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Book Review

D. P. GARNER and G. A. STAHL (Editors): The Effects of Hostile Environments on Coatings and Plastics, ACS Symposium Series 229, American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1983, 339 pp., U.S. and Canada \$47.95, export \$57.95.

The volume is based on the papers presented at a symposium sponsored by the ACS Division of Organic Coatings and Plastics Chemistry at the 184th meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Kansas City, Missouri, September 12-17, 1982. The symposium was organized in honour of plastics pioneer Raymond B. Seymour.

The first paper entitled "Raymond B. Seymour: Coming of Age with polymers," was presented by W. N. Tinnerman from the University of St. Thomas, Houston.

The other 18 papers are organized in four sections. The first section (3 papers) is entitled "Introduction and Overview" and contains Dr H. F. Mark's comprehensive overview on the degradation of polymers in hostile environments, and the two other papers are on radiodegradation of plastics and thermal analysis of metal-containing polymers.

"Specific Examples of Polymers," the second section (4 papers), deals with heat resistance of some styrene-maleic anhydride terpolymer blends, polyphenylene sulfide's behavior in harsh environments, advances in high performance polymers, and biodegradation of polymers.

Seven papers were presented in the third section "Bulk Effects of Environments"; these are on the durability, aging, and effects of chemicals, water, solvents, and ozone on different plastomers and elastomers.

The last section (4 papers), "Surface Effects of Environments," presents the results of such studies as: spectroscopic study of the effect of ozone on some copolymers, environmental corrosion of polymers, influence of sulfur dioxide on coatings, photochemical degradation, and biological displacement of polymers.

Although the volume is a blend of subjects, some of them in a relatively new area of research and others in well-established topics, the editors have achieved their objective.

The book is useful to chemists, engineers, scientists, and others interested in the degradation of polymers.

D. Feldman