

# Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie

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Re.: Reprints of your scientific papers.

As responsible editor of Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie (Gmelins Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry), which is published on behalf of the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft (German Chemical Society), I beg to take the liberty of requesting you to send us, as far as possible, reprints of your works which in any way deal with inorganic and physical chemistry. If possible, will you also please ask your collaborators and contributors to be so kind as to do likewise. You would, thus, greatly facilitate our work on the handbook.

In this connexion it may interest you to know, in brief, what tasks and aims we have set ourselves in this standard work on inorganic chemistry.

In the year 1921 the board of the Society decided to take over the publication of Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie. Gmelins classical German handbook of inorganic chemistry goes back in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition to the year 1817, in which Leopold Gmelin published his Handbuch der theoretischen Chemie (Handbook of theoretical chemistry) in two volumes, whereby "theoretical" must not be construed in the sense of the word usual today, but in the sense of "pure" chemistry, as contrasted with "applied" chemistry. At the time of the



appearance of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, at the beginning of this century, comes that decisive penetration of the inorganic chemistry with the far-reaching knowledge of physical chemistry and, simultaneously, an extraordinary increase in the material. This fact necessitated a fundamental revaluation of the entire material in the sphere of inorganic and physical chemistry, and, in consequence of difficulties in the publishing of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, led to the decision of the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft to place this work - like the Chemische Centralblatt and Beilsteins Handbuch der organischen Chemie - under its patronage. The editor (Professor Dr. R.J.Meyer) undertook the obligation of preserving the handbook's particular archival principle of all the far-reaching material facts of inorganic and physical chemistry strictly in accordance with their origin, and of working critically in every case, starting at the time of Davy, Lavoisier and Berzelius, with whose researches real scientific chemistry is actually introduced.

The confines of this science were thereby also included in this work to a great extent, as for example, geology, geochemistry, mineralogy, metallurgy, technical chemistry and, above all, physics. Thus, the geologist as well as the metal-expert and especially the physicist, will find the up-to-date results of his special branch of science collected together in this handbook in a critical and competent form. Attention must continually be drawn to this fact because, especially in dealing with the confines of this science, great care and trouble has been taken and, on the other hand, it has not yet sufficiently entered the minds of those people that they might also use Gmelins handbook with successful results. Moreover, it is a main principle never to refer back to the former editions but, in all cases, to the original material. Thus, the handbook bears the name Gmelin in reverence.



In observing the archival principle the editors strive to sketch out, critically, the present and accepted state of knowledge to replace the old and out-of-date material. In order to deal with the exceptionally vast field that comes within the scope of the handbook in the shortest possible time, and thereby publish all available details of inorganic chemistry in a complete form, the board of administration of the handbook, through whom the work was subsidized in a most liberal way, decided, in the middle of 1935, by increasing the subsidy - through which, alone, publication is possible - to considerably increase the editorial organisation. The responsible editor signing this letter undertook to complete the work in accordance with a rigid plan of organisations within the scope of an eight-years plan, i.e. by 1943. The number of scientific collaborators at the disposal of the editor, including the scientific-technical staff and also several technical assistants, is 55. The number of octavo sheets (16 pages each) to be issued by the editorial organisation during each year of their plan is fixed at 140. A complete organisation with special rooms has now been created for the editorial staff to comply with the literary research requirements.

I would be extremely grateful to you if you would place your interest in our handbook - should you not already have done so. The Verlag Chemie G.m.b.H., Berlin W 35, Corneliusstrasse 3, will always be glad to send you a prospectus of the parts which have appeared so far and also to give you any further details. Furthermore, I would be most thankful to you if you would send the editors any fresh ideas, immaterial what sort, as long as they concern the handbook.

*K. E. Fricke*  
Managing Editor  
of the Gmelin-Handbook



