

# International Symposium on Trace Gases

The Symposium on Trace Gases held in Mainz, April 2-6, 1973, was organised by the Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution (CACGP), before 1972 Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Radioactivity (CACR), of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (IAMAP). The Symposium was sponsored by IAMAP and the World Meteorological Organisation in cooperation with the American Meteorological Society. The Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie (Otto-Hahn-Institut) in Mainz was host of the Symposium.

At the IUGG-Meeting, Moscow August 1971, CACR decided to discontinue comprehensive Symposia covering the whole field of air chemistry as 1962 at Utrecht, the Netherlands (Proceedings in the Journal of Geophysical Research, 68, 3745-4016, 1963); 1965 at Visby, Sweden (Proceedings in Tellus, 18, 153-685, 1966), and 1969 at Heidelberg, West Germany (Proceedings in the Journal of Geophysical Research, 75, 1700-3692, 1970)—because of the rapidly expanding field. Instead it was recommended to organize symposia on restricted topics of special importance. The symposium at Mainz was the first one of this new series. The program showed the following topics:

1. General aspects of the cycle of atmospheric trace gases.
2. Methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide.
3. Global and stratospheric aspects of the cycle of sulfur and nitrogen compounds.

It was organized to give an opportunity for a thorough and detailed discussion of the cycle of some of the more important trace gases in the troposphere and stratosphere with particular emphasis of the role of the biosphere and of the land and water surfaces.

45 papers were presented at nine sessions. In order to avoid parallel sessions and to allow ample time for discussions, it became necessary to restrict the number of papers presented. The participation of scientists from 11 nations ensured a representative cross section of the international activity in this field. The symposium indicated the rapidly increasing effort in air chemistry partly due to the growing international concern about our environment.

The symposium was financially supported by funds from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and by the State of Rheinland-Pfalz. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Editor of *Tellus*, Professor Dr B. Bolin, made the publication of the proceedings possible.

C. Junge  
Chairman, CACGP

Ph. Goldsmith  
Secretary, CACGP