

## Book review

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THE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY OF IRON, Volume 1, E. A. Koerner von Gustorf, F. W. Grevels and I. Fischler, ed., Academic Press, New York/San Francisco/London, 1978, xii + 673 pages, \$29.50

This is the latest addition to the series of monographs on organometallic chemistry under the editorship of P. M. Maitlis, F.G.A. Stone and R. West. Unlike its predecessors it is composed of individual contributions by various authors, viz: Structure and bonding (C. Krüger, B. L. Barnett and D. Brauer); NMR spectroscopy (T. J. Marks); Mass spectra (J. Müller); Mössbauer spectroscopy (R. V. Parish); Magnetic properties (E. König); Electron paramagnetic resonance (E. König); Optical activity (H. Brunner); Compounds with iron-carbon sigma bonds (F. L. Bowden and L. H. Wood); Monoolefin complexes (R. B. King); Allyl complexes (R. B. King); Diene complexes (R. B. King); Stabilizing of unstable species with carbonyliron (J. M. Landesburg). This volume was produced by photographic means directly from the original manuscripts rather than by typesetting, which accounts for the comparatively low price. Illustrations and tables are used liberally and are first rate. There are over 2600 literature citations, attesting to the need for collecting this information in one place. Literature coverage is only through 1975, so that these contributions are in many respects already dated. The reviewer realizes that the tragic death of Koerner von Gustorf while the book was in its formative stages contributed to the publication delays, but a three year gap between literature coverage and publication date seems excessive nonetheless.

The individual chapters are generally quite thorough and should serve as good source materials for the topics covered. The sections on

C-18

magnetism and epr seem strangely out of place in a volume devoted to organometallic chemistry, as the only example cited (three pages, two references) is the ferricinium ion. Each chapter has a table of contents which is of limited utility in the absence of page numbers. This presumably is an artifact of the method of production. The resultant page-flipping can be minimized by utilizing the subject index, which is excellent.

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