

[Foreword]

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Foreword

The International Symposium held in Praha on August 27–31, 1990 is the fifth in the series of International Symposia arranged by the Department of Metal Physics of Charles University on the theme of Plasticity of Metals and Alloys.

The previous symposia had taken place at Srní in the year 1987 (see Czech. J. Phys. B 38 (1988), pp. 353–535), at Mariánské Lázně in the year 1984 (see Czech J. Phys. B 35 (1985), pp. 191–358) and in Praha in the year 1970 and 1980 (see Czech. J. Phys. B 31 (1981), pp. 113–234).

The papers presented at the Symposium were devoted to two main topics:

a) Physics of ultrafine-grained materials (rapid solidification technique, grain boundaries, superplasticity, nanocrystalline materials).

b) Modern problems in plasticity (plastic instabilities, intermetallic compounds).

The 43 papers presented are collected in two journals. The keynote lectures and a selection of other lectures are published in a special issue of Material Science and Engineering A. The list of the papers published in this journal is given below. The other contributions are published in this issue of Acta Universitatis Carolinae – Mathematica et Physica.

The invited readers of key lectures were B. Baudelet (Grenoble), A. M. Dolgin (Kharkov), Y. Estrin (Hamburg-Harburg), P. Haasen (Göttingen), H. Jones (Sheffield), T. G. Langdon (Los Angeles), M. M. Myshlyaev (Moscow), A. Seeger (Stuttgart), H.-E. Schaefer (Stuttgart), R. Z. Valiev (Ufa) and R. A. Varin (Waterloo).

The Symposium was attended by scientists active in the field from Austria, Canada, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Hungary, United States of America and Czechoslovakia.

The Symposium was held at the Students' dining room of Charles University. We are indebted to the staff at the Students' dining room for their outstanding service which contributed so much to the splendid atmosphere at the Symposium. We would like to thank all those at the Department of Metal Physics who have helped in the preparation for the Symposium.

Pavel Lukáč

Přemysl Málek