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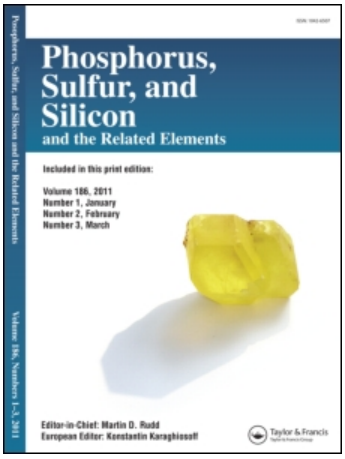

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Preface

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PREFACE

A majority of the manuscripts in this volume stem from oral presentations at a symposium on "Recent Advances in the Chemistry of the Main-Group Elements" held in Austin, Texas, October 24-27, 1993 as part of the 49th American Chemical Society Southwest Regional Meeting. For many years, main-group chemistry has been an under-represented area of science in the United States. However, in recent times the field has begun to receive more emphasis -- thanks in part to the demands of materials science, medical diagnostics, and catalysis. Having been a practitioner of and advocate for main-group chemistry for over three decades, it was a wonderful experience to have so many distinguished speakers present their exciting recent work here in Austin. Throughout my career I have been a firm believer in the internationalization of science. Another highly satisfying aspect of the symposium, therefore, was the strong international flavor. The home countries represented in the presentations include France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States. On the social level, it was truly a delight to see so many former students, postdoctoral associates, and other long-time friends together in one place at one time.

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Finally, I wish to thank Professor Narayan S. Hosmane of Southern Methodist University, and Mrs. Cindy Symington and my present research group at the University of Texas at Austin for their tireless efforts in putting this symposium together. Sincere thanks are also due to Southern Methodist University, University of Texas at Austin, Boron Biologicals, Inc., U.S. Borax, Inc., Gordon & Breach Science Publishers, Enraf-Nonius Company, Galbraith Laboratories, Vacuum Technology, Inc., Nicolet Instruments, and Janssen Chimica for their generous financial support.

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