

Editorial

This special issue of the *Journal of Materials Engineering and Performance* provides an opportunity to publish papers related to characterization of coatings. These papers were selected from several sessions on characterization of coatings held under the symposium on Surface Engineering, during the ASM/TMS Materials Week, 12-15 October 1996. The papers were peer-reviewed by two JMEP reviewers prior to publication.

The principal objective of this special issue is to provide a platform for present developments in the area of characterization of various coatings. Characterization of coatings is still not a well-developed or well-defined area; however, it is essential to gain insight into the physical and chemical nature of coating materials in order to utilize them repeatedly in an effective manner. Such an attempt to understand the performance of coatings is made through these papers based on characterization with regard to physical, chemical, and engineering properties. The papers are based on a wide variety of coating materials, including ceramics, metallic, and intermetallic, characterized for physical and chemical properties such as hardness, corrosion, etc., with specific applications in mind. The papers were prepared by a broad group of researchers, scientists, and engineers from universities and industry.

We wish to gratefully acknowledge all authors who have prepared manuscripts based on their original presentations. We are very thankful to our colleague Dr. Mahendra Sunkara of University of Louisville for helping us to successfully organize the three sessions on Characterization of Coatings during Materials Week 1996 from which the papers were selected for this special issue. We also would like to thank Dr. T.S. Sudarshan, Materials Modification Inc. (MMI), for his support and encouragement, and for providing this opportunity. Finally, our special thanks to Dr. John Ogren, editor of the Journal and ASM International for making available an appropriate medium to convey this knowledge.



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