

## Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of this book was, with one or two exceptions, gratifyingly well received by reviewers. It also sold well, thus confirming my belief that there is, indeed, place for an introductory book biased towards the more applied aspects of polymer science. It has been translated into Polish, suggesting that this need is international. Although it was not intended as a textbook for undergraduates, I have discovered that the first edition has been used for that purpose in certain universities, a point I have borne in mind in preparing the current edition.

In this second edition, I have stuck very much to the approach and level of the first edition, making changes only where absolutely necessary. In some cases this has been done to widen the coverage; in others it has been done to bring the text up to date. In making these changes, I have been helped by individuals who wrote to me after the publication of the first edition, with corrections or suggestions for additional material; I acknowledge my sincere gratitude for their help.

Despite this help, and the success of the first edition, I am sure that, even now, the book is not perfect. I am therefore still open to suggestions about how it could be improved. In the meantime, I take full responsibility for all the errors and infelicities that remain.

*John Nicholson, March 1997*