

The Chemistry of Inorganic Ring Systems, edited by R. Steudel (Studies in Inorganic Chemistry Series 14) Elsevier, Amsterdam, New York, 1992, 486 pp. Dfl. 375.00 (US\$214.50). ISBN-0-444-88933-7.

This book has been developed from the 6th International Symposium on Inorganic Ring Systems held at Berlin, Germany, August 18–22 1991. Indeed, 19 of the 22 chapters are based on invited or other lectures from this conference. The book provides an outstanding survey of the current status of the chemistry of inorganic rings and clusters and all of the chapters have been written by authoritative figures in the respective fields. The book is dominated by main group element chemistry and is organized by element moving from left to right in the main groups of the periodic table from boron to tellurium. The main subjects covered in the 22 chapters include boron clusters, novel delocalized rings involving heavier main group elements, binary carbon sulfides, novel silicon and tin ring compounds, heterosiloxane based rings and cages, polyhedral germanes, silylamides with polycyclic and cage-like structures, cyclic and polymeric phosphazenes, phosphorus- and arsenic-based metallacycles, cages, and sandwich complexes, phosphorus-containing macrocycles, sulfur and selenium rings, inorganic rings containing transition elements, novel sulfur–nitrogen–phosphorus and selenium–nitrogen–phosphorus rings, heterocyclic thiazyl and selenazyl radicals and their use in solid state architecture, dithiadiazoles, polyselenium cations, selenium–nitrogen compounds, complexes involving inorganic aromatic rings, and the nomenclature of inorganic ring systems. The book gives a realistic impression of a thriving area of science which requires contributions of a fundamental synthetic, structural, and theoretical nature as well as input from new directions such as the preparation of new polymers and novel solid state materials.

In summary, the book provides an outstanding survey of inorganic ring chemistry and will prove invaluable to graduate students or research workers working in this area in academia. My only criticism is the cost of the book, which will almost certainly act as a significant deterrent towards possible acquisition. There is a subject index.

Ian Manners