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Editorial

This volume contains the material presented at the 1st International Symposium on Carbon for Catalysis (CarboCat-1) held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in July 2004.

Recent research on wide range of carbon materials applied in catalysis, from carbon nanofibers to traditional activated carbons, was reviewed. Carbon materials (e.g. soot, charcoal, graphite ...) are used since prehistoric time. Activated carbon is one of the most widely used adsorbents and catalytic support. Since the 1960s various novel carbon materials have been developed. Carbon fibers derived from polyacrylonitrile (PAN), pyrolytic carbons produced by chemical vapor deposition of hydrocarbons and active carbon fibers were introduced to the market. These materials have structures and textures that differ from the conventional carbon materials. They have demonstrated already advantages when used as adsorbents and catalytic materials. More recently, fullerenes and carbon nanotubes were discovered, and this opened a completely different perspective from that of carbon materials based on flat graphite-like hexagonal layers. These newly developed carbon materials have undergone rapid development. At this time their characterization together with understanding of scale-up problems is necessary for commercialization.

During the symposium there were lively discussions among the participants on these subjects. Throughout the symposium most of the participants increased their understanding of what novel carbons could bring to the catalytic processes. The meeting was interdisciplinary and we hope that this issue, containing 39 papers, will provide the reader with an up-to-date review of the development in the field of carbon-based catalysis.

The organizers and the editors are grateful to the members of the International Scientific Committee and to many colleagues for their time and efforts put into the reviewing of the contributed papers. Also for the numerous valuable suggestions that improved the material submitted.

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