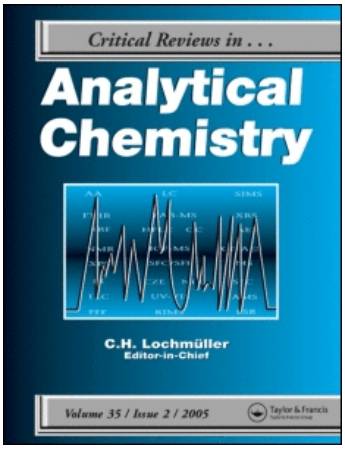

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From the Editor

Walter L. Zielinski Jr.

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FROM THE EDITOR

You can't tell a book by its cover — or so they say. Not true for this "book" — the continued quality of which is reflected by the quality of the Editorial Advisory Board listed inside its cover. One unique feature of this particular Board is that it is comprised of active participants who directly suggest topics and authors for areas of interest in analytical chemistry. Another exceptional feature of this Board is its unique composition of outstanding, accomplished scientists. Its international members are represented by authoritative, distinguished spokesmen in analytical chemistry for their respective countries . . . Folke Ingman (Sweden) . . . Yu Zolotov (U.S.S.R.) . . . Erno Pungor (Hungary) . . . Paolo Papoff (Italy). Further, as one would expect, the Board's members have been recipients of numerous awards in analytical chemistry for their work. To illustrate: this past year George Morrison received the Pittsburgh Conference Analytical Chemistry Award, while Jeanette Grasselli was honored at a special FACSS Symposium on modern molecular spectroscopy (indeed, I had the distinct honor of being present when Jeanette received the Coblentz Award at an earlier Pittsburgh Conference for her pioneering work in this field). In addition, three years ago Haleem Issaq received the Eastern Analytical Symposium Award in Chromatography. Again — as one would expect from the nature of this journal — many authors of critical reviews published herein also are recognized for their outstanding work in analytical chemistry, such as Phyllis Brown (Dal Nogare Award in Chromatography), Herb Hill (Keene Dimick Award), and Janet Osteryoung (Anachem Award). Unfortunately, we have also suffered some notable losses in recent years including a distinguished Board member, Tomas Hirschfeld, whose remembrance is continued through the Tomas Hirschfeld Award in Near Infrared Analysis each year at the Pittsburgh Conference, and an author and friend, Vern Berry, a prodigious publisher, lecturer, and free-thinking innovator in HPLC, who has been commemorated by the establishment of an international Memorial Foundation to promote the recognition of excellence in chromatographic research by graduate students.

On to the contents of the current issue — all from international contributors — with topics varying from inorganic analytical applications of organometallic complexes and the gas chromatographic characterization of polymers, to the nature of cyclic voltammetry and its analytical uses, and the use of flow injection analysis (FIA) in assessments of seawater quality.

A joint paper by R. Singh (Bareilly College in India) and H. Ishii (Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan) details some of the structural aspects, kinetics, and underlying chemistry of metal complexes of thiosemicarbazones and semicarbazones — bioactive substances which have been used in the treatment of various microbial diseases — and their broad utility as spectrophotometric reagents for the quantification of metal ions via the formation of intensely-colored (or fluorescent) complexes, covering 27 different metal ions, including Cu, Ni, Fe, Co, Pd, and Os. Adam Voelkel of the Institute of Chemical Technology and Engineering in the Technical University in Poznan, Poland provides a comprehensible and comprehensive description of the physicochemical aspects of polymers and other materials including modified silicas and surfactants via gas chromatographic studies, demonstrating how evaluations of solvent-solvent and solute-solvent interactions can improve the understanding, modeling, and prediction of chromatographic retention behavior. A detailed paper by Eccles in work conducted at McGill University in Montreal outlines the principles of pulse cyclic and square-wave cyclic voltammetry and their applications in static and flowing solution systems, illustrating the novel selectivity that can be attained by the simultaneous monitoring of current and voltage changes as a function of time. Finally, J. Atienza and co-workers from the Polytechnic University in Valencia, Spain summarize and discuss the use of FIA-spectrophotometric detection systems for the analysis of the anionic quality of seawater, including nitrates, nitrites, sulfates, phosphates, silicates, and halides, as well as other quality-related aspects such as peroxide, alkalinity, and selected organic species.

As always . . . enjoy.

Walter L. Zielinski, Jr.
Editor