

PREFACE

The renaissance of Inorganic Chemistry which began in the 1950s was based primarily on transition metal chemistry and the growing availability of experimental techniques, and theoretical developments. These were primarily related to properties of the incomplete d shell and were generally much less useful for the closed shell main group compounds. Thus Main Group chemistry languished in comparison with the transition metals.

We are now seeing a renaissance in Main Group chemistry, driven in part by their potential applications in materials science, and by the growing availability of new techniques which can probe the electronic structures of these species.

This will be a yearly Volume devoted exclusively to Main Group chemistry, to bring our readers up-to-date with developments in this field. The publication of this special yearly volume will not, however, preclude the publication of reviews on main group topics in other volumes of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*.

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