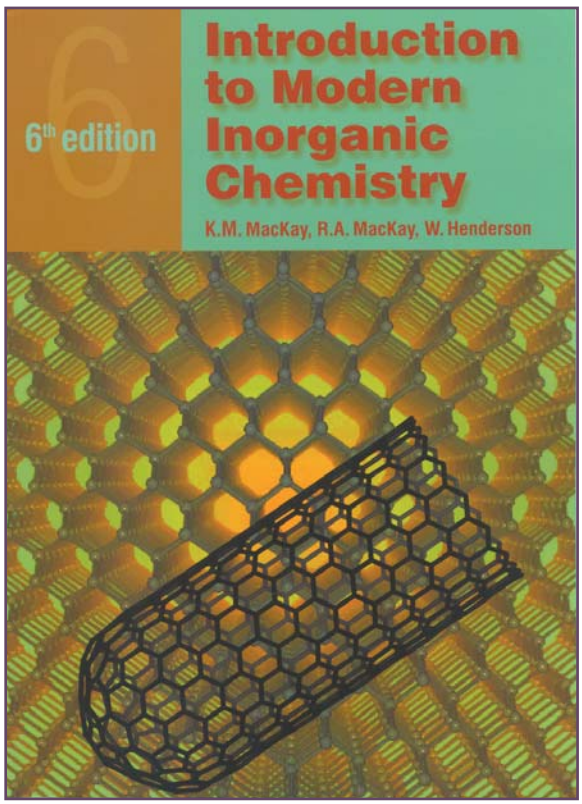
Promotion of Science Fellowship for Research in Japan. He has served on the editorial board of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* since 1998, and on the editorial board of the IUPAC-NIST Solubility Data Series since 1994. Gamsjäger has also been a major driving force in the IUPAC Solubility Data Project since 1990 serving as Secretary of IUPAC Commission V.8 on Solubility Data from 1994 to 2000, and as Chairman of SSED from 2001 to the present. In his capacity as a member of IUPAC Commission and SSED, Gamsjäger has provided guidance, kind criticism, and friendship to his colleagues on SSED and has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of over 100 distinguished scientists worldwide who are active in the work of SSED.

The papers published in this special issue of *Monatshefte* represent contributions from Professor Gamsjäger's close friends and colleagues on SSED. The scope and creativity of these contributions are a tribute to his influence and interaction with his colleagues. The scientific topics cover a variety of solubility phenomena, including general aspects of gas-liquid solubilities (P. G. T. Fogg), gas-liquid and liquid-liquid solubilities of chloromethanes in water (H. L. Clever), and mutual water-hydrocarbon solubilities (A. Maczynski *et al.*). Solid-liquid solubility studies include double salt formation in ternary transition metal-alkali metal halide systems (Chr. Balarew and S. Tepavitcharova), solubilities in ternary aqueous systems involving Cu(II) (L. V. Chernykh *et al.*) and magnesium salts (F. Bousmina *et al.*), the crystallisation and phase stability of calcium sulfate based salts (D. Freyer and W. Voigt), and a new evaluation of the solubility constants of the three calcium carbonate polymorphs (A. De Visscher and J. Vanderdeelen). Other reviews deal with solubilities in mixed solvents of silver halides (W. E. Waghorne) and alkali metal fluorides (G. Senanayake and G. Hefter) and with solubility phenomena in ternary water-salt systems under sub- and supercritical conditions (V. Valyashko and M. Urusova). Solid-liquid solubilities also extend to lanthanide chlorides in molten alkali metal chlorides (M. Gaune-Escard and L. Rycerz), environmental aspects of Pb(II) arsenate stabilities (M. C. F. Magalhães and M. C. M. Silva), and an application of solubility measurements to medicine (G. Sadovska *et al.*).



Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry

K. M. MacKay, R. A. MacKay and W. Henderson
Nelson Thornes, 6th edition, 2002.
ISBN 0 7487 6420 8

reviewed by Bernard Meunier

It's always a pleasure to have a look at a new edition of a popular (inorganic) chemistry textbook: What has been done to make it better? Has it been made more attractive? These are two key questions for teachers who are facing a new generation of students. How can one teach these young people who have been trained mainly by videos and partially by reading books? Well, if you are looking for an attractive and comprehensive book for teaching inorganic chemistry, then you will be highly interested in this the sixth edition of *Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry* by Ken MacKay, his wife Ann, and Bill Henderson.

What is attractive about this book? First, it provides an exhaustive overview of the fundamental bases of inorganic chemistry. Second, boxes located in the margins or in the middle of pages provide

enlightening facts about inorganic chemicals as they relate to everyday life: phosphates and lake water, ozone in the stratosphere, nuclear power and the problem of fission products, titanium oxide as white pigment, and more. I am convinced that these linkages between inorganic chemistry and real life are essential for attracting talented young students to the field.

Another of the book's important features is a further reading appendix that provides a long list of other textbooks devoted to inorganic chemistry to facilitate the reader's future choices. This list is completed by bibliographic data that have been used (or are recommended) by the authors to document each chapter of the book.

Now, if you are ready to rush out and buy this book, you should know that it has 20 chapters, three appendices, and a well-organized index. Chapters 1 to 3 are devoted to the basics of inorganic chemistry (nomenclature, atomic orbitals, covalent bonds, . . .). Chapters 4 and 5 describe polyatomic covalent molecules and solid-state chemistry. The principles of solution chemistry, mainly experimental methods and the general properties of the elements in relation to the periodic table, are reported in chapters 6, 7, and 8. Chapters 9 to 13 focus on hydrogen, the 's' elements, the lanthanides, and the actinides. The following chapters (14–16) present the transition metals and their complexes. The elements of the 'p' block and selected topics in main group chemistry are presented in chapters 17 and 18. Chapter 19 is a short, useful presentation of electron density determination, fullerenes, carbon nanotubes, and dendrimers. The final chapter looks at the biological, medicinal, and environmental aspects of inorganic chemistry. Appendix B is a list of common polydentate ligand. Appendix C is a summary of molecular symmetry and point groups.

If you are not satisfied with this book, the authors kindly mention the Web sites of other publishers of textbooks in inorganic chemistry on page 585!.Thanks to the authors for this valuable book and good luck with the 7th edition.

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