



## 125 Years *Angewandte Chemie*

François Diederich\*



**A**ngewandte Chemie looks back with pride on 125 years of successful publishing of important research from academic and industrial chemistry. Together with the International Edition, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011, the International Year of Chemistry, the journal stands for quality and innovation in chemical publishing. Attractive, often artistically designed cover pages, informative tables of contents, and exciting author profiles are innovative aspects of the journal to which we have quickly become accustomed. Its portfolio,

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with reviews of different formats and top-class communications, is attractive and successful, and is increasingly imitated, which is in no way unexpected. With the success, the publication frequency has been greatly increased: while *Angewandte Chemie* was a monthly publication in the year of its 100th anniversary in 1988, it is a weekly publication today, and online contributions are published almost daily.

The success of *Angewandte Chemie* has many origins, and at this point I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all those who have contributed to it over the years. *Angewandte Chemie* is the

flagship among the publishing activities of the German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutsche Chemiker, GDCh) from which the journal receives strong backing and support. The editorial team is in good hands at Wiley-VCH. *Angewandte Chemie* has rapidly developed into the flagship of this publishing house, which provided the necessary resources to increase the size of the editorial team in response to the continued strong increase in the number of submitted manuscripts and to develop, in addition to the printed versions, the online presentation as part of the Wiley Online Library. With Dr. Peter Göllitz, *Angewandte Chemie* has an Editor-in-Chief who has been decisively involved in the numerous innovation processes and is recognized worldwide as one of the foremost exponents of scientific publishing. The work of the excellent editorial team is accompanied by an Editorial Board (Kuratorium) of scientists from industry, universities, and non-university institutions from German-speaking countries. The members of the Editorial Board, which I have the privilege to preside over since 2004, are elected by the board of the GDCh. Much valuable support comes from the International Advisory Board, which is made up of top-class authors from the different regions of the world that manuscripts are submitted from.

The splendid development of *Angewandte Chemie* would, however, not have been possible without the trust of the many authors—scientists from around the world and from all areas of chemistry—who decide daily to submit their best work to the journal. The number of submissions from German-speaking countries is also rising further, even if their percentage of the total number of published papers has naturally decreased over the years. And

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another strength of the journal is its broad base of qualified reviewers, many of them from Germany, whose careful work and analysis is essential for acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. I thank all the above-mentioned people for their eminent contributions over the years that have helped establish *Angewandte Chemie* and its International Edition as nationally and internationally recognized hallmarks of chemistry in Germany.

The fact that the German-language edition of *Angewandte Chemie* continues to be published and now celebrates its 125th anniversary is a cultural achievement of the first rank, for which the editorial team of the journal was awarded the “Kulturpreis Deutsche Sprache” in 2007. This is no small achievement. In his preface to the 100th anniversary issue of *Angewandte Chemie* in 1988 (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1988**, 27, 2), the then chairman of the Editorial Board, Prof. Dr. Hubert Schmidbaur, wrote “the Editorial Board of the journal has repeatedly discussed the question whether one can afford the luxury of having both a German and an English edition. The 125th anniversary of *Angewandte Chemie* might well celebrate the existence of a purely English-language journal.” Fortunately, this did not happen. Over the past years, this question has disappeared from the agendas of the meetings of the Editorial Board, as its

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general, *Angewandte Chemie* publishes all contributions, except communications, in German. Many German-speaking authors indeed translate their communications, which are submitted in English in order to permit international

reviewing, after acceptance to effect publication in German.

In an Editorial back in 2005, I presented a more detailed appreciation of the value of publishing in the German language (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 2308–2309). The arguments advanced at that time in favor of publishing in German are still valid. It makes a valuable contribution to maintaining and further developing the German language in chemical research and education. I even argue that chemical research and the chemical industry that are highly respected worldwide are marked by strong cultural contributions from scientific discussion and debate in the German language. Publishing German-language articles in *Angewandte*

*Chemie* is of great value for the preservation of the German scientific language, as it is needed on a daily basis for the teaching in high schools and other institutions. It facilitates communication between science and society and hopefully will continue to be used in academia and in the workplace. Every German-speaking author can and should make a contribution to this important development of the technical language; it helps ensure that *Angewandte Chemie* will also see the 150th anniversary of the German-language edition.

*François Diederich*

Chairman of the Editorial Board  
of *Angewandte Chemie*