

Preface

This third volume of *Inorganic Chemistry in Focus* is special in many ways. First, it is dedicated to Professor John D. Corbett of Iowa State University, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 23rd, 2006. Second, with its 21 articles, it focuses almost entirely on inorganic solid state chemistry, although it covers a wide area stretching from theoretical considerations via new syntheses, structures and physical properties to applications. Third, these articles are written exclusively by John Corbett's former graduate students and by postdoctoral associates from throughout the world, who have all entered academia. The readers of this book will certainly notice John D. Corbett's influence on the research contained in it, which in this way will be passed on to the next generation, influencing the (solid state) chemists of the future. This book, therefore, is also a documentation of how science progresses and develops over time and how the knowledge of chemistry is disseminated. It is encouraging that all of the authors have found the time to write articles for this special book.

It is to be hoped that the celebrant will enjoy perusing through the chemistry presented in his birthday present, and also that there will be a wide-ranging and appreciative readership. Finally, we all wish John D. Corbett a very happy birthday, *ad multos annos*.

Cologne and Tübingen, Germany
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