International Symposium on PLASTICS TESTING AND STANDARDIZATION



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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLASTICS TESTING AND STANDARDIZATION

Sponsored by the American Society for Testing Materials for the American Group for ISO/TC-61 Philadelphia, Pa., October 30-31, 1958



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Printed in Baltimore, Md. October, 1959 When the invitation to hold the Eighth Annual Meeting of Technical Committee-61—Plastics—of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC-61) in Washington, D. C., was accepted, the American Group for ISO/TC-61 proceeded to implement its plans for an international symposium on "Plastics Testing and Standardization." The plans included scheduling the symposium so that time and geography would make it possible for delegates to the Washington meeting (November 3–8) to participate in the symposium. Accordingly, October 30–31, 1958, were the dates chosen and Philadelphia the location. A. C. Webber was appointed chairman, presiding over a symposium committee whose membership included W. E. Brown, K. A. Kaufmann, Norman Skow, R. K. Witt, and Frank Y. Speight.

The American Society for Testing Materials (the American Group for ISO/TC-61 is a Subcommittee of ASTM's Committee D-20 on Plastics) sponsored the symposium. The American Group serves in an advisory capacity to the American Standards Assn. which holds the secretariat for ISO/TC-61. Its membership includes representation from the Manufacturing Chemists' Assn. the Society of the Plastics Industry, and the Society of Plastics Engineers.

The four symposium sessions were built around the themes of (1) world standardization practice; (2) and (3) test methods for engineering and thermal properties; and (4) methods for molecular characterization. That the goal of a truly international symposium was realized is attested to by the fact that some 18 of the 24 papers presented were from countries other than the United States. The session on "How National Standards are Achieved" accomplished the very significant objective of presenting, following a standard outline, the 1958 national standardization story for each of twelve nations. This background will be most helpful in future work on plastics and, more broadly, in all international standardization. The sessions on engineering properties and on thermal properties of plastics dealt with techniques applicable to the standardization work of today and the near future. The papers in these sessions were important not only as they presented information on the ever advancing technology, but as they foster understanding of the technical base on which the national standards of the world are built. The final session on methods for molecular characterization pointed the way to standardization technology of the future.

The authors, who spent many hours preparing their papers, and who in the last analysis were responsible for the outstanding success of the symposium, are here recognized for a job well done. To A. C. Webber, chairman, who, with his hard-working symposium committee, did a magnificent piece of work in organizing the program and reviewing and preparing the papers for this Special Technical Publication of the American Society for Testing Materials, the American Group for ISO/TC-61 and the Plastics Industry owe a very real debt of gratitude.

C. HOWARD ADAMS¹

¹ Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for the International Symposium on Plastics Testing and Standardization and the Eighth Annual Meeting of ISO/TC-61; Chairman of the American Group for ISO/TC-61 1955-1958.

NOTE.—The Society is not responsible, as a body, for the statements and opinions advanced in this publication.

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Part I—How National Standards Are Achieved

Each participant in this session discussed the methods of achieving national standards in his country with particular reference to plastics. Since the work of ISO/TC-61 is based on national standards, it is believed that a better mutual understanding of how each member country accomplishes them will be of value to its members.



PARTICIPANTS IN SESSION I: Front Row, from left to right—Jan Wodzicki, Poland; Andrew Miklovicz, Hungary; Frank W. Reinhart (session chairman), U.S.A.; F. M. Jacobs, The Netherlands; H. M. Glass, United Kingdom. Back Row—Robert Burns, U.S.A.; ASTM Executive Secretary R. J. Painter, U.S.A.; ASA Managing Director George F. Hussey, Jr., U.S.A.; Gerhard Ehlers, Germany; W. Broberg, Sweden.

Contributions from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Rumania, and the USSR appearing in this publication were not presented at the meeting. The contribution from Poland presented by Mr. Wodzicki was prepared by Boleslaw Mrozowski and the contribution from The Netherlands presented by Mr. Jacobs was prepared by F. W. R. Wijbrans.

