PREFACE

Photochemistry of coordination compounds is indisputably one of the most expanding areas in inorganic chemistry. The development of this branch of chemistry is a logical consequence of the fact that photochemistry and photophysics are able to contribute significantly to the understanding of principal tasks of the reactivity of chemical compounds, as well as to the understanding and exploitation of changes in various forms of energy for the mankind.

At present, no book can give a comprehensive account of all the important developments in such a large field as photochemistry in general, or photochemistry of coordination compounds in particular. In comparison to similar books in the field, the classification of all known types of photochemical reactions is presented for the first time. For the first time also the aspects of practical utilization of photochemistry of coordination compounds are explicitly treated and discussed in a separate chapter of the book.

The aim of the present survey is to introduce the main trends in the field, to emphasize the chemical aspects of photoprocesses and to stimulate photochemists towards the transfer of knowledge from well-developed to "blank" areas of photochemistry of coordination compounds.

We hope that this work will prove to be a useful reference source to those already working in the field, but also to university students, researchers and teachers in other fields of chemistry.

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