bons (J. S. Chickos and coworkers); the derivation of thermodynamic quantities from kinetic measurements in gas-phase silane chemistry (R. Walsh); bond enthalpy transferability (J. A. Connor); a critical survey of the energetics of organometallic reactions (J. A. Martino Simoes); bonding and solvation energetics for gas-phase organometallic species (D. E. Richardson); gas-phase acidities of transition-metal carbonyl and trifluorophosphine hydrides (A. E. Stevens Miller); bond strengths of transition-metal carbonyl anions (R. R. Squires); gas-phase studies of the mechanism and thermochemistry of organometallic reactions (J. L. Beauchamp); ion-beam studies of the energetics of organometallic species (P. B. Armentrout); the application of density function theory to the energetics of organometallic species (T. Ziegler); and theoretical models for organometallic reactions (M. R. A. Blomberg and coworkers).

Overall the volume gives a very good account of the present state of organometrallic thermochemistry, a wide range of different chemical systems are discussed, main-group element and transition-metal species, solution and gas phase. It is quite well indexed and contains over 400 pages of text. It will, therefore, constitute a very useful addition to the shelves of the general organometallic chemist.

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Organic Synthesis via Organometallics
D. Enders, H.-J. Gais and W. Klein (eds.)
Vieweg, Aachen 1993.
ISBN 3-528-06481-1

In my youth I remember hearing a conversation between two eminent British chemists at the Oxford Synthesis Meeting. Their conclusion was that taking notes in conference lectures was a waste of effort as they were either never used again or thrown away. This book is an account of a series of lectures that took place the 4th meeting on *Organic Synthesis via Organometallics* in Aachen between 15 and 18 July 1992. For those who were at the meeting it is a supplement to their own lecture notes and for those of us who were not present it is a chance to read short reviews by several leaders in this important field. There are 15 chapters which will be of interest to synthetic chemists and organometallic chemists. As a synthetic chemist I was most interested in the chapters by A. Alexakis on chiral diamines, M. Shibasaki on rare-earth alkoxides, R. W. Hoffmann on chiral lithium compounds, J.-E. Bäckvall on palladium-catalysed oxidations, B. Giese on radicals, P. J. Kocienski on 1,2-metallate rearrangements and G. van Koten on zinc-mediated organic synthesis. Readers with a more inorganic background will find the other chapters more interesting; they include R. van Eldik on the application of high-pressure techniques, L. Dahlenburg on carbon–hydrogen bond cleavage, R. H. Crabtree on mercury photosensitization, M S. Brookhart on olefin dimerization, H. Roesky on application of organometallic compounds as precursors of new materials, R. Beckhaus on methylidenetitanacyclobutane and W. König on chiral zirconocene/aluminium catalysts. Each one of these articles provides a useful review of recent progress in the field of organometallic chemistry. Taken together, the book gives an overview of the state of health of this most virile of subjects which will be of interest to both organic and inorganic chemists.

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Publications received

Frontiers of Organogermanium, -tin and -lead Chemistry (eds E. Lukevics and L. Ignatovich), pub Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Riga, Latvia, 347 pp, 1993. Price $US26.00.

Xth International Symposium on Organosilicon Chemistry, 15–20 August 1993, Poznan, Poland. Abstracts of Lectures, and oral and poster contributions.