

## Book Review

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### *Iron-Carbene Complexes*

*Scripts in Inorganic and Organometallic chemistry 1*

Gmelin-Institut, Springer-Verlag, 1993, 202 pages.  
DM 68

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The Gmelin Institut is proposing to produce a series of volumes described as "text books" based on the *Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry*. The text under review is the first of such volumes and is issued in paperback. Although the names of the authors do not appear on the title page they are given elsewhere as Wolfgang Petz, Jürgen Faust and Johannes Füssel. The material is based on the Gmelin Handbook written by the same scientists.

The area covered is much narrower than might be envisaged from the title of the book, because the only compounds that are considered have one or other of the following general formulae: (i)  $^5\text{LFe}=\text{C}$  (170 pages) or (ii) Vinylidene cationic complexes such as  $[\text{}^5\text{L}(\text{CO})\text{-}(\text{}^2\text{D})\text{Fe}=\text{C}=\text{CRR}']^+$  ( $^5\text{L}$  is a 5-electron donor such as  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_5$  and  $^2\text{D}$  a 2-electron donor such as  $\text{RNC}$ ) (21

pages). It will, therefore, be evident that the material is exceedingly highly specialised. Nevertheless there are no references. The opinion of this reviewer is that it is unsatisfactory that the reader should be invited to consult the Handbook if further information (*e.g.*, references) is required.

The degree of detail is inappropriate for a text book, and without the references it is of limited value to the specialist.

This is attractively produced, and has numerous valuable tables of data and diagrams of molecular structures.

The general intention of the Gmelin Institut managers in producing this series is admirable, but I believe that they should reconsider whether this is the right way forward.

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