

Preface

It is strange, given that aluminum is the most populous metal in the earth's crust and that AlMe_3 is the world's largest tonnage organometallic, that books specifically dedicated to the chemistry of alanes and their organometallic reactions are so scarce.

First prepared in the period 1859–1865, Al-R chemistry has consistently been only afforded, what might be described as “a Cinderella role” in overviews, occasional book chapters, and other reviews. In the last two decades, the Editors can only think of two other major volumes dedicated aluminum organometallics – while literary offerings to her many “p and d block sisters” abound. It is therefore hardly surprising that when through the auspices of the *Topics in Organometallic Chemistry* Editorial Board the opportunity to prepare a specific volume on alane chemistry arose, leading scientists in this community jumped at the opportunity to join the project. In fact, remarkably, not a single original author declined our invitation – there was in fact a slight oversubscription of potential contributors. As Editors we are wildly grateful to these authors: for their time, their enthusiasm, and their dedication to this volume – you have done a fantastic job as the following 200+ pages attest to!

On the basis that, rather like organoaluminums, all prefaces simply do their job (and then pass largely unnoticed), let us move swiftly on to the main course of this volume: a comprehensive study of the “state-of-play” in organoaluminum chemistry at the start of the twenty-first century, some 150 years after these compounds were first prepared.

Nottingham
Strasbourg
2012

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-33671-3>

Modern Organoaluminum Reagents

Preparation, Structure, Reactivity and Use

Woodward, S.; Dagorne, S. (Eds.)

2013, XI, 312 p. 131 illus., 42 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-33671-3