FOREWORD

The International Conference on Fracture was held in Sendai, Japan, during the week of 12 September 1965. It was attended by some three hundred delegates, including seventy-five from outside the host country.

Registration and all technical sessions were held at the Sendai Hotel. The Conference was opened Sunday evening with a buffet, and participants were received by members of the Organizing Committee. An Official Opening Ceremony preceded the technical presentations on Monday morning, with Professor Yokobori setting the theme for the Conference with his welcoming address. A more formal banquet was held on Tuesday evening. Professor Yokobori delivered a second address in which he announced the formation of the International Congress on Fracture, and the availability of Proceedings of the Conference. On Wednesday, a reception for the foreign participants was held by the Governor of Miyagi Prefecture, Shintaro Takahashi, and the Mayor of Sendai City, Takeshi Shimano. Throughout the Conference, several smaller informal parties were given by the Japanese hosts for their visitors. Paralleling the technical meetings, there was a diversified program for the seventeen wives from abroad, arranged by Mrs. Yokobori and assisted by wives of the Japanese members of the Organizing Committee. Late Thursday afternoon, a final brief ceremony closed the Conference. Arrangements had also been made for a number of excursions and technical visits following the Conference.

From the technical standpoint, the sessions were grouped into five categories: (1) continuum mechanics, (2) microstructural mechanics, (3) non-metallic materials, (4) fatigue and macrophenomena, and (5) environmental effects. Within these areas, the Conference covered the following topics: fracture phenomena in metals, ceramics, and polymers from both the micro- and macro-mechanism viewpoint; modes of fracture, e.g. brittle, ductile, and tearing; fatigue; creep fracture; and temperature, strain rate and environmental effects.

The International Journal of Fracture Mechanics is pleased to present in this issue four of the invited general lectures presented to the Conference. The following issue will include the invited lecture by Mr. S.S. Manson, "Interfaces Between Fatigue, Creep, and Fracture," and the abstracts of papers presented to the Conference.

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