

Book Review

Inorganic and Organometallic Polymers with Special Properties

Edited by Richard M. Laine, NATO ASI Series — Series E: Applied Sciences — Vol. 206, published by Kluwer, Dordrecht, Netherlands, 1992, 240 Dfl; ISBN 0-7923-1514-6.

This book is a collection of the contributions presented by several authors at the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Inorganic and Organometallic Polymers with Special Properties held in Cap d'Agde (France) in September 1990.

It deals with numerous and diverse topics, as demonstrated by the large number of pages (453) and by the number of chapters (27), which are divided into the following sections: Framework Science; Polymer Synthesis; Magnetic Materials; Conducting and Electronic Materials; Preceramic Materials; Nonlinear Optical Materials; Characterization; Report to NATO.

Thanks to the variety of subjects, the book offers a wide overview on inorganic and organometallic polymeric materials. The general scientific level of the book is high. As a chemist, for instance, I was delighted by the smart approach of Nolte and Drenth to stacked

metalloporphyrinates via sandwich complexes of alkaline ions with crown ether substituents of the macrocyclic ligand.

Unfortunately this book is expensive and, due to the high degree of specialization of the chapters, it will be scarcely useful to the newcomer, while the number of chapters of interest to an expert will be limited. Thus, it is mainly useful as an updated source of references, which I do not think requires the publication of an expensive volume: a booklet of short abstracts with detailed references to the current literature would serve as well.

Of course, this criticism holds not only for this book, but also for others of a similar nature. In this connection, it is my opinion that when a book is a proceedings volume, this should be clearly indicated in the title so that the potential purchaser is immediately informed about the real nature of the book.

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