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A word about the Seminar

This special issue of *Optica Applicata* contains 11 papers presented at the *Seminar on Alkali Silicate Glasses PGL'94*, which was held in Karpacz, Poland, June 6–10, 1994. The organizing institutions were the Institute of Physics, Technical University of Wrocław, and the Polish Ceramic Society, while the financial support was granted by the Polish Ceramic Society and the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN, Poland).

The Seminar was dedicated to novel problems of porous glasses that are promising materials for application in various fields of applied optics. In particular, problems of gradient-index lenses fabrication, hologram recording, luminescence efficiency *etc.* as well as related problems of glass physics and technology were discussed at the Seminar. Novel technologies of porous materials and their applications in medicine and biology were also within the scope of the Seminar, corresponding papers being also included in this special issue. All published papers underwent careful reviewing by the experts of the Scientific Committee of the Seminar: Prof. Ch. Kaps – Fachhochschule, Jena, Germany; Prof. Ya. Roizin – Odessa State University, Ukraine; Prof. V. Sukhanov – Vavilov State Optical Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia; Dr T. Antropova – Institute of Silicate Chemistry of Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia; Dr L. Svatovskaya – Institute of Silicate Chemistry of Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Thirty scientists participating in the Seminar came from the following countries: Germany, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine, USA and Poland and represented such well known research centres as: Institute of Silicate Chemistry, St. Petersburg (Russia), Vavilov State Optical Institute, St. Petersburg (Russia), Texas Christian University, Fort Worth (USA), Fachhochschule Jena (Germany), and Odessa State University (Ukraine).

Lively discussions both after due presentations and during the Panel Sessions pointed out that the exchange of technological experiences as well as undertaking the common works in order to achieve concrete applicable solutions would be more than needed. Therefore, the idea of continuation of such seminars seemed to gain a strong support.

For the Organizing Committee
Dr Ewa Rysiakiewicz-Pasek