

In the third chapter by Goldberg, Dirnens and Lukevics, from the same institution, phase transfer catalysis in organosilicon chemistry is discussed.

There follows a fairly lengthy chapter, by Holloway and Melnik, dealing with organometallic and carbonyl complexes of rhenium classified according to their crystallographic and structural data.

The last short chapter, written in German, by von Klapötke and Köpf, presents a review of cyclopentadienyl complexes with maleinitriledithiolate complexes and related analogues with selenium and tellurium.

This volume continues the series of books which contains scholarly articles on aspects of organometallic chemistry. Those collecting the complete library will no doubt wish to buy this volume, but the rather varied nature of the chapters contained herein may inhibit the more casual purchaser. The manuscript is photo-offset from camera-ready copy of a fairly high standard. There is no index.

The Editor's Desk

*Chemical Structure Software for Personal Computers.* Editors: Daniel E. Meyer, Wendy A. Warr and Richard A. Love, ACS Professional Reference Book Series, American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1988, 107 pp. Paperbound, U.S. and Canada US\$39.95; export US\$47.95. ISBN 0-8412-1539-1. Clothbound, U.S. and Canada US\$49.95; export US\$59.95. ISBN 0-8412-1538-3.

As stated in the preface, the primary intent of *Chemical Structure Software for Personal Computers* is to serve as a directory of the available commercial and public domain software packages for creating and using chemical structures. The book contains chapters on structure drawing, graphics terminal emulation, structure database management, 3-D modelling, calculation and graphics, and other special applications such as front-end manipulation of structure information for on-line database searching. The programs listed are almost exclusively for IBM and MacIntosh machines. As a directory, the book is quite useful, providing brief descriptions of the capabilities of the software, listing the required hardware, printer and mouse support, industrial and academic prices and vendor addresses. Separate appendixes table the package names according to function, type of computer and price. Sample print-outs of structure-drawing and graphics programs and a glossary of terms are also included. A valuable feature is that the authors note compatibilities between the products reviewed and other programs, such as wordprocessors, and the existence of integrated program packages accomplishing many of the functions listed above. However, as a

purchasing guide, the book falls short. By and large, the authors have relied on the manufacturers' product descriptions rather than on their own experience with the programs. There is a lack of needed criticism of or comparison between products, and the prospective end-user may still rely on word-of-mouth recommendations before purchasing a package.

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*Time Resolved Vibrational Spectroscopy*. Editor and author: George H. Atkinson, Gordon and Breach, London, 1987, 419 pp., US\$89.00. ISBN 2-88124-191-3.

This book is based on the proceedings of a symposium organized in Honolulu in 1985 by the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science and the National Science Foundation. The symposium dealt with the measurements and theory of dynamic structural studies of molecular systems derived from vibrational spectroscopies and covered research in the areas of chemistry, physics and biophysics.

Chapters on biochemistry include discussions of bacteriorhodopsin,  $\beta$ -carotene and cytochrome c oxidase and horse-radish peroxidase and the use of a range of techniques including time-resolved Raman and resonance Raman spectroscopy. These ten biochemical chapters are followed by four chapters on non-linear and coherent spectroscopy in the picosecond and subpicosecond regime. Six chapters in the chemistry section are concerned with vibrational analyses on the range of systems including still *trans*-stilbene and diphenylpolyenes and emphasize excited Raman spectroscopy and transient Raman spectroscopy. Finally, there are five chapters on the theoretical aspects of this research area.

The book is produced by photo offset from camera-ready copy which is for the most part of high quality. There is an authors' index but no subject index. Readers with interest in this field will find this book of especial value.

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