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A review of: "World Records in Chemistry" edited by H.-J. Quadbeck-Seeger, R. Faust, G. Knaus, U. Siemeling; translated by W.E. Russey, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, first English edition, 1999; ISBN 3-527-29574-7; xvi + 361 pages; \$44.95 (paperback).

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Book Review

(Received February 12, 2000)

“World Records in Chemistry” edited by H.-J. Quadbeck-Seeger, R. Faust, G. Knaus, U. Siemeling; translated by W.E. Russey, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, first English edition, 1999; ISBN 3-527-29574-7; xvi + 361 pages; \$44.95 (paperback).

This is a book that should be of interest to all chemists and much of the general public as well. It would be difficult to write a better perspective about the book than that given by Ronald C.D. Breslow in the Foreword. Breslow, a former president of the American Chemical Society, is rightly concerned about improving the public image of chemistry and believes that this book, because much of it is nontechnical, has an important contribution to make in that area.

The book consists of the Foreword by Breslow, 23 sections listed alphabetically (many contain less than 10 pages), appendices listing Nobel Prize winners in chemistry, medicine, and physics, a Perpetual Calendar listing, *inter alii*, dates of birth and death of prominent scientists in chemistry and closely related fields and dates of important developments in chemical science, a Name Index (8 pages; it is incomplete), and a 5 page subject index.

The titles of the sections are: Atoms and Molecules; Biotechnology; Catalysts; Chemical Industry; Chemical Products; Crop Protection; Elements; Environmental Protection; Fertilizers; Literature; Mistakes...; Molecular Energy; Molecular Form; Nobel Prize; Patents; Pharmaceuticals; Pigments; Plastics; Poisons, Raw Materials; Reactive Intermediates; Sensors; Synthesis. There is clearly much information for interests ranging from fundamental science to the business world. Many of the topics discussed give references to original literature. As Breslow notes, many will be stimulated to attempt to break existing “world records” and to use information in the book in their own research.

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