

## *Preface*

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This report covers the literature for 1983 available to us by February 1984.

I regret that it has not yet proved possible to capitalize on the faster publication rate that the camera-ready format makes possible; several factors have contributed to this unfortunate situation, the most serious being a postal error between authors which should not be repeated. We are well aware of the need to hasten the process.

We are also aware that the publication is being made against a background of declining sales and profitability for the general series of Specialist Periodical Reports, although at the present time this particular title is still viable. We depend on our readers, and especially purchasers, to keep it so. I refer in the introduction to the value of readers' comments, and would like to encourage further constructive suggestions. It is evident that the camera-ready format, and perhaps even more the home-spun 'amateurish' diagrams, do not meet with universal approval, but there is no longer any realistic alternative to the former, and more elegant structures would undoubtedly cost more in time and money to produce. I hope that I am right in assuming that most readers are prepared to concur with my decision in this matter.

As usual, I wish to thank my colleagues for all their hard work in helping to produce this volume, and we are again indebted to Mrs. A.Beattie, Ms. W.F.James, and Ms. S.J.Wharton for producing the typescript. I would also like to thank Dr. P.Gardam and Mrs. H.Pape at the Royal Society of Chemistry, who have been instrumental in producing the improved author index, which now supplies chapter-reference rather than simple page indicators.

May 1985

Neil R. Williams

## R E P R I N T S

In response to several queries, the situation regarding reprints of chapters of Specialist Periodical Reports titles is that they are not made available because even a relatively small consequent decrease in sales would have a disproportionately large adverse effect on the precarious finances of this specialist series of books.