Preface of second edition

The chemistry around clothing and colouration belongs to the oldest “chemical” approaches undertaken by humans. The search for new fibres and colourants was one of the driving forces from which modern chemistry originated. For a long period, the research and development in textile chemistry addressed new processes and products. Improved sustainability was appreciated as an added value, however, with limited priority. In the period between the first edition and the second edition, clear requests for fibre-to-fibre recycling and textile reuse appeared. Design for recycling at the phase of textile product development requires substantial knowledge about the chemistry behind textile processes and products. In the new Chapter 16, aspects of circularity, recycling and disposal are brought into the context of textile and fibre chemistry, which is a highly interdisciplinary science, covering knowledge from physical and organic chemistry to polymer and macromolecular science. The content of the book has been selected in order to focus on concepts which are of high value for the understanding of textile chemical operations or represent technically relevant processes.

The book emphasises the chemistry behind materials and processes with the aim to provide understanding of the principles building a multidisciplinary field. This book has been designed as the first entry into the field of textile chemistry. Specialised monographs and scientific articles are then recommended as a source of further information.

Thomas Bechtold and Tung Pham