

CHEMISTRY of MATERIALS

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Editorial

Chemistry of Materials: Entering Our Fifth Year of Publication

With this issue, *Chemistry of Materials* enters its fifth year of publication with a new table of contents page format and a monthly publication schedule. In its four-year lifetime, this journal has grown from a fledgling publication to one of the fastest growing ACS journals with over 1500 subscribers and an anticipated 1993 page total of 1750.

The growth of this journal over the past four years is particularly remarkable in the context of a declining subscription rate for many other scientific journals and the increasingly competitive publication scene in materials chemistry. This growth of interest clearly reflects the increasing focus worldwide on the application of chemistry and chemical perspectives to materials-related issues. Over the period 1970–1990, the number of materials-related abstracts published by Chemical Abstracts Service increased 2-fold. In this same period, a new society,¹ specifically dedicated to materials research, began operations and, within the ACS, a national award in materials chemistry and a Materials Chemistry Secretariat were created to respond to the growing interest and activity among chemists and chemical engineers in this area.

If we broadly define materials chemistry as chemistry related to the preparation, processing, and analysis of materials,² it is clear that a large fraction of chemists, chemical engineers, and materials scientists have been practicing materials chemistry for many years. Historically, this activity has been viewed largely in terms of particular categories of “materials” or particular approaches to their study. As is apparent from the diversity of subjects represented in the issues of this journal, many scientists who have been identified as polymer, solid-state, surface, etc., chemists/physicists/engineers are now beginning to see merit in viewing their work in the broader context of materials chemistry.

A key objective of our editorial policy during the past four years of publication has been the rapid publication of the highest quality work in materials chemistry. In pursuing this objective, we have held the authors of our papers to high standards of publication quality and have resisted the tendency to sacrifice quality for the number of papers published. This has been possible only because of the willingness of our reviewers to respond promptly and conscientiously to our call for detailed, critical, but constructive reviews. To these reviewers and to our authors who have largely responded positively and patiently to our requests for modifications in their papers, this journal owes a debt of gratitude. We intend to maintain this emphasis on quality in the coming year(s), while improving our already good record for submission-to-publication of the papers we receive. This goal will be facilitated by our monthly publication schedule for 1993, which should particularly improve our publication time for communications. Our new format for communications, which has been modeled after that recently implemented by *Inorganic Chemistry*, will also highlight these papers, hopefully encouraging a more detailed reading of the entire journal issue. This new format has necessitated some changes in our Notice to Authors regarding the submission of communications. Prospective authors of communications to this journal are requested to note specifically the additional brief summary and illustration that will be needed for this new table of contents format.

As we have indicated in our earlier editorials, our editorial staff appreciates receiving feedback from the readers of this journal and welcome your criticisms as well as your suggestions for changes and improvements.

Leonard V. Interrante
Editor

(1) The Materials Research Society.

(2) L. V. Interrante, *MRS Bulletin*, 1992.