

Preface

John Meurig Thomas

Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A 1996 **354**, 1973

doi: 10.1098/rsta.1996.0085

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article - sign up in the box at the top right-hand corner of the article or click [here](#)

To subscribe to *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A* go to:
<http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/subscriptions>

Preface

It is not solely the intrinsic fascination that curved surfaces and, in particular, triply periodic minimal surfaces exert that makes the subject matter of this special issue timely. A great deal of the progress and excitement attaching to solids which, in effect, have three-dimensional surfaces lies at the heart of modern structural and synthetic chemistry and several facets of materials science. All such solids, of which there is a growing number of families – some of which have come to light between the dates of submission and publication of the articles in this volume – are of profound relevance both to those interested in chemical and crystallographic taxonomy as well as to the preparative inorganic chemist intent on conferring desirable or novel physical properties on structures that are themselves altogether new.

The scholarly opening article by Klinowski, Mackay & Terrones draws attention to many milestones and growth points in modern materials science and applied chemistry. From their synoptic review, we see at once how important the preparative skills of Krätschmer *et al.* (1990), so far as the fullerenes are concerned, and of Kresge *et al.* (1992), in regard to mesoporous silica, have been in contributing to the ferment of ideas and practices that now impinge upon a host of phenomena, encompassing shape-selective catalysis, biomineralization, nanotechnology and ceramic and graphitic foams.

It is unlikely that the generalist, dispassionate reader will be disappointed by this volume, which promises to be a rewarding quarry of ideas of value to both the theorist and practitioner.

JOHN MEURIG THOMAS

Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A **354**, 1973

Printed in Great Britain

1973

© 1996 The Royal Society