

## EDITORIAL

**M**inireviews make their debut in this issue of *Angewandte Chemie*. We launch this new section, which is placed, and covers in many respects the ground, between *Reviews* and *Highlights*, with an article by Pierre Braunstein and Neil M. Boag on “Alkyl, Silyl, and Phosphane Ligands—Classical Ligands in Nonclassical Bonding Modes”. Last year, having accepted a particularly remarkable *Communication* by H. Werner et al. on dinuclear rhodium complexes with bridging trialkylphosphane ligands, we invited Pierre Braunstein to illuminate this “rule-breaking” discovery in a *Highlight*. He immediately saw great potential in this idea and wished to include the bridging phosphane ligands in a series alongside bridging alkyl and silyl ligands. He delivered a manuscript that was too long and broad to be a *Highlight* but not comprehensive enough to be a *Review*. At the same time, at this year’s meeting of the Editorial Board of *Angewandte Chemie*, there was some criticism of the *Highlights* section, in particular that the articles often had the character of a minireview and would be better labeled as such. The value of minireviews is that they not only serve modern habits (browsing, zapping) but also that they offer the flexibility to treat topics at a time, and in a suitable manner, when a review would be premature or inappropriate. In the future, in *Highlights* (five manuscript pages) particularly important new research results should be illuminated in detail and critically judged, in *Minireviews* (ten manuscript pages) current topics should be presented in a concise review style, and *Reviews* (up to 40 manuscript pages), as ever, will offer a broad range of longer articles, from very personal assessments of the productive areas of research of one protagonist to the classical review article from any area of chemistry (see also our “Notice for Authors”). Alluding to Chekhov we hope that the brevity of the *Minireviews* will make them attractive to many talented authors.

**R**eferee’s reports like the manuscripts to be reviewed can be good or bad, correct or wrong, and need to be interpreted.

**This manuscript must either be drastically reduced or fully oxidized.**

**Anonymous**

This is not difficult when the reports are so clearly formulated as one that Kurt Mislow sent to me, which was originally published in a slightly different form by Marshall Gates in 1954 (*J. Chem. Educ.* **1954**, *31*, 456–457). It is not unusual for the interpretation

of a referee report by the author of the manuscript in question to be different to the interpretation given by an editor; this is particularly true when the manuscript has been rejected. As re-

viewers are, in contrast to the opinion of Kurt Tucholsky (a German writer from the first half of the 20th century), both hanging judges and military surgeons, they have a questionnaire to fill out (Figure 1), and should justify the opinions given in these responses (this is their “judicial” role) and comment on the manuscript; suggestions for improvement are more than welcome (their “surgical function”). It is not uncommon for a referee to judge a manuscript to be “important” (Question 1) and in spite of this to recommend rejection (Question 4). Another frequently occurring combination is the response “less important” coupled with the recommendation for acceptance (with or without minor or major alterations). With the exception of rare cases

in which the reasons and comments of the reviewer suggest another course of action, these combinations of responses by reviewers are interpreted by the editors to lead to rejection, whereas they are often seen in a more positive light by the authors. The second case is easy to explain: *Angewandte Chemie* aims to present readers with (very) important results and manuscripts which, according to our reviewers, are less important must therefore be rejected. The first case is not so easy, there could be two reasons for the discrepancy, either the reviewer simply wishes to save the

**Referees are hanging judges, not military surgeons**

**Kurt Tucholsky**

## Minireviews, Referees, Journals, and the Future

1) How important do you consider the results reported?	
very important	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
important	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
less important	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
unimportant	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
2) Do the data obtained by experiment or calculation verify the hypotheses and conclusions?	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
No	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
3) Is the length of the manuscript appropriate to its contents?	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
No, the manuscript is too long	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
No, the manuscript is too short	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
4) Do you recommend acceptance of the Communication?	
Yes, without alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
Yes, after minor alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
Yes, but only after major alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
No	<input type="checkbox"/> *)
5) If you are of the opinion that the contribution is not suitable for publication in ANGEWANDTE CHEMIE, please indicate which other journal you consider more appropriate:	
*) please give comments on the enclosed sheet.	

Figure 1. Referee questionnaire for *Angewandte Chemie*.

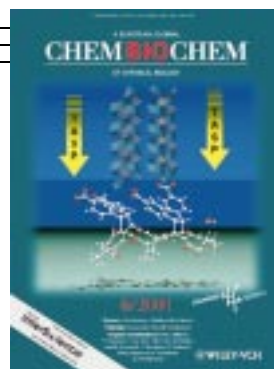
author from the harsh judgment of less important or unimportant in sentencing the manuscript, while clearly justifying the reasons for the rejection in later comments, or alternatively thinks the core of the results to be genuinely important but judges that the research has not been performed adequately, or that the results are as yet not fully confirmed and therefore recommends rejection. Even when the division between the categories is not as clear as one would like (and occasionally results in crosses being placed between two categories) we appeal to referees to provide reports that contain as few “contradictions” as possible and to authors to understand our interpretation, which always has the interests of the readers at heart who do not wish to receive, to use the imagery of Karl Kraus (a Viennese writer of the early 20th century), any wood shavings but rather finely crafted furniture.

**Academic know-it-alls  
can live in the belief  
that the important  
product of carpentry  
is the wood shavings.  
Karl Kraus**

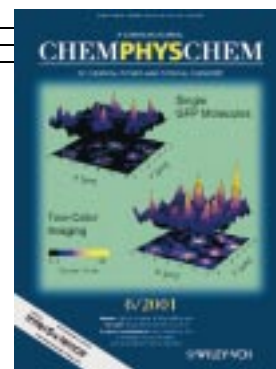
Journals, especially new ones, are frequently seen as a plague and, that there are on the whole too many as opposed to too few journals is nothing new. In spite of this there is a continual flow of new journals and often for good reasons. To give a few examples, the American Chemical Society has recently launched among others *Organic Letters*, the *Journal of Combinatorial Chemistry*, *Biomacromolecules*, and *Nano Letters*; from the Royal Society of Chemistry come new journals such as *Green Chemistry*; and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (the German Chemical Society) together with Wiley-VCH has with—in each case, various different—European partner societies, brought out, first *Chemistry—A European Journal* and last year *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem* (other new journals from Wiley-VCH are *Fuel Cells*, *Proteomics*, and *Single Molecules*). *Chemistry* is so successful—recently the 3333rd manuscript was received, the impact factor has settled around the very impressive level of 5, and in October we will celebrate the publication of the 100th issue,—that its launch no longer needs to be justified, particularly when one considers the strengthening of the European (and worldwide) chemistry journal market that has resulted. *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem* are celebrating their first birthdays (launched in July and August 2000, respectively), and although they are “hidden” at the back of *Angewandte Chemie*, have rapidly gained a high profile and have already published many excellent articles. To emphasize their independent character, we are bringing them out of their *Angewandte* hiding place immediately. From *ChemBioChem* double issue 7/8 and *ChemPhysChem* double issue 8/9 (to be published at the start and middle of August, respectively) both journals will be bound separately (also satisfying the needs of librarians), but both journals will continue to be delivered to all the subscribers of *Angewandte Chemie*.



Chemistry



ChemBioChem

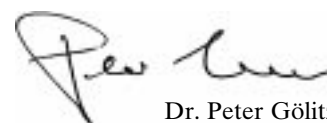


ChemPhysChem

**ChemBioChem and ChemPhysChem** help reinforce chemistry's standing as “the central science”. Particularly at the boundaries with biology and physics, chemistry is not a service science providing methods and materials but rather an equal partner, to say the least.

The future belongs to *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem* but no less so to *Angewandte Chemie*. And how does its future look? With the aim of publishing excellent manuscripts from all areas of chemistry the journal has been extremely successful—and this with an accelerating growth in recent years. More authors than ever before want to publish their best work in *Angewandte Chemie*. In the first six months of 2001 around 20% more *Communications* were submitted than in the same period the previous year. The editorial staff who cannot bear to hear my favorite Wilhelm Genazino (a contemporary German writer) quote any more, have however, once again, successfully increased the throughput. This year over 5000 pages will be published, which is an average of well over 200 pages per issue. When does more cease to be better? Should *Angewandte Chemie* remain an attractive racing boat (with the eventual consequence of appearing weekly) or become a huge container ship? Which sections of the journal do you like best, or is it in fact the mixture of articles that you like? Your response to these questions and any other comments or criticisms about *Angewandte Chemie* and its future interest us greatly!

**It will always be the  
same my dear, the im-  
possible is the normal.  
Wilhelm Genazino**

  
Dr. Peter Göllitz

PS: Recently it has become possible for users of the electronic version of *Angewandte Chemie* (and all the other journals in Wiley InterScience) to be informed automatically of new publications in their interest areas through the service “ContentDirect”.