

FOREWORD

This is the third volume of a series of books issued from the lectures delivered at the Euro-School on Materials Science, organised yearly in Ljubljana, by the European Network of Excellence Complex Metallic Alloys (CMA) under contract NMP3-CT-2005-500145.

The third session of the CMA Euro-School, was mostly dedicated to surface properties and engineering of complex metallic alloys. Accordingly, this book collects contributions dedicated to preparation of thin films and their characterisation by various experimental techniques, their structural specificities as well as their physical, chemical and electronic properties, etc. The penult chapter reports about the catalytic potential carried by the surface of powdered complex systems whereas the last chapter presents a discussion about the validity of Hume-Rothery stabilisation mechanism applied to structurally complex alloys which complements the contents of volumes 1 and 2 of the series.

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Esther Belin-Ferré

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