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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Analytical chemistry and much of the rest of 'measurement science' is undergoing necessary changes in perspective as the science is almost all done for some techniques. Of course, that does not imply that all the science is done that will ever *use* the technique. *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* will continue to experiment with different article types this year in addition to mainstay reviews. There are some topics that need to be revisited now and then just to help practitioners inform new workers of techniques that are rugged ways to do analysis or interpretation. I just reviewed a book on graph theoretical description of chemical reactions, for example. It is never too late for a fresh view on an established subject's use in a new way, it seems. Then there is the question of undiscovered relations. You may see some not routinely used by chemists books reviewed during this Volume year. It is an Editorial privilege to wonder if people concerned with data in massive amounts and reviewing those data might benefit from what the code/decode community is doing. After all, what we call chemometrics and some call molecular modeling has part of its origins in questions asked by agricultural researchers long before the chemists found use for factorial design, factor analysis, etc.

One has to be careful as well about suggesting that all that will be done has already been done. In the 1950s there was a Gordon Conference and the Chair invited a person from British Petroleum as an audience member. He came prepared to speak (in error) and they found him a slot to be polite. He spoke on 'Simulated Distillation by Vapour Phase Fractometry'. The consensus among the then electrochemically dominated community was that it was interesting and everything that would be done had now been done with that technique. Vapour Phase Fractometry was an early term for gas chromatography and many of us will testify that there were a few more years of important research both instrumental and fundamental to be done after the mid-1950s! The same might be said for a comment made after a day-long symposium on atomic spectroscopy 15 years ago in Las Vegas. The then Director of Analytical Chemistry Programs at the U.S. National Science Foundation offered a comment during the closing panel session: "Well, if anything, it is now clear this is a dead area!" Fred Findeis was trying more to stimulate than to eulogize Atomic Spectrometry, to be sure. Certainly, AA/AS has found new instrumental fundamental avenues since. Cell Biology came and went and is back, I am told. The oldest form of electrophoresis is not the 'hot' area in electromigration methods — CZE.

Any journal could happily ignore the needs of a diverse scientific audience and stress only one topical area. *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* has no plan to do that. It is rare that one can just say that 'all that needs to be written has been written!'. What the journal and its Editorial Board would like is for the readers to continue to offer suggestions of topics, authors, and themes for the Board to consider. We welcome suggestions for what readers want to see reviewed or think should be.

You will note a few changes in the Editorial Board. I would like to thank those who have completed their service and to both thank and welcome those who have joined us with this issue. Feel free to contact any Board member or the Editor. Visit the WWW-site <http://www.crcpress.com/jour/crac/crac.htm>

Prof. C. H. Lochmüller
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