

Preface

This book seeks to introduce readers to the chemistry of polymers. It is aimed primarily at new graduates who have not previously studied polymer chemistry as part of their degree course, but it ought to prove useful to others as well. I hope that final year students studying polymer chemistry and more experienced chemists in industry looking for concise information on the subject will find their needs met as well.

In preparing this book I have attempted to do two distinct things: (i) to provide a brief, readable introduction to the chemistry of polymers and (ii) to emphasise the applied aspects of the scientific knowledge presented. I believe that any introductory book ought to be written in a way that encourages its proposed audience actually to read it. Also as an applied scientist myself I want to emphasise the applications of polymer chemistry since I believe that these are worth covering in a book of this type.

No book, however brief, is the product of just one person. In my own case, I have been very conscious of the help I have received from many sources. These include authors of those books on polymer chemistry that I have drawn on in preparing this one, all of which are listed in the Bibliography.

I also want to give special thanks to my colleague Eleanor Wasson for her generous assistance in reading the entire manuscript and for her numerous helpful suggestions.

Lastly I thank my wife Suzette for her forbearance and support during my involvement with this project. Her good-natured tolerance of my frequent absence from family life has considerably assisted me in the completion of this book.

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