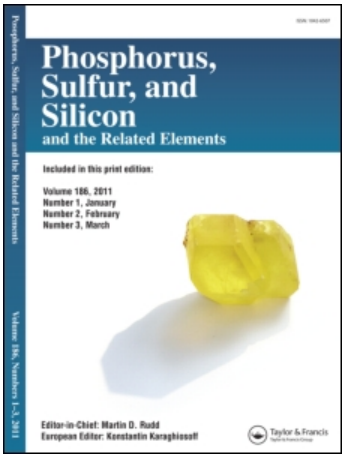

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A Review of: "Phosphorus Chemistry. Proceedings of the 1981 International Conference. Louis D. Quin and John G. Verkade, Eds. ACS Symposium Series 171, ACS. Washington, D.C. 1981, 640 pp. $57"

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Book Review

Phosphorus Chemistry. Proceedings of the 1981 International Conference. Louis D. Quin and John G. Verkade, Eds. ACS Symposium Series 171, ACS. Washington, D.C. 1981, 640 pp. $57.

The American Chemical Society has continued its tradition of rapid publication of symposia with this collection of the abbreviated papers (in "Communication to the Editor" style) for 128 25-minute lectures at the first biennial international phosphorus meeting to be held in the U.S. in June, 1981, at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Only the opening lecture by Professor Appel was longer than the rest and the report is accordingly about twice the length of the others, 9 pages, for this review of phosphorus-carbon compounds with p_π—p_π bonds. The book was phototypeset directly from the manuscripts prepared by the authors, as is usual in many such low-cost, rapidly published series, and accordingly exhibits the expected variability in style and appearance. All papers are in English and, although a substantial number are from non-English speaking scientists, the readability is generally good.

The meeting was divided into a number of special interest sections and the book follows this format. The first two were especially dedicated to Nobel Laureate Professor Wittig and Professor Westheimer, respectively: New Organic Synthetic Methods Based on Reagents Containing Phosphorus; and the Biochemistry of Phosphorus Compounds. Others included Biologically Important Phosphorus Compounds, Natural and Synthetic; Organic Synthetic Methods Based on Reagents Containing Phosphorus; Phosphorus Heterocycles; Phosphazenes; New Organophosphorus Compounds of Commercial Interest; Inorganic Phosphates; Compounds with Monocoordinated and Dicoordinated Phosphorus; Compounds with Pentacoordinated and Hexacoordinated Phosphorus; New Phosphorus Ligands and Complexes (Including Catalytic Properties); Reaction Mechanisms Involving Organic and Inorganic Phosphorus Compounds; Stereochemistry of Phosphorus Compounds; Spectroscopy of Phosphorus Compounds; Photochemistry with Phosphorus Compounds; and Bonding and Theory of Phosphorus Compounds.

There were 127 poster presentations at the meeting and the titles and names and addresses of the authors are given on pages 623–630 of the book. Abstracts were not provided, as stated in the preface, because of space limitations and the reader is urged to write to the authors for abstracts, if desired. This reviewer does not see why the abstracts, or even a fuller presentation, could not be kept on file at the ACS for those interested in obtaining them. This should further increase the attraction of poster presentations to the many who cannot participate in the regular programs of such meetings. A brief index to subjects is provided on pages 631–640, but an author index, which is extremely useful in such compendia of short papers, is not available.

This book represents the continuing interest and activity in many disciplines involving the chemistry of phosphorus. It is particularly useful since such a broad sampling of topics and disciplines has been presented. There is something here for every technical person with an interest in phosphorus chemistry, industrial or academic. A useful addition to the library where such work is in progress and many individuals will want to have this book on their shelves.

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