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A Review of: “Macromolecules. 2. Hans-Georg Elias. Plenum Press, New York, 1984. 860 pp. U.S. \$95.00”

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Book Review

MACROMOLECULES. 2. Hans-Georg Elias. Plenum Press, New York, 1984. 860 pp. U.S. \$95.00.

Much enlarged over the 1977 version, this second edition is a required reference book for professionals in polymer science. *Macromolecules. 2* deals with synthesis, materials, and technological uses of polymers, whereas the companion volume, *Macromolecules. 1*, covers the structure and properties of polymers.

The synthesis section in *Macromolecules. 2* is particularly complete. Separate chapters are devoted to kinetics and statistics, polycondensations, ionic and free radical polymerizations, polyinsertions, copolymerization, radiation-activated polymerization, and chemical reactions that occur during and after polymerization. Each chapter is followed by a list of leading references.

The second section of the book, which describes polymeric materials, covers carbon-carbon, carbon-oxygen, carbon-sulfur, and carbon-nitrogen chains. Biopolymers and inorganic materials are discussed in an introductory manner.

The third part of the book, technology, is completely new. In a full 180 pages, all industrially important polymeric materials and processes are covered, ranging from plasticizers to thermosets to adhesives and coatings. Each chapter is followed by a complete set of references.

This second edition is not merely a rewrite of the first volume. Much new material has been added and the book is reorganized. There are a substantially greater number of new references, although many are somewhat dated.

The index is good and complete and simultaneously covers *Macromolecules .1* and *.2*. Cross-referencing between the chapters is excellent. The Appendix contains many handy tables, including a chart of SI units and conversion factors. Unfortunately, the very useful table

linking trivial and trade names with manufacturers (Table A2 in the first edition) has been dropped from this edition.

Offering a broad but comprehensive survey of the field of macromolecular science, *Macromolecules .1* and *.2* would be welcome additions to the personal libraries of academic and industrial polymer chemists, alike.

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