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BOOK REVIEW

POLYMER CHEMISTRY

(An Introduction)

R.B. Seymour and C.E. Carraher

Marcel Dekker, New York, 1988; second, revised edition,
hardbound, 688 pages, \$ 45.

This textbook has evolved into an admirable and thorough introduction to the field for undergraduates. The 17 chapters comprise: 1. Introduction to Polymer Science; 2. Polymer Structure (Morphology); 3. Rheology and Solubility; 4. Molecular Weight of Polymers; 5. Testing and Characterization of Polymers; 6. Naturally Occurring Polymers; 7. Step-Reaction Polymerization or Polycondensation Reactions; 8. Ionic Chain-Reaction and Coordination Polymerization (Addition Polymerization); 9. Free-Radical Chain Polymerization (Addition Polymerization); 10. Copolymerization; 11. Inorganic-Organic Polymers; 12. Inorganic Polymers; 13. Fillers and Reinforcements for Polymers; 14. Plasticizers, Stabilizers, Flame Retardants, and Other Additives; 15. Reactions of Polymers; 16. Synthesis of Reactants and Intermediates for Polymers; and 17. Polymer Technology. They are preceded by a Note on the Nomenclature, and followed by eight Appendices: A. Symbols; B. Trade Names; C. Sources of Laboratory Exercises; D. Syllabus; E. Polymer Core Course Committees; F. Polymer Models; G. Structures of Common Polymers; and H. Mathematical Values and Units; and a Subject Index. Each chapter ends with a Summary, a Glossary, a number of Exercises (the solutions of which are given at the end of the book) and Bibliography. All necessary chemical structural formulae and reaction schemes are given, in addition to many line-drawings. This undergraduate textbook is highly recommended to all teachers and students of Polymer Chemistry.

Carel J. van Oss