

### Book review

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*Co-ordination Chemistry of Macrocyclic Compounds*; edited by G.A. Melson. Plenum Press, New York, 1979, xiv + 664 pages. Price \$49.50.

The chemistry of macrocyclic compounds and their complexes has generally been well served by reviewers and this volume makes a number of new and up-to-date (1978) reviews available under a single cover. The editor, G.A. Melson, provides the introduction and a chapter on the synthesis of macrocyclic complexes, and L.J. Boucher has written two chapters on the complexes of phthalocyanines and the coordination chemistry of porphyrins. Other chapters are also provided by well-known authors or groups: Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Cation-Macrocyclic Interaction (J.D. Lamb, R.M. Izatt, J.J. Christensen, D.J. Eatough), Structural Aspects (N.F. Curtis), Ligand Field Spectra and Magnetic Properties of Synthetic Macrocyclic Complexes (F.L. Urbach), Chemical Reactivity in Constrained Systems (J.F. Endicott and B. Durham), Physicochemical Studies of Crown and Cryptate Complexes (A.I. Popov and J.-M. Lehn), and Natural-Product Model Systems (V.L. Goedken). The chapters give thorough coverage of their respective fields with comprehensive tables and references to the original and review literature and all the authors have evaluated their material critically and have emphasized such generalisations as are available. Fortunately, another recently published book "Synthetic Multidentate Macrocyclic Compounds", edited by R.M. Izatt and J.J. Christensen (Academic Press 1978) does not include coverage of phthalocyanin, porphyrin and related complexes but does cover the application of macrocyclic ligands to organic synthesis and their commercial potential. The two books are therefore to a large extent complementary and will no doubt have a considerable influence on the further development of this active area of research.

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