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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue completes the twenty-fifth volume of the Journal and hence its twenty-fifth anniversary year. A quarter of a century of service to the measurement community in chemistry and many other areas requires thanks to our authors, former and present Editorial Board members, and of course, the Editors that came before my time of service. It is also important to thank you, the readers, for the many suggestions you make and the help those suggestions provide in guiding a review journal such as this one. Please keep up the letters.

A quarter century ago, the nature of the review journals and review articles was different. Today the word "critical" as in *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* takes on an entirely different meaning. Our Journal, *CRAC*, long ago recognized that the papers it presents could be "critical" in the common sense of selective and comparative, but also that there are developing areas in measurement that have critical implications for the practicing scientist, methods developer, and for people in regulatory function occupations (and no doubt many others). We continue to strive to recruit articles suggested to the Editorial Board by readers and to use the multiple talents of the Board to find suitable authors. Variety is essential because the field of chemical measurement science is various in its aspects. It is also true that some aspects of measurement science bear on the philosophical and managerial aspects of how tasks should be organized, projects staffed, and results analyzed. The Journal will consider such articles, but the difficult task for the Board and the Editor is to screen articles that might be more appropriate in a trade magazine. Yet, it is important not to discourage ideas about articles that simply would question the future directions in major areas of Analytical Chemistry — major in the sense of environmental, pharmaceutical, marine, extraterrestrial — not the classic Separations, Spectrometry, Electrochemistry, Thermal Methods, Titrimetry, Gravimetry of academic textbook fame.

We have tried in this volume to have represented a variety of articles in both focus, and, hopefully, stimulation of your thoughts. We have had reviews in areas of dynamics, electrochemistry, and separations, but also articles on new directions and new ways to think about integration of laboratory operations and automation. The next volume has papers on the way in areas from poly-electrolytes to the burning of polymers, from important aspects of new directions in pharmaceutical development to the environment. Please let me know what you would prefer to see as well. The Journal values its readers' and subscribers' opinions.

Along with the publication of the twenty-fifth anniversary volume, we have introduced a new "wrinkle" in scientific publishing. You may know that *CRAC* is now part of a World Wide Web site maintained by the publisher, CRC Press. The goal is to have titles and abstracts available to the public in advance of the paper copy appearance and to make the "exactly-as-it-will-appear" version of each paper down-loadable by subscribers in advance of paper copy shipment. If you have not visited the Website, the URL is:

<http://www.crcpress.com/jour/crac/crac.htm>

There you will find an easy e-mail link to the Editor (me), to a list of the Editorial Board members, a guide to authors, subscription information, and a free trial of the title/abstract/full paper venture. We even provide a link to the freeware *Adobe Acrobat*®, which allows you to read the articles and to even print your own copies. Please visit and send your comments. Feel free to suggest improvements and additions! We could provide a link to a table of other links to sites of interest to those who read *CRAC* if readers would like that. Suggestions? Just click on the e-mail to me on the *CRAC* home page!

Almost two decades ago, an old friend, Harry Pardue, made a very reasonable suggestion concerning the distinction between carrying out determinations and "analysis." To paraphrase, the distinction centers on the fact that the Analytical Chemistry part of analysis is not the determination of "How much XX is present" but the planning of the sampling, the choice of method, the study of the results. The analysis

does not begin and end with a determination of content or even presence. It is difficult to analyze results not yet obtained and, even worse, to try to make sense of a poorly planned experiment, or the results of a mismanaged project. I welcome articles on successes in project planning models that focus on measurement and on new ways to combine immediate needs with longer-term research. This Journal will stay on track and try to keep its reputation for solid articles on important measurement topics but encourage its authors and its readers to keep in mind that many who use the Journal are seeking "critical" statements about range of application, novel ways to correct problems and the like, as well as trying to come up to speed in a new area. Review journals cannot just be archives or flaunt themselves as primary journals by narrowing their focus too greatly. Do you agree?

C. H. Lochmüller

Editor-in-Chief