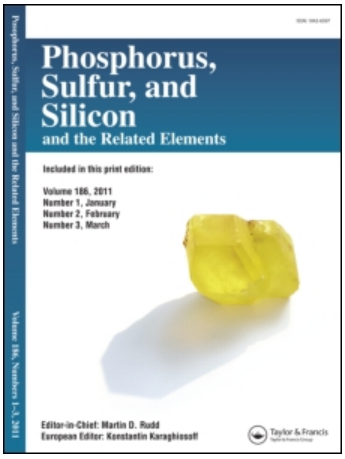

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Preface

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PREFACE

The Sixth International Symposium on Inorganic Ring Systems (IRIS VI) was held on August 18–22, 1991, at the Technical University of Berlin. The scientific program of IRIS VI consisted of 17 invited lectures, 28 short lectures, and 55 posters. These contributions covered the chemistry of many main group elements from boron to antimony but the emphasis was clearly on the chemistry of silicon, phosphorus, and sulfur. It therefore seemed appropriate to publish the short lectures and posters in "Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon and the Related Elements"[1]; the main lectures will be documented as a monograph.

The Berlin IRIS meeting was the seventh of a series which had started in 1975:

IRIS	Ia	1975	Besancon, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández
IRIS	Ib	1977	Madrid, Spain President: E. Gutierrez Rios Vice President and Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández
IRIS	II	1978	Göttingen, Germany Chairman: O. Glemser
IRIS	III	1981	Graz, Austria Chairman: E. Hengge
IRIS	IV	1985	Orsay, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández
IRIS	V	1988	Amerst, New York, USA Chairman: R. R. Holmes

IRIS VI was held exactly 75 years after Alfred Stock and Erich Pohland, working in Berlin, had submitted their famous paper on the first synthesis of borazine, $B_3N_3H_6$, to the Berichte der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft; it came out in 1926. This compound is a typical example of an inorganic ring, it has an interesting structure, the bonding in borazine is still discussed today, and numerous derivatives have been prepared. The contemporary chemistry of cyclic molecules, however, cannot any longer simply be classified as either organic or inorganic.

Cyclic organo-boron, -silicon, -phosphorus, and -sulfur compounds, to mention a few examples, are research subjects of both inorganic and organic chemists. This demonstrates that the partition of chemistry into inorganic and organic branches is artificial as is the devision of science into chemistry, biology, physics, etc. Therefore, despite the term "Inorganic" in the name of the Symposium the chemistry presented at IRIS VI was not restricted to non-carbon compounds but, looking back, could best be described as:

"Chemistry of the Elements."[2]

The admission of scientific contributions from various areas of chemistry to IRIS VI has been handled very generously, and in addition to the non-metallic rings, which dominated the scientific program, metallacycles had also been included and

[1]This Volume also contains two contributions which were not presented at IRIS VI since the authors were unable to attend.

[2]Title of the textbook by N. N. Greenwood and A. Earnshaw.

comprised approximately one quarter of the scientific contributions in one way or another.

Approximately 130 scientists from 12 countries had gathered in Berlin to present and discuss new scientific results. It was a pleasure to notice that 25% of the participants were graduate students from various countries. At the end of the conference it was announced that IRIS VII will be held in Banff, Alberta (Canada), in 1994; this meeting will be organized by Professor T. Chivers, University of Calgary.

The conference Chairman and Editor wishes to thank his colleagues, Professor Udo Engelhardt and Dr. Thomas Klapötke, as well as his secretary, Mrs. Kerstin Thiel, for serving on the organizing committee. In addition, the members of the non-metal research group at TU Berlin, Jörg Albertsen, Dr. Birger Holz, Per Krüger, Monika Kustos, Andreas Prenzel, Markus Pridöhl, Heinar Schmidt, Ursula Westphal, and Angela Zahn, contributed numerous ideas to and spent many hours on the organization of IRIS VI.

The conference was made possible by the generosity of the following sponsors: City of Berlin (Senat); Technische Universität Berlin; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft; Gesellschaft von Freunden der TUB; Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst; BASF AG (Ludwigshafen), Bayer AG (Leverkusen), Degussa AG (Frankfurt), Hoechst AG (Frankfurt), Kali-Chemie AG (Hannover), Schering AG (Berlin), Exxon (USA), Gordon & Breach Science Publishers (USA).

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Chairman of IRIS VI