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Preface

This special issue contains papers presented at the International Symposium on Physics of Materials (ISPMA) organised by the Department of Physics of Materials of the Charles University. This Symposium, which was held at the historical building of the Conference and Social Centre “Professed House” of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 10–15 September 2017, was the 14th in a series of the ISPMA Symposia (formerly International Symposium on Plasticity of Metals and Alloys).

The first symposium in this series was held in 1972 in Prague. Subsequent meetings were held every 3 or 4 years. The main idea of the symposia was to bring together an international group of physicists and materials scientists dealing with the plasticity of metals and alloys. Up to 1989, these conferences were also occasions where the scientists from West and East could meet easily. The late Professor Peter Haasen helped for many years in promoting good relations between researchers from the West and the East. He was one of those who contributed considerably to maintain a high scientific level of this symposia series. He did very much for the advancement of metal physics at Charles University. Therefore, the former Department of Metal Physics as the organiser of ISPMA decided to honour his memory by a memorial lecture in materials science that will be held on the occasion of each ISPMA. Professor Richard Wagner (Grenoble, France) held the Haasen memorial lecture during the 14th Symposium.

The scientific program of the Symposium consisted of numerous thematic sessions involving also invited talks. 8 plenary lectures were presented during the Symposium. The plenary speakers were: E.C. Aifantis (Thessaloniki, Greece), I.J. Beyerlein (Santa Barbara, USA), H.L. Fraser (Columbus, USA), P. Haehner (Petten, the Netherlands), T.G. Langdon (Southampton, UK), M. Nagoshi (Kawasaki, Japan), C.A. Schuh (Cambridge, USA), V.A. Yartys (Kjeller, Norway).

The number of participants of the symposium was 151 from 20 countries around the world, including China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Finland, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Ukraine, USA, and Czech Republic.

The Symposium organisers express their gratitude to those who accepted invitations to present plenary and invited lectures and to those who participated in the Symposium. They also thank all members of the International and Local Organising Committees and the staff of the Professed House for their contributions to a successful meeting. Finally, they gratefully acknowledge the competent advice from all those who helped in the refereeing process of the manuscripts presented in this issue.

ISPMA 14 Chairs: F. Chmelařk, P. Dobroň
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