

## Book reviews

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*Elsevier's Periodic Table of the Elements*, by P. Lof. Elsevier Science Publishers, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam. Wall chart, size 85 cm × 136 cm. 1 copy Dfl.45.00/US\$17.50 (incl. postage) (orders for single copies must be prepaid), 10 copies Dfl.235.00/US\$122.50 (postage will be added). Supplied in a cardboard tube. (Canada and USA: purchase from Elsevier Science Publishing Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY, 10163, U.S.A.).

This column might better be headed “Wall Chart Review”, yet the chart contains as much information as a small book. The central section is a large multicoloured Periodic Table. Around this are 20 smaller Periodic Tables packed with additional chemical, physical, thermodynamical, geochemical and radiochemical information, all brightly coloured and indeed colour coded. There is also a series of plots indicating periodic relationships and interrelationships. Further tables provide additional data.

The information covered for each element ranges from the name of the discoverer, and year of discovery, through melting and boiling points, abundances in the earth and oceanic crust, sun and meteorites, crystal structure, orbital energies, enthalpies of fusion, vaporisation, atomisation etc., ionisation energies and electronegativities, molar volume, ionic radius, natural and synthetic radioisotopes, heat capacity, coefficient of linear expansion, mining production, nuclear spin. Mossbauer activity, to major hazards etc., etc.

Such a wall chart might be placed (protected!) in the corridor of a school or university or industrial laboratory, and on the wall of a chemical laboratory if enough space can be found. It makes a bright decoration as well as providing a ready source of data.

There will be logistic problems. If high on the wall, smaller people, even with good vision, will have difficulty reading the higher placed information. To ensure that smaller people can read it, it may have to be placed fairly low down on a wall, causing back problems for taller people. It is a matter of taste, and cost — it would be more efficient, and more costly, to provide everyone with a booklet containing all this information. The wall chart is cost effective but not everyone will like the small print. It would make a nice Christmas present for chemical friends.

The Editor's Desk