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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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Preface

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PREFACE

The IRIS meetings had their origin in Bezançon France in 1974. This was followed by conferences in Madrid, Spain; Gottingen, West Germany; Graz, Austria; and Orsay, France.

IRIS V represents the first time this conference was held in the U.S. It served the useful purpose of increasing the awareness of this expanding area of chemistry to American and Canadian chemists. This was reflected in the relatively large number of participants from these two countries which comprised approximately 50% of the 120 registrants from a total of 15 countries. IRIS V experienced an almost 100% increase in attendees compared to the number at IRIS IV. This proved to be rather ideal for the scheduling of a single section, thus allowing all attendees to benefit from the entire range of presentations without conflict from competing sessions. Many felt that this arrangement provided a much more interesting conference that allowed one to discover interrelations among the related areas of inorganic ring systems found with different elements.

Overall the goal of disseminating recent results on inorganic ring systems appeared to have been achieved. The most widely discussed ring systems were those containing the combinations, phosphorus-nitrogen and sulfur-nitrogen. A survey of the presentations revealed that the top ten elements discussed in new rings followed the order: N, P, S, O, Si, Sn, B, As, Al, and Se. Sulfur was a versatile component appearing in over twice as many rings as that found for oxygen atoms. Although elements like gallium, indium, germanium, and aluminum perhaps were underrepresented relative to their potential importance, increased awareness resulted from the respective presentations. A number of papers highlighted new rings as potential precursor materials for various applications. One area that was slighted was the more theoretical interpretation of ring phenomena. Studies of this type could be very beneficial in interpreting ring reactivity and structural aspects.

The main events of the social program, the trip to a reconstructed New England village dating from the 1830's and the conference banquet, consisting of a lobster-bake followed by square dancing, proved to be pleasant times to renew oneself and to converse with old and new acquaintances. Many thanks are due to the organizing committee, the financial sponsors, and the international scientific committee for their help and encouragement in making the conference as successful as it was. Special thanks are due my wife Joan, for her organizational skills and insight into what was to lie ahead.

Robert R. Holmes