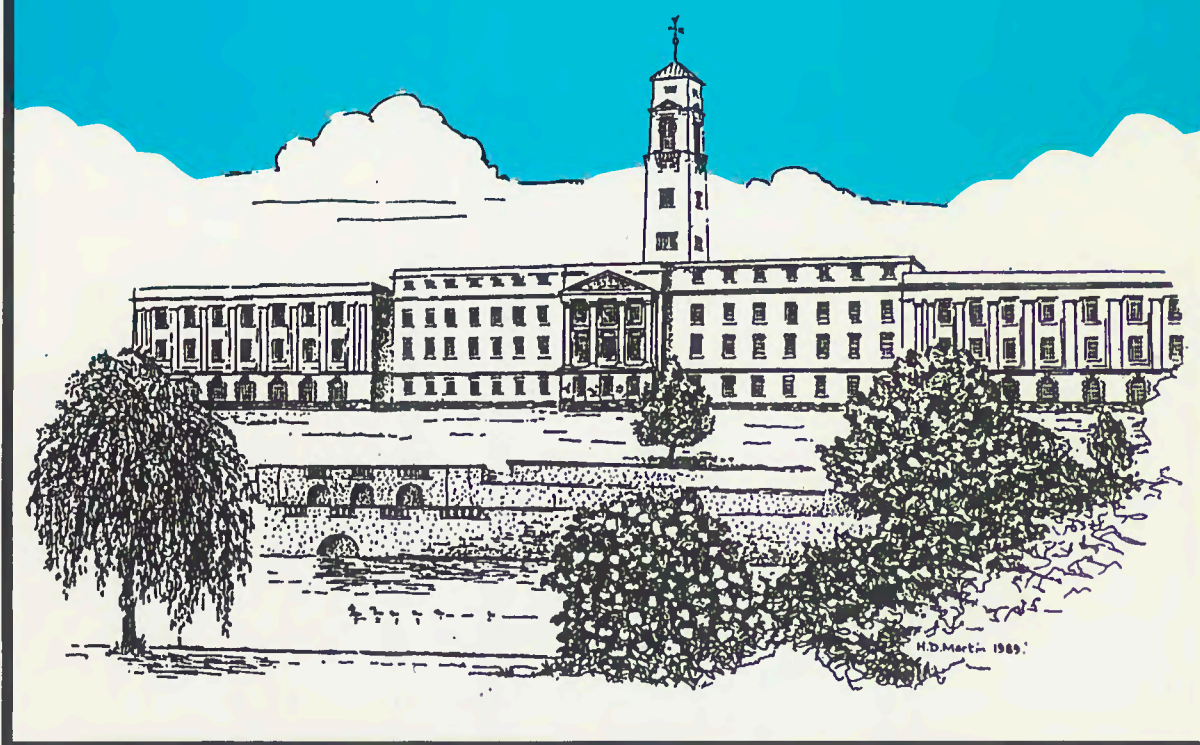


**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON ELECTRIC FUSES
AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**



**23rd-25th SEPTEMBER 1991
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UK**





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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

**University of Nottingham
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FOREWORD

Today, when several billions of fuses are manufactured each year, it is not generally known that they were used to protect submarine telegraph cables as long ago as 1864. Few were produced at that time and it was not until after the establishment of electricity-supply systems, some 100 years ago, that their use started to increase greatly.

Most people today are familiar with fuses and know how to replace them after they have operated. They are generally regarded as very simple devices which contain metal wires or strips that melt when currents above certain levels flow through them. It would therefore surprise the majority of people, and certainly those who first developed fuses, to know that their behaviour is still not fully understood and that much research is being conducted on them around the world as the end of the 20th century approaches.

The extent of the research and development effort in recent years is evident from the fact that successful international conferences on fuses were held at Liverpool Polytechnic in the UK in 1976 and at the Technical Universities of Norway in Trondheim and Eindhoven in the Netherlands in 1984 and 1987 respectively. A total of exactly 100 papers were presented at these conferences.

The University of Nottingham is pleased to host the Fourth International Conference at which over 50 papers are to be presented, the authors being from 16 countries. The delegates who are to be present are from many countries around the world and this provides further evidence of the international interest in electric fuses. A very warm welcome is extended to all of them and it is hoped that they will find the Conference activities to be both interesting and enjoyable.

Dr Howe and I wish to thank the members of the Conference Organising and Technical Committees for their assistance. Thanks are also due to both Hawker Fusegear Ltd for the support they have provided and SOC Corporation for their generous sponsorship.

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