and was succeeded by Dr. Annabel Muentner of Eastman Kodak Company. On behalf of ICSP, I would like to express my hearty gratitude to Chris for his excellent and active service to the ICSP for 14 years. Annabel and I would also like to ask you for your cooperation. The addresses of the new officers are as follows,

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The Berg Prize and the Chibisov Prize were established in memory of Prof. W. F. Berg (the former President) and Prof. K. V. Chibisov (the first Honorary President), respectively, and presented for the first time at this Congress. The Berg Prize was awarded to Dr. Rene De Keyzer of Agfa-Gevaert N. V. for his outstanding contribution to the development of international collaboration in imaging science. The Chibisov Prize was awarded to Dr. J. Maskasky of Eastman Kodak Company for his outstanding contributions to the development and characterization of silver halide materials. The prizes were presented to the winners at the closing ceremony of the Congress. I would like to personally congratulate both the winners.

It was decided at the ICSP meeting that the next congress would be held in Tokyo in 2002, by accepting the proposal of the Society of Photographic Science and Technology of Japan (SPSTJ). I think it will be very difficult to organize such a successful congress as this one again in Tokyo in 2002. But I have every confidence in my colleagues in the SPSTJ. Several other international meetings were proposed and accepted.

Another subject for discussions was whether we should keep or change "photography" in the names of the committee and the congress. Because the ICSP meeting was too short for us to discuss this question extensively and draw a conclusion, it was decided that we should continue our discussions on this subject among the members of ICSP by means of E-mail and Fax. I would appreciate comments and opinions on this subject, not only from the members of ICSP, but from the larger imaging science community.

Finally, I would like again to thank the organizing committee and the many participants in ICPS'98 for their contributions to such a successful congress, and I look forward to further enhancement of the development of the imaging science community with your kind and active collaboration.

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President of ICSP