

The Origins of the Institutions for Crystal Growth

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The aim of this contribution is to inform participants of the 25th Joint Seminar DMSRE about the origins of the International Conferences on Crystal Growth and formation of the International and National Organizations on Crystal Growth and Journal of Crystal Growth.

International Conference on Crystal Growth held on 20 - 24 Juni 1966 Boston (MA), USA is labeled as the ICCG-1. Organizing such a conference was an idea of Michael M. Schieber, at that time a Research Fellow at the Imperial College at Harvard University. M. Schieber started to organize this conference in summer 1964 and for his thought he obtained such heavyweights in the field of crystal growth as were B. Chalmers, S. Peiser, R.A. Laudise, K. Jackson, J. Wenckus, R. Parker, D. Turnbull, K. Button (all from the USA), Ch. Frank, W. Bardsley (UK), R. Kern (France), I.N. Stranski, S. Haussuhl (Germany), H. Bethge (East Germany), I. Sunagawa (Japan). These crystal growers became later members of the Organizing Committee of the ICCG-1.

Organization of this conference was not simple because some American organizations, mainly those which have organized so far meetings dealing with crystals growth and their characterization, remonstrated against organization of Schieber's conference (for instance American Ceramic Society, Electrochemical Society, American Crystallographic Society, and International Union of Crystallography (IUCrys). The last one, according to the then President P.P. Ewald, was convinced, that both crystal growth and crystals preparation pertain to crystallography.

Another problem that the organizers had to solve was the Conference Proceedings edition. They should be only as Appendix of the Journal of Physics and Chemistry of Solids not distributed to all subscribers of the Journal. M. Schieber made a rapid action – to establish a new journal concerning only with crystal growth. B. Chalmers agreed to co-edit such a journal, K. Button accepted the position of principal editor and N. Cabrera joined the Editorial Board as a member.

The conference was a great success. It attracted some 625 participants presenting more than 160 contributions published in the Proceedings of an International Conference on Crystal Growth.

[1] M.M. Schieber, AACG Newsletter Summer 2007, page 10 – 14.

[2] D.T.J. Hurle, J. Crystal Growth 243(2002) 1 -7.