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.

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**Volume Editor**

Chris Ramsden

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