

### Book review

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*Methoden der Organischen Chemie (Houben–Weyl): Fourth Completely New Edition, Vol. 12, Part 9a. Metallorganische Verbindungen: Mn, Re, Fe, Ru, Os, Pt*; edited by Adolph Signitz, Georg Thieme, Stuttgart, New York, 1986, xxvi + 980 pages, DM 1100 (Subscription price DM 990), ISBN 3-13-214804-0.

I am very happy to have this opportunity to make my small contribution to the special issue of *J. Organomet. Chem.* in honour of my very long standing friend, Geoffrey E. Coates, and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

The volume under review is a compendium of preparative methods related to organometallic chemistry. Known as “Houben–Weyl” it was already well established and respected work of reference before either Geoffrey Coates or I was born. Here we have part of it again, painstakingly and meticulously, brought up to date by A. Segnitz (Mn, Re, Fe, Ru, Os) and K. von Werner (Pt) in the excellent tradition of what has grown to become an extensive series of volumes and parts. All but a miniscule part of the chemistry described here was unknown 30 years ago. The volume treats the  $\sigma$ -C bonded organic derivatives of the elements listed. It is another characteristically information-packed volume of the current Houben–Weyl series. The authors are to be congratulated on the completeness of their coverage and the orderly presentation. There is a one-page contents list directing the attention to each element, and another six-page list defining all the sections. The volume also carries a seven-page bibliography, 49 pages of an author index, and 56 pages of a classified subject index. It is a work of reference essential to every good chemical library.

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