

The 45 th + 2 Birthday of STK Annual Meeting

Wednesday & Thursday

September 14 - 15 th. 2022

Sika Technology

Tüffenwies16, CH-8048 Zürich, Switzerland

Honorary address by Dr. Erwin Marti

STK co-founder in 1975 and STK President 1979-2000

Dear Professor Pierre Brodard, dear Members and Participants, dear Guests.

I like to congratulate Professor Brodard for his excellent guiding of the Swiss Society for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry. His activities together with the Board Members of the STK are focussed in a broad sense on the technological areas of Chemistry and Analysis.

The Domains in the Institute in Fribourg are also guided by Professor Brodard in similar areas as the STK.

Now, I would like to discuss the prerequisites which I regard as necessary for the foundation of a Society. A founder interested to become a President or a Board Member should be an Expert in the anticipated Fields.

My first contact with Thermal Analysis took place 1967 at the University of California in Berkeley.

I informed my Professor Harald Johnston about my interest to join a Chemical Company 1968 in Basel.

The Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry discussed with our friend T.Z. Chu, Treasurer of the Berkeley Campus and CEO of the Finnigan Instrument Company the possibility to offer an outstanding highlight for my departure.

Their choice for such a contact could not be a better one. They selected Professor William Giaque, head of the Low Temperature Laboratory in Berkeley. The Nobel Prize was granted to him for his leading research in the Chemical Thermodynamics. The visit ended with a discussion of his published measurements on the melting point, the enthalpy of fusion and the premelting of Nitric Oxide with Adiabatic Calorimetry.

The melting point of Nitric Oxide was measured as 109 °Kelvin.

The eutectic Purity of this sample was determined with a value of 99.999 %.

Finally, I received his publication to take it to Switzerland.

Premelting of crystalline substances became a favourite subject area in my laboratory of the Geigy Corporation in Basel. The eutectic purity value measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry or by Differential Thermal Analysis were analytical characterisation methods which made the classical Melting Point determination to a second choice.

The eutectic purity became also an important quality value through our project activities as a indicator of the instability of crystalline powders.

The Foundation of the STK was initiated by a letter of Professor Lehmann, University of Clausthal-Zellerfeld. He asked us to join the German Society for thermal Analysis together with additional scientists,

My letter returned to Professor Lehmann was a clear statement: I would become active to found a Swiss Society for Thermal Analysis and after this step both societies should cooperate.

I informed Professor Oswald and I was invited for a meeting. We two were in favour of such a move.

A crucial point had to be solved: Professor Oswald proposed the form of a tea-party, however, I was absolute for a Society with a legal regulation.

My brother-in-law was a Lawyer. So it was easy to get Statutes.

The Founding Members accepted the Statutes.

The first Meeting for the STK was held at the ETH Zürich in 1975.

Now, we start the 47th Annual Meeting.

This fact is certainly a surprise, for all who are involved and especially also for my wife and for myself.

The world has made during the the year of 2022 a complete change. Any human being and any organization must react.

Also the STK is forced to fulfil his part.

Coming to close my speach, I thank all the Scientists, the repretatives of the Instrument Companies. I thank also the involved Managers for their generosity as Sponsors.

Finally, I will close with a proverb from Jeremias Gotthelf:

Im Hause muss beginnen, was blühen soll in unserem Land.

Auslegung dieses Spruchs:

Die Schweiz hat keine Rohstoffe. Die Schweiz wurde aus diesem Grunde um 1900 als eines der ärmsten Länder von Europa beurteilt. Die Schweiz kann nur durch gute Ausbildung in allen Stufen und unserem Leistungswillen den erzielten Stand beibehalten.

Die Abwertung des Euro von 1.6 im 2007 auf 0,95 SFr. im 2022 d. h. etwa 40 % spricht eine klare Sprache.

Ich wünsche der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Thermoanalyse und Kalorimetrie eine lange, erfolgreiche und glückliche Zukunft.

Concluding remarks: The future of the STK in a fast changing world is depending to a certain extent on there public information. Some Ideas to improve the publicity on the activities of the STK should be formulated and in the future activated by an integration in the scientific program. A search for scientific areas with a technological importance not presented by the activities of the STK could become additional goals of the idea of Life Long Learning.