

Preface

The concept of the Institutes for Advanced Optical Technologies developed out of SPIE's desire to foster increased interaction and collaboration among researchers working in emerging optical technologies. The Institutes provide a forum for experts in these areas to analyze and document the state of the art and to point toward future trends and applications. Institute topics are selected for their timeliness as well as for their significance to future progress in the application of optics. Institute organizers invite selected experts to participate as paper contributors and discussion participants. It is intended that the interaction generated by the small-group structure in a retreatlike setting will foster productive discussions that are beyond the scope and possibility of a regular conference format.

Each Institute has two primary objectives: first, that the interactions and dialogue stimulate technical advancement, and second, that the publication of the Institute volume results in an authoritative collection of significant papers covering key topics in the field. While each editor and committee has unique criteria for determining the acceptability of contributions, it is intended that the Institute process itself will establish the worth and appropriateness of the individual contributions. Each contributor is asked to prepare a draft manuscript and circulate it to the other participants in advance of the Institute. The editor/chair organizes an agenda for discussing critical technical issues. The interactions and collegial discussions by the Institute members are the basis for the ensuing Institute volume. The final action of the Institute is to decide the scope of the volume and what material is to be included and what other material is to be added and by whom.

The Institute on Large-Area Chromogenics: Materials and Devices for Transmittance Control, held in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, September 22-24, 1988, addressed technical issues for this emerging technology and the future impacts it might have on society. The interactions and discussions were lively, at times warm, and gave the participants a more comprehensive grasp of the subject. The resultant volume is this authoritative Institute publication emphasizing topics such as photochromic materials, organic and inorganic electrochromic materials, electrochromic devices, and liquid-crystal materials and devices.

Roy F. Potter

General Editor, SPIE Institute for Advanced Optical Technologies

Other publications in the SPIE Institutes for Advanced Optical Technologies series:

Transformations in Optical Signal Processing, William T. Rhodes, James R. Fienup, Bahaa E. A. Saleh, Editors, 1984, SPIE Volume 373 (Out of print)

Optical and Hybrid Computing, Harold H. Szu, Editor, 1987, SPIE Volume 634

Photonics: High Bandwidth Analog Applications, James Chang, Editor, 1987, SPIE Volume 648

Dosimetry of Laser Radiation in Medicine and Biology, Gerhard J. Müller, David H. Sliney, Editors, 1989, Volume IS 5

Photodynamic Therapy, Charles J. Gomer, Editor, Volume IS 6
(To be published Fall 1990)

Automatic Object Recognition, Hatem Nasr, Editor, Volume IS 7
(To be published Fall 1990)

Large-Area Chromogenics: Materials and Devices for Transmittance Control

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Institute Participants and Authors

Mr. Anoop Agrawal
Donnelly Corporation
414 East 40th Street
Holland, MI 49423-5313
USA

Miss Anne M. Andersson
Chalmers University of Technology
Department of Physics
S-412 96 Gothenburg
Sweden

Dr. Pandurang V. Ashrit
Université de Moncton
Physics Department
Moncton New Brunswick E1A 3E9
Canada

Mr. Naci Basturk
Asulab SA
Research Laboratories of the SMH Group
Passage Max-Meuron 6
CH-2001 Neuchatel
Switzerland

Dr. Friedrich G. Baucke
Schott Glaswerke Zentralbereich Forschung und
Entwicklung Abteilung Elektrochemie
Hattenbergstrasse 10
D-6500 Mainz 1
FRG

Mr. Dave K. Benson
Solar Energy Research Institute
Materials Branch
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401-3305
USA

Mr. Michael K. Carpenter
General Motors Research Laboratories
Physical Chemistry Department
Warren, MI 48090-9055
USA

Dr. Nori Y. Chu
American Optical Corporation
Precision Products Division
14 Mechanic Street
Southbridge, MA 01550-2555
USA

Dr. Stuart F. Cogan
EIC Laboratories, Inc.
111 Downey Street
Norwood, MA 02062-2612
USA

Mr. Dennis A. Corrigan
General Motors Research Laboratories
Physical Chemistry Department
Warren, MI 48090-9055
USA

Prof. Jesse H. Day
Ohio University
Department of Chemistry
Athens, OH 45701
USA

Mr. F. Decker
IFGW/UNICAMP
P.O. Box 6165
Campinas, SP
Brazil

Dr. Albert Donnadieu
Université des Sciences et
Techniques du Languedoc
Laboratoire de Spectroscopie II
Laboratoire de Spectroscopie UV des Solides/
UA CNRS n 790
Place Eugene Bataillon
F-34060 Montpellier Cedex 1
France

Mr. W. Estrada
Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería
Facultad de Ciencias
P.O. Box 1301
Lima
Peru

Mr. Polycarpus Falaras
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Physique des Liquides et Electrochimie
LP15 du CNRS
tour 22. 4 place jussieu
F-75230 Paris Cedex 05
France

Dr. M. Fantini
Universidade Estadual de Campinas
Rua Coelho Neto
13023 Campinas Sao Paulo
Brazil

Mr. Fernand E. Girouard
Université de Moncton
Physics Department
Moncton New Brunswick E1A 3E9
Canada

Prof. Ronald B. Goldner
Tufts University
Electro-Optics Technology Center
Medford, MA 02155
USA

Ms. Annette Gorenstein
IFGW/UNICAMP
Caixa Postal 6165, 13.100
Campinas, Sao Paulo
Brazil

Dr. Claes G. Granqvist
Chalmers University of Technology
Department of Physics
S-412 96 Gothenburg
Sweden

Dr. Joachim Grupp
Port-Roulant 12
CH-2003 Neuchâtel
Switzerland

Prof. Terry E. Haas
Tufts University
Electro-Optics Technology Center
Department of Chemistry
Medford, MA 02155
USA

Dr. Hans J. Hoffmann
Schott Glaswerke
Central Research & Development Division
ZFG-1
Hattenbergstrasse 10
D-6500 Mainz
FRG

Prof. Ronald P. Howson
Loughborough University of Technology
Department of Physics
Ashby Road
Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 3TU
UK

Dr. Anne Hugot Le Goff
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Physique des Liquides et Electrochimie
LP15 du CNRS
tour 22. 4 place Jussieu
F-75230 Paris Cedex 05
France

Mr. Hiroshi Inaba
Central Glass Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1510, Ohguchi-cho, Matsuzaka
Mie-ken 515
Japan

Mr. Olle Inganäs
University of Linköping
Laboratory of Applied Physics
Department of Physics and Measurement Technology
S-581 83 Linköping
Sweden

Ms. Suzanne Joiret
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Physique des Liquides et Electrochimie
LP15 du CNRS
tour 22. 4 place Jussieu
F-75230 Paris Cedex 05
France

Mr. Gordon V. Jorgenson
Honeywell, Inc.
Systems Research Center
MS 65-2600
3660 Technology Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55418-1006
USA

Mr. Tadatoshi Kamimori
Asahi Glass Company, Ltd.
1150 Hazawa-cho, Kanagawa-ku
Yokohama 221
Japan

Mr. Takao Kase
Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka 237
Japan

(continued)

Mr. Hideo Kawahara
8-2-312 Makiochi 5 Chome
Mino City, Osaka 562
Japan

Mr. K. A. Khan
University of Rajshahi
Department of Applied Physics and Electronics
Rajshahi
Bangladesh

Mr. Michihiko Kitao
Shizuoka University
Research Institute of Electronics
Johoku 3-5-1
Hamamatsu 432
Japan

Dr. Carl M. Lampert
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
Applied Science Division
MS/ 62-203
1 Cyclotron Road
Berkeley, CA 94720
USA

Mr. James C. Lee
Honeywell, Inc.
Systems and Research Center
MS MN 17-2345
P.O. Box 1361
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1361
USA

Mr. E. Leja
Academy of Mining & Metallurgy
Physics and Electron Technology Department
al. Mickiewicza 30
30-059 Cracow
Poland

Dr. Niall R. Lynam
248 Foxdown Road
Holland, MI 49424-2789
USA

Dr. Konstanty W. Marszalek
University of Wuppertal
Department of Electrical Engineering
Fuhlrottstr. 10
5600 Wuppertal 1
FRG

Mr. M. J. Marszalek
Institute of Nuclear Physics
Radzikowskiego 152
PL-31 342 Cracow
Poland

Dr. Masao Misonou
Nippon Sheet Glass Company, Ltd.
Central Research Laboratories
Konoike, Itami
Hyogo 664
Japan

Mr. Takeshi Miyamoto
Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka 237
Japan

Dr. Mamoru Mizuhashi
Asahi Glass Company, Ltd.
R & D Center
1150 Hazawa-ChoKangawa-Ku
Yokohama 221
Japan

Dr. G. P. Montgomery, Jr.
General Motors Corporation
Research Laboratories
Physics Department
30500 Mound Road
Warren, MI 48090-9055
USA

Mr. Junichi Nagai
Asahi Glass Company, Ltd.
Advanced Glass R&D Center
1150 Hazawa-cho
Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama 221
Japan

Mr. Kiyoshi Nakase
Central Glass Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1510, Ohguchi-cho, Matsuzaka
Mie-ken 515
Japan

Mr. Yasuhiko Ohsawa
Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka 237
Japan

Dr. Roy F. Potter
SPIE
P.O. Box 10
Bellingham, WA 98227-0010
USA

Dr. Jean-Paul Randin
Asulab SA
Research Laboratories of the SMH Group
Passage Max-Meuron 6
CH-2001 Neuchatel
Switzerland

Dr. R. D. Rauh
EIC Laboratories., Inc.
111 Downey Street
Norwood, MA 02062-2612
USA

Mr. Steven E. Selkowitz
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
Building 62 Room 235
1 Cyclotron Road
Berkeley, CA 94720
USA

Dr. Tomasz Stapinski
Academy of Mining & Metallurgy
Physics and Electron Technology Department
al. Mickiewicza 30
PL-30 059 Cracow
Poland

Mr. James R. Stevens
University of Guelph
Physics Department
Guelph Ontario N1G 2W1
Canada

Mr. J. S. Svensson
Chalmers University of Technology
FYSIK
S-41296 Gothenburg
Sweden

Mr. Hiroaki Tada
Nippon Sheet Glass Company, Ltd.
Central Research Laboratory
1, Kaidoshita Kounoike
Itami 664
Japan

Prof. Vo-Van Truong
Université de Moncton
Department of Physics
New Brunswick E1A 3E9
Canada

Prof. Roger D. Willett
Washington State University
Department of Chemistry
Pullman, WA 99164-4630
USA

Dr. Shoji Yamada
Shizuoka University
Research Institute of Electronics
Johoku 3-5-1
Hamamatsu 432
Japan

Prof. Sze C. Yang
University of Rhode Island
Pastore Chemical Laboratory
Department of Chemistry
Kingston, RI 02881-0801
USA

Mr. Teruko Yoshimoto
Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.
Central Glass Technical Center
1 Natsushima-cho
Yokosuka 237
Japan

Introduction

Chromogenic materials can alter their optical properties in a persistent yet reversible manner when subjected to a change in external conditions such as irradiation intensity, temperature, or electric-field strength. The most well-known chromogenic devices are probably photochromic sunglasses, which color in the sun and bleach in the dark. In the future, chromogenic materials may be used on a large scale to regulate the throughput of radiant energy for windows in buildings and cars, so that comfortable lighting and temperature are maintained without excessive air conditioning. Chromogenic materials can also be used in variable reflectance mirrors, in displays (such as road signs), and so forth. Traditionally, chromogenics has not been viewed as a self-contained subject for study. However, for some years it has been the opinion of the editors of this book that the time has come for a change, and that both the interrelations between the different materials enabling variable optical properties and the similarities between their potential applications warrant a unified approach to chromogenics. This is the first book on the subject. Many people have contributed, which in itself is a manifestation of the fact that the importance of chromogenic studies is becoming widely recognized.

The first idea that a book should be written on large-area chromogenics—even though the term had not yet been coined—materialized in June 1985. Concrete plans for such a book were made in 1988, when we approached the newly begun Optical Engineering Press. We asked a number of hand-picked researchers to contribute chapters on various aspects on chromogenics for the book, which was met with enthusiasm. The decisive days for this book were 22–24 September 1988—immediately following a topical conference in Hamburg, Germany, on Optical Materials Technology for Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy Utilization—when many of the contributors met in a quiet German hotel. Those were days filled with scientific discussions and culinary extravagances in an atmosphere that was inspiring indeed. Without exception, we seemed to be filled with zeal and a feeling that we were about to embark on a project of lasting importance.

The ambitious goal of this book is to give a broad coverage of all aspects of chromogenics. This is of course impossible to accomplish, and whether we have come close or not is up to the reader to judge. We are aware of some unfortunate omissions in the text, the most apparent perhaps being the lack of a detailed discussion of polaron absorption in amorphous electrochromic materials. Further, we are concerned that some relevant research conducted in Eastern Europe and certain Third World countries has not been given due consideration.

During the completion of this book we were informed of the death (22 February 1989) of one of the contributors, Professor Jesse H. Day of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. His contribution to this book, we regret to say, is his last scientific paper. We are grateful to Professor Roger Willett of Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, who rewrote and expanded Professor Day's original draft chapter.

We wish to thank all of you who contributed for your kind cooperation and unfailing support, and for lessening the editors' burden by submitting your papers promptly. Without all of your efforts, this book would not exist. Special thanks go to Roy Potter of SPIE, who inspired and supported us from the beginning of this project. To all others who have helped us to bring this book to completion, we owe our deepest appreciation.

Carl M. Lampert

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (USA)

Claes G. Granqvist

Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg (Sweden)