

Conference Report II

NORDIC RHEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2002

GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN

JUNE 12TH - 14TH, 2002

Figure 1 (left):
from left to right
back: Peter Szabo, Mats
Stading, Antal Boldizar
front: Evan Mitsoulis,
Rodney Rychwalski,
Mrs. White, James White



Figure 2 (right):
Conference dinner
from left to right:
Susanna Edrud,
Sarah Mason, Alan Friis,
Nancy Kjæbaek, Evan Mitsoulis



This year's conference took place in Göteborg at Chalmers University, with Professor Mikael Rigdahl at the helm of the organising committee. The special topic for the conference was "Rheology for Processing." True to form for the NRS conferences, a rheology course was offered on the 12th June, to get people started. Some 40 delegates took the chance to brush up their rheological knowledge prior to the conference beginning. The invited speakers provided the material for the rheology course, although Professor Rigdahl had to step in with a lecture due to illness causing Ivan Tomka to withdraw from the conference.

A reception was held for the delegates in the City Hall, or Börsen, which translates to Stock Exchange during the evening of the 12th. A buffet was served and the mayor of Göteborg formally welcomed the Society to town and wished us all a successful conference.

There was a large attendance this year, with some 107 delegates who enjoyed 28 presentations, 5 posters, and stands from 10

exhibitors. Indeed not since the last time the conference was in Sweden, 1998, have we had parallel sessions.

The conference started on June 13th in the brand new conference facilities of Chalmers, which were luxurious to say the least. The Principle of Chalmers welcomed the society and formally opened the conference, before the first session got under way with the first of the invited speakers, Professor Evan Mitsoulis from the National Technical University of Athens, who spoke in detail about, "The effect of rheology in polymer processing: A simulation point of view." The day then continued with further talks relating to polymer processing, biopolymers and instrumentation techniques.

The weather was against the delegates regarding the boat trip that had been arranged. This was cancelled due to heavy rain and substituted by a bus trip round Göteborg instead, before dropping the dry delegates at the Barken Viking, an old sailing ship, for the conference dinner. With their sea legs settled under tables the annual feast was begun. Mid way through the meal, the attention of the delegates was called for the presentation of the Annual Rheology Award of the NRS, The Carl Klason Award. This year the award was presented for the first time in absentia, to a person that is a highly influential figure in Scandinavian rheology, Josef Kubát. The following eulogy was written by Professor Mikael Rigdahl; one of Josef's former students.

Josef Kubát was born 75 years ago in Vestrev, in what is now the Czech Republic. He obtained his Doctor of Science degree in 1965 on a thesis entitled "A similarity in the stress relaxation behaviour of high polymers and metals" at the University of Stockholm. In 1969 he was appointed (the first) professor in Polymeric Mate-

Figure 3:
from left to right:
Bente Wischmann,
Tina Ahmt



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202

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Figure 4 (left):
from left to right
Jörg Läger, Gustav Upmark
at exhibition

Figure 5 (right):
Peter Szabo lecturing

rials at Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg, Sweden. Josef has been dedicated to rheology all his life. This is to some extent reflected in the fact that during the period 1960 to 1969 he was head of the Rheological Laboratory at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. He was also first the Secretary and then the chairman of the Swedish Society of Rheology. That period extended for 28 years. In a sense, he is then one of the grandfathers of the Nordic Rheology Society. Josef was also the organiser of the International Congress on Rheology 1976 in Göteborg.

Josef Kubát is certainly best known for his work on solid-state flow of polymers and metals. An interest that is still alive today. In order to understand the solid-state flow, he developed a cooperative model based on Bose-Einstein statistics. Although the final results are similar to those of the familiar Eyring model, the physical interpretation is entirely different. Josef's interests extend however beyond stress relaxation and creep. For example, one can mention electrical properties and fluctuations in polymeric materials, physical ageing, thermodynamics, the use of cellulose in combination with thermoplastics, high pressure injection moulding and microcrystalline cellulose.

Apart from this, Josef has been a very inspiring supervisor for many young students and several of these have later made successful careers in the industry or at universities.

Day two of the conference got underway with the second of the invited speakers, Professor James White of the University of Akron, USA. He delighted the delegates with his account of wall slippage in polymer melt rheology and processing. Further lectures on polymer processing took the conference to lunch and the last of the invited speakers, Professor Anne Marie Hermansson, launched the final session on food rheology with a summary of structure engineering in foods.

Three more food related talks were presented before the close of the conference. This year, the NRS had decided to award a prize of 100 Euros to the best presentation / poster, to be judged by the invited speakers. The first such

prize was awarded to Henrik Koblit Rasmussen, from the Technical University of Denmark, for his highly informative and entertaining presentation covering "The inflation and its stability in the thermoforming process."

The NRS are also proud to mention that three students received the NRS travel grant, allowing them to attend and present either an oral presentation or a poster. The three students in question were: Kouame Kouassi, University of Helsinki; Vinicius Lobosco, STFI, Stockholm and Tapio Saarinen, Helsinki University of Technology.

With that, the end was drawn to a successful conference and the conference organisers were duly thanked for their hard work and efforts. The final word was given to the delegates in the form of an invitation to meet up once again next year, when the venue for the Nordic Rheology Society Annual Conference will be the Faroe Islands, June 2nd-3rd 2003. Details of this and other NRS business can be obtained from the web page: www.nordicrheologysociety.org.

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Figure 6:
from left to right
Prof. Anne Marie Hermansson
and Prof. Leif Bohlin