

Book Review

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**On being well-coordinated. A
half-century of research on transition
metal complexes**

(World Scientific Series in 20th Century
Chemistry, vol. 13) World Scientific
Publishing Co., Singapore, 2003, 656 pp;
Price £75.
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This volume constitutes a tangible record of the scientific career of Fred Basolo. It is made up of three sections, each with an initial review of the particular field followed by reprints of relevant papers. The three topics considered are Coordination Chemistry, Organometallic Chemistry and Biologically Interesting Werner

Complexes. The summaries are very useful, in that they helpfully describe the area and place the subsequent reprints in context. For anyone contemplating our path to understanding the mechanisms of reactions, as distinct from the pre-1950s synthesis-only methods, the book will be an invaluable collection. Chemists have come a long way, and Fred Basolo has been one of the foremost in showing us the direction. There is a useful appendix listing Basolo's research students, postdocs and honours. It's salutary to note that 18 August is Fred Basolo day in Illinois. Perhaps other places hosting great chemists might also consider such a method of recognition. There is a short preface setting the whole book in context.

I think the book is an important contribution to an understanding of

where we are in chemistry in one of its important areas. I would like to have seen more in the way of a few personal reminiscences; but, as Fred has already provided us with an autobiography, this might have been superfluous. Overall, I think most kinetic and mechanistic chemists would want to have this book on their shelves.

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