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ScienceDirect
Coordination Chemistry Reviews 252 (2008) 811
COORDINATION CHEMISTRY REVIEWS
www.elsevier.com/locate/ccr

Preface

It is now two decades since the Nobel Prize was awarded to Pedersen, Lehn and Cram for their pioneering efforts in the areas of molecular and ionic recognition/supramolecular chemistry. Relative to the history of the more traditional branches of chemistry, this is not a long time. Nevertheless, some considerable understanding of the fundamentals of supramolecular processes has now been achieved and the fruits of particular supramolecular enterprises, for example, the assembly of large molecular containers or the weaving of multi-interlocked structures is truly impressive. Indeed, the overall supramolecular field has seen an ever-expanding diversity in the types of systems investigated with similar developments occurring in the metallo-supramolecular sub-area (often under the label of crystal engineering, metal organic frameworks or metal-containing polymers). In the metallo-supramolecular case the metal ions have continued to be employed as both structural elements and as centres of functionality, with increasing emphasis being given to the latter over recent years. All of these aspects are well exemplified by the reviews presented in the present volume.

I express my thanks to all the contributors for taking up the offer to submit a review and especially to Professor Barry Lever for allowing a special issue to be devoted to metallo-supramolecular chemistry.

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7 November 2007

Available online 22 November 2007

doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2007.11.013