Volume Editor's Preface

Volume 31 of **Science of Synthesis** is concerned with substituted arenes of the type Ar—X, where X are functional groups in which the arene ring is bonded to a F, Cl, Br, I, O, S, Se, Te, N, or P atom. At a very early stage in its life, and to the surprise of the newly appointed Volume Editor, Volume 31 underwent mitosis and became Volumes 31a (F, Cl, Br, I, O, S, Se, Te) and 31b (N, P). The combined size of Volumes 31a and 31b is an indication of the extent and importance of this area of organic chemistry. There can be few, if any, synthetic laboratories or chemical manufacturers who do not routinely handle intermediates or products of the type Ar—X. The subject has developed over approximately 175 years and important developments have taken place at regular intervals throughout this period, including the last decade. The various methods of forming Ar—X bonds, together with the rich chemistry of arene functional group interconversion, cover most of the important principles of modern organic chemistry.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. Daniel Bellus and Dr. Joe Richmond who greatly assisted in the early planning of the volume, especially during a convivial January weekend in Stuttgart. I also thank Dr. Fiona Shortt de Hernandez and all the members of her editorial team at Thieme. I particularly thank Dr. Matthew Weston, Dr. Mark Smith, and Dr. Marcus White for their help and advice throughout the editorial process and also Angela Gilden and Michaela Frey for their smooth handling of commissioning and proofreading. Finally, I most warmly thank all the authors of Volume 31 who accepted the challenge of surveying one of the oldest and largest areas of organic chemistry and with their extensive experience and expertise have collectively produced a comprehensive and authoritative account of arene chemistry.

Volume Editor
Chris Ramsden

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