

## Book review

---

*Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry: Recommendations 1990*; edited by G.J. Leigh, Blackwells Scientific Publications (for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry), Oxford, 1990, £39.50 (hardback), £15.50 (paperback). ISBN 0-632-02319-8 (hardback) and 0-632-02491 (paperback).

The appearance of this volume is an important event for inorganic and organometallic chemistry. It arises from the deliberations of the IUPAC Commission on the Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry during the period 1971–1987, and represents the first step in the replacement of the set of recommendations that appeared in 1970. It is, in fact, Part 1 of the new version, presenting the basic principles, and later parts will deal with specialized areas of nomenclature. Chemists owe a substantial debt of gratitude to those who voluntarily carry out the painstaking work that the nomenclature commissions involve.

There is little that need be said about the volume other than that it is excellent in every way, and presents what can be a complex and forbidding subject as simply and as temptingly as is possible. There are numerous helpful examples of application of the rules, and the exceptional clarity of the wording is matched by that of the type. The chapter headings give a guide to the organization of the content: General aims, functions and methods of chemical nomenclature; Grammar: Elements, atoms, and groups of atoms; Formulae; Names based on stoichiometry; Solids; Neutral molecular compounds; Names for ions, substituent groups and radicals, and salts; Oxoacids and derived anions; Coordination compounds; Boron hydrides and related compounds; Tables. The chapter on coordination compounds contains eight pages specifically devoted to organometallic nomenclature. There is a short but useful index.

The editor is to be congratulated on his remarkably effective work, and it is to be hoped that readers will consciously appreciate the high quality of his writing. The book is very well produced and exceptional value at today's prices, especially the 'paperback' version (which actually has a substantial 'soft cover'), and it should be on the desks of all chemists actively involved in inorganic or organometallic chemistry. How beneficial it would be if they all adopted the nomenclature recommended in it.