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Preface

Film Processing Advances

Herausgegeben von Toshitaka Kanai, Gregory Campbell

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Foreword

The polymer and plastics industries have had a profound techno-economic impact on society for almost a century. In fact, it has been suggested that the advent and use of polymers and plastics products have represented a revolutionary technological change. They are used in packaging, furniture, construction materials, automotive, aerospace, sporting goods, biomedical, electronics, communications, and so on. More importantly, they have adapted to the ever changing social and technological demands. Thus, many of the current popular products, such as smart phones, computers, and other technological innovations would be difficult to contemplate in the absence of polymers. It does not seem likely that the foreseeable future will see a reduction in the important role that polymers and plastics will play in future technological development.

Cognizant of the role that polymers played and will continue to play in our lives, a group of polymer scientists and engineers from various countries around the world founded the Polymer Processing Society (PPS) in March 1985 at the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, USA. According to its constitution, the goal of the PPS is to foster scientific understanding and technical innovation in polymer processing by providing a discussion forum in the field for the worldwide community of engineers and scientists. Thus, PPS has attempted to achieve this goal using the following mechanisms:

1. Organization of annual and regional conferences rotating among the various regions of the world and the dissemination of technical content of the conferences in the form of proceedings.
2. The publication of the International Polymer Processing (IPP) Journal.
3. The publication of the Progress in Polymer Processing (PPP) Series.

So far, these activities have allowed the PPS and its members to exchange information and ideas about the evolution of the principles and methods of polymer science and engineering and their application to the generation of innovative products, processes and applications.

Since the formation of PPS, eleven PPP volumes have been published. Four distinguished leaders in the polymer processing field have served as series editors: Leszek Utracki, Warren Baker, Kun Sup Hyun, and James L. White. Last summer at PPS 29 in Nuremberg, Germany, I was asked by the Executive Committee of PPS to serve as

PPP series editor. It is my hope, that with the help of the Advisory Editorial Board, our colleagues in the polymer processing field, and Hanser Publications, to publish at the rate of about one book every year. We already have two books under preparation. I encourage prospective authors to contact me or any of the Advisory Board members with their ideas and suggestions.

One of my first tasks has been to follow and expedite the completion of *Film Processing Advances*. This has given me the opportunity to refresh and expand my contacts with the editors, Drs. Kanai and Campbell, whom I have known for many years. As I have done some work in the area of film processing, I always benefited from reading their works and meeting them at conferences. Thus, it was easy to work together with them and with the publisher, Hanser, to set up the necessary mechanisms and procedures for a smooth and timely finish for this ambitious project. It is a real pleasure to have *Film Processing Advances* as the first PPP project completed during my first term as a series editor. Obviously, the credit goes to Professors Campbell and Kanai and to the contributors of the chapters for their tireless efforts. We also owe special thanks to the editorial staff at Hanser, especially Ms. Cheryl Hamilton, who handled the details of publication smoothly and efficiently.

As we all know, plastic films represent a major component of the polymer and plastics business. Plastic films are used extensively in packaging products. They have withstood and adapted to various pressures and requirements. Film processing technology continues to advance with the advent of improved extrusion and die design technologies, development of advanced film blowing and casting techniques; temperature, orientation, and crystallization control, and advanced computer simulation, monitoring and control systems. Thus, the publication of *Film Processing Advances*, by the same editors of the successful *Film Processing*, represents a timely technical update on the status of film processing technology.

Finally, on behalf of the Polymer Processing Society and the PPP Editorial Advisory Board, I would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation for Professor Gregory Campbell and Professor Toshitaka Kanai for the immense amount of effort, time, and dedication that they have contributed to the editing and preparation of this book. I also wish to thank the other authors for contributing their excellent chapters. Also, we owe a lot of thanks to Ms. Cheryl Hamilton and other Hanser staff for the organization of the copyediting of the book and timely completion of this project.

Musa R. Kamal
Series Editor