
Preface

The serendipitous discovery of ferrocene nearly half a century ago provided a major impetus to the rapid development of organometallic chemistry. Such development initially focussed on transition metal organometallic chemistry, but in recent years, main group organometallic chemistry has received increasing attention. The resulting fundamental knowledge in organometallic chemistry has already led to the discovery of a number of important applications of organometallic compounds in organic synthesis, homogenous catalysis, materials science, and medicine. As we reach the millennium, organometallic chemistry has become a mature area of chemistry, but one is still filled with considerable excitement and potential for new future applications.

This special issue of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* provides 20 articles that review the current status of work in a number of currently exciting areas of organometallic chemistry. Although the focus is on presently active areas of fundamental organometallic chemistry research, some articles are provided suggesting applications of organometallic chemistry in areas such as Fischer–Tropsch chemistry, metalloenzyme chemistry, materials science, and organic synthesis. We hope that the readers of these articles will gain insight as to recent developments in some of the currently important areas of organometallic chemistry as well as some ideas for new research programs.

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