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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290

**Preface** 

To cite this Article (1997) 'Preface', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 124: 1, xi - xii To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426509708545605

URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509708545605

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## PREFACE

The Eighth International Symposium on Inorganic Ring Systems (IRIS VIII) was held August 10–15, 1997, at Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK. The organisers and location of the previous conferences in the series are shown below.

IRIS VII	1994	Banff, Canada Chairman: T. Chivers
IRIS VI	1991	Berlin, Germany Chairman: R. Steudel
IRIS V	1988	Amherst, MA, U.S.A. Chairman: R. R. Holmes
IRIS IV	1985	Orsay, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández
IRIS III	1981	Graz, Austria Chairman: E. Hengge
IRIS II	1978	Göttingen, F. R. G. Chairman: O. Glemser
IRIS Ib	1977	Madrid, Spain President: E. Gutierrez Rios Vice-President & Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández
IRIS I	1975	Besancon, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernández

The program for IRIS VIII included all aspects of pure and applied inorganic ring chemistry as viewed in its broadest sense. The interface with materials and organic chemistry was particularly evident. The conference opened with a lecture by H. Nöth and included the International Council for Main Group Chemistry prize lecture from Dr A. J. Arduengo (DuPont). Over 60 lectures and 40 posters were presented by the 114 scientists who attended IRIS VIII.

Sponsorship for IRIS VIII was provided by the following organisations:

Elsevier Science; Exxon Chemicals; Gordon & Breach Publishers, Inc; 3M Health Care Limited; International Council for Main Group Chemistry; Loughborough University; NEC; Royal Society of Chemistry (Dalton Division); Siemens (axs) Ltd; John Wiley & Sons Limited.

xii PREFACE

The next IRIS meeting will be held in Saarbrücken in July/August 2000. Further details may be obtained from Professor M. Veith, Anorganische Chemie FR11.1, Universität des Saarlandes, Postfach 15 11 50, D-66041 Saarbrücken, Germany; e-mail: veith@rz.uni-sb.de