

Book Review

Ceramic Components for Engines: Proceedings of the First International Symposium 1983, Japan. Edited by Shigeyuki Sōmiya, Eizo Kanai and Ken-ichiro Ando. Elsevier Applied Science, London, 1986, 812 pp. Price: £75·00, ISBN 1-85166-078X.

The content of this weighty volume (812 printed pages) will be self-evident from the title and of obvious interest to readers of *High Technology Ceramics*.

The seventy-eight contributions by a learned array of international authors fall into theme areas that are, however, not clearly delineated. An initial group of eleven papers covers overviews of ceramic engine component developments in Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and the USA plus the selection, design and application of such components in turbines and diesel engines. Thirty one contributions then follow which could be labelled 'nitrogen-ceramics' as could the next thirteen, 'silicon carbide'. There is obviously some overlap as is illustrated by two papers on AlN-SiC composites. The remaining papers deal with the subjects of zirconia, coatings, powder processing, ceramic-metal joining, fabrication, sintering and mechanical properties. It was surprising to see so little material relating to zirconia but perhaps this truly reflects the extent of current development interest in the host country.

The quality of reproduction is excellent and makes the many micrographs unusually useful as a consequence. A thoughtful addition has been the incorporation of a participants list with full postal addresses for the non-Japanese delegates. The host-country delegates are listed by their professional affiliation. A subject index ends what is a thoroughly useful book replete with data which, however, due to the dynamism of the subject, and the delay to publication, is well into its 'half-life'. Buy it quickly.

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