

Preface

The 13th “Contribution of Metallography to Solving Production Problems” conference was held on 17 – 19 June 2014 in the Lázně Libverda spa in the beautiful countryside of north Bohemia in the Czech Republic. The tradition of these conferences started in 1983. Recently they have been held at three-year intervals. During this period it rotates with other important events in the field of materials research, namely the International Symposiums on Metallography and Fractography - organized in Slovakia. The conference is focused on practical aspects of using metallography in production and/or service. However, the scope of the conference has long transcended the field of metal and alloys, and it is now a forum for presenting the latest results concerning numerous new modern materials and technologies as well as new methods in materials research. The original “group of classic metallographers” has extended to include materials specialists from various other fields.

All of the 73 attendants participated in the scientific programme which included 49 oral presentations – 33 are presented as the papers here in the Proceedings – Special Issue of Key Engineering Materials. Most of them are very interesting in content and bring new knowledge to materials research and its practical application in industry. This conference was also a nice opportunity for meeting specialists from various branches, who are using metallography and are working for different institutions including industrial research institutes, factories, universities and academic institutes. The organizers of this conference make every effort to keep conference fees as low as possible to allow attendance of young research -workers. These efforts were relatively successful and a lot of new young faces could be seen at the conference.

The organizing committee wishes to acknowledge the assistance and encouragement that we have received from our organizations and the many other individuals, who helped prepare this event. The success of this conference was first of all a result of the quality and the motivation of its participant. So we would like to thank all participants for their presence and for their contributing to a friendly atmosphere during this event. Our thanks are also due to all the session chairmen and women, who directed the programme. We are also very grateful to the reviewers, whose very consistent reviewing of manuscripts was of great help in improving the quality of many papers. We also owe our gratitude to the publishers of this journal for their willingness to deal with the papers of these proceedings. We are very grateful also to Lukáš Stuna, who prepared the conference web site.

I am particularly thankful to the members of the Programme and Organizing Committee and especially to the scientific guarantor of this conference Petr Zuna. My special thanks go to Dagmar Jandová for all her hard work with the preparation of the conference proceedings.

Josef Kasl
Chair of the Conference

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Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague
and
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