

AIChE JOURNAL

MAY, 1976 • VOL. 22, NO. 3

The AIChE Journal, a publication of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, is devoted to fundamental research and developments having immediate or potential value in chemical engineering.

PUBLISHER

F. J. Van Antwerpen

EDITOR

Robert C. Reid

MANAGING EDITOR

Sylvia Fourdrinier

PRODUCTION EDITOR

Maura Mullen

EDITORIAL BOARD

Andreas Acrivos
Charles A. Eckert
James R. Fair
George R. Galvalas
Leon Lapidus
Dan Luss
William H. Manogue
Keith McHenry, Jr.
Arthur B. Metzner
John M. Prausnitz
Dale F. Rudd
Kenneth A. Smith

Publication Office, 215 Canal street, Manchester, New Hampshire. Published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, 345 East 47 Street, New York, New York 10017. All manuscripts should be submitted only to R. C. Reid, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Room 66-544, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Statements and opinions in the *AIChE Journal* are those of the contributors, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers assumes no responsibility for them. Subscription: one year, \$50; special member rate, \$10; additional yearly postage, Canada \$4.00, Pan American Union \$4.00, other foreign \$4.00 (foreign subscriptions payable in advance). Single copies: \$15.00. Single copies more than one year old: \$16.00. Second-class postage paid at New York, N. Y. and additional mailing offices. Copyright 1976 by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. National headquarters of AIChE is concerned about nondelivery of copies of the *AIChE Journal* and urgently requests subscribers to give prompt notification of any change of address. Sixty days must be allowed for changes to be made in the records.

Postmaster: Please send form 3579 to AIChE Journal, 345 East 47 Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.

A Reflection

Editorials have appeared infrequently in the Journal. To continue this tradition, I note here that what follows is not editorial in nature but more of a reflection. The *raison d'être* stems from my request that I be relieved of my editorial responsibilities as of 1 June.

In the past six years during which I have been privileged to be editor of this Journal, I have talked and corresponded with many members of our profession, both as authors and referees. These contacts have made a lasting impression on me. Our profession should be proud of its members who have given freely of their valuable time to help.

Looking back, I note that each day contained its surprises and sadness. In my term, I declined over 1000 manuscripts and, each time, I fully recognized that this would result in personal pain to the author(s). At the same time, the receipt of each new paper or note was a challenge—how to select competent referees, how to evaluate their comments, how to choose the better manuscripts and, particularly, how to decide for or against in cases where mixed reviews were received. The life of an editor is far from tranquil and obvious decisions are indeed rare.

The Editorial Board has contributed significantly in providing advice and encouragement and, in numerous cases, has assumed the role of *amicus curiae* in difficult decisions.

Three assistants worked closely with me in Cambridge—Judy Hawkins, Maria Tseng, and Nancy Blodget. It was they who efficiently ran the Journal, but, also, they too found themselves entangled in the web of author-referee-publisher-editor, and often



Robert C. Reid

provided the proper common sense so necessary to the operation of any venture involving personalities.

There have been two production editors—Elizabeth Bond and Maura Mullen—in New York. The final production is their achievement. Too seldom are these team members appreciated for their full worth.

F. J. Van Antwerpen and Sylvia Fourdrinier watched the budget and rightly so. Less obvious was their concern for the freedom granted in editorial decisions. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

For those readers who have reached this point, it should be obvious that to publish a successful journal, many individuals are important and necessary. To all, I express my sincere thanks for helping maintain the Journal in the tradition begun by the late Harding Bliss.

ROBERT C. REID
MAY 1976