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Book review

Topics in Current Chemistry 96 · Inorganic Chemistry, Springer-Verlag, Berlin — Heidelberg — New York, 1981, 155 pages; DM 84

This volume is reviewed here primarily because it contains a review (29 pages, 68 references) of “Chemical and Stereochemical Properties of Compounds with Silicon— or Germanium—Transition Metal Bonds” by E Colomer and R.J P Corriu. This is a compact but comprehensive authoritative survey of the field by authors who have made a major contribution to it.

Two of the other reviews will be of direct interest to some organometallic chemists. One is by R F Porter and L J Turbini, on “Photochemistry of Boron Compounds” (41 pages, 119 references), which includes brief sections on organo-boranes, carboranes, metalloboranes, and metallocarboranes. The other (36 pages, 144 references) is that by I. Hargittai on “Gas Electron Diffraction A Tool of Structural Chemistry in Perspectives” (whatever that means!) which includes brief historical accounts of the determinations of the structures of metallocenes and metal borohydrides. The remaining review (38 pages, 155 references), by K Schochau, is on “The Analytical Chemistry of Technetium”.

As usual in this series, the book is nicely produced. I have a minor criticism, and that concerns the practice of giving some references (but not all, so that there is not even the merit of consistency) in the form “Smith, A et al.” instead of listing all the authors. In addition to the appearance of laziness it produces, this practice means that when, as is most usual, only the first author is listed, it is often not even possible to see which papers are the work of one group. It is to be hoped that the editor will be stricter with the authors in future volumes of the series.

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