

From the Editor...

The inaugural issue of *Adsorption*, the Journal of the International Adsorption Society, is here at last. It represents the first forum in which the authors, the International Adsorption Society, and the publisher have combined efforts. The goal is to present information, assertions, hypotheses, explanations, and conclusions on fundamental and practical aspects of adsorption. Its scope encompasses all areas of adsorption, from mathematics and thermodynamics to novel adsorbent materials to process simulation and equipment design.

The primary aim of the journal is to provide timely and authoritative information about adsorption to scientists, engineers, and technologists throughout the world. In these pages will be found primarily peer reviewed articles concerning developments in the field of adsorption. In addition, somewhat longer reviews of specific topics will appear, such as the current paper on "Determination of Transport Coefficients in Microporous Solids" by Bülow and Micke. Also welcome are R&D Notes, which describe the latest experimental or theoretical results, without the normal introductory exposition and breadth of a regular article. We are also planning to include annotated bibliographies, such as the current one by Ray. We will also publish tutorial papers on diverse subjects, for the benefit of novices as well as for those who are specialists in certain narrow areas but who want to understand subjects beyond their own areas of work. Finally, to meet the needs that were initially addressed by the Society, we will print news regarding products, processes, people and companies, and upcoming meetings. That information will appear in the second and fourth issues of each volume.

To make this step, the authors, members of the Society and publisher all have taken risks, with the prospect of uncertain rewards. As many readers are aware, this venture was not entered into lightly. For example, in addition to some preliminary "back-room" meetings in which ideas were kicked around and potential publishers were sounded out, the members of the Society were polled. The results of that poll were resoundingly in favor of a journal. Despite that reassurance, however, knowing the status of the world economy and of libraries, in particular, and being aware of the plethora of high quality journals, the decision to start a journal was not easily made. Furthermore, as we have literally crept towards the point of putting the first issue into print, there has been more than a little concern about the whole venture. To some, the situation was analogous to trying to squeeze one more product into a market that already appears to be saturated. To others, the idea of a journal devoted to adsorption was more novel and more worthy one that filled an unfilled need. Our goal is to validate Bradford's law, which states that, "a relatively small number of journals accounts for the great majority of significant papers in any field." Whether we fulfill that goal or not will be determined by you, the readers and contributors.

Kent S. Knaebel
Dublin, Ohio USA