

# 50 Years of the International Edition: More Substance than Appearance

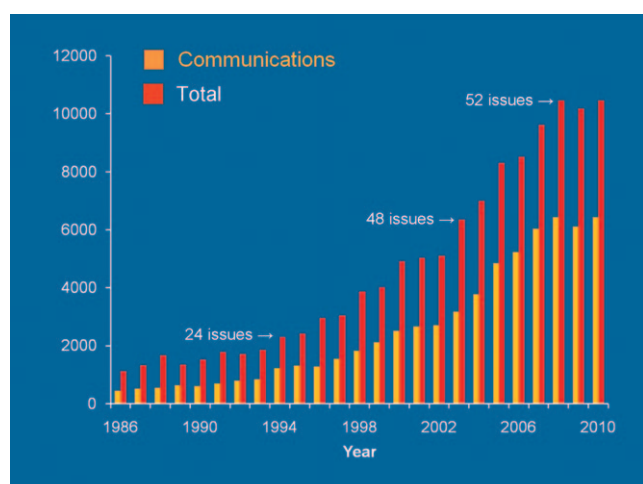


The cover then and now

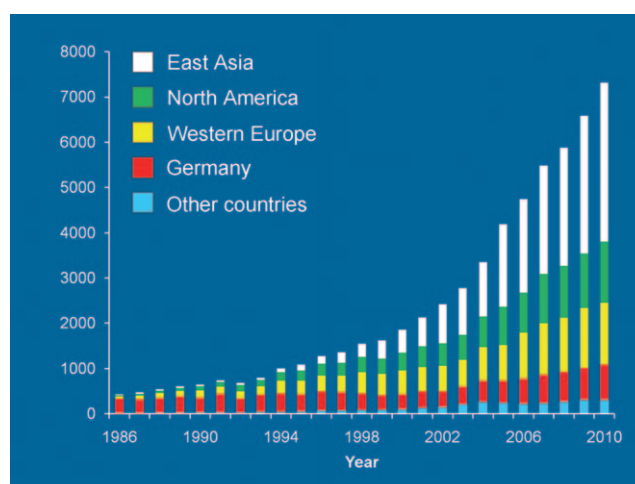
It must have seemed like a crash of thunder and bolt of lightning to many chemists in Germany in the early 1960s when the Verlag Chemie and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) brought out an “International Edition in English” to accompany *Angewandte Chemie*, the then almost 75 years old German chemistry journal. A half-century ago, only a handful of contributions in *Angewandte Chemie* came from authors outside of German-speaking countries, and it was certainly a courageous step for the Editor-in-Chief at the time, Wilhelm Foerst, and his successor Helmut Grunewald, to start an English edition. And indeed, in the first couple of years they needed the help of Academic Press in this endeavor. It hasn’t been passed down whether they had the undivided support of the Editorial Board, which in 1961 was made up of Richard Kuhn, Otto Bayer, Wilhelm

Klemm, Klaus Schäfer, and Karl Winnacker. But today’s readers and authors, and of course also the editors, the publisher, and the GDCh, are most grateful to these pioneers for an internationalization of the chemical sciences. Shortly after the start of the International Edition, Wilhelm Foerst wrote a foreword to the 75th volume of *Angewandte Chemie* in 1963: “And so each fundamental piece of new knowledge emanates a sweeping power, which in turn motivates receptive personalities to their own achievements. It is this group, the avant-garde, that we are trying to find. That is our entire agenda.” This vision continues to guide the editorial team to this day, although the making of the journal has changed drastically since then, especially in the past 25 years—and it is these 25 years that I would now like to consider because I know them well from my own experience.

From the first volume in 1962 to the 24th volume in 1985, the International Edition grew from ca. 700 to ca. 1100 pages and from the 25th volume in 1986 to the 49th volume in 2010 from ca. 1150 to well over 10000 pages (Figure 1). And speaking of growth: the 36 years of backfiles of the International Edition of *Angewandte Chemie* (1962–1997; starting in 1998, the journal was available online on Wiley InterScience) contains ca. 18400 “articles” (including cover pictures, tables of contents, book reviews, etc.); in the 13 years since then, that is, since 1998, over 20000 “articles” have been published. In 1986, the editorial office received only 426 Communications, of which 26% came from outside of Germany (Figure 2); in 2010 there were circa 7300 submitted Communications, of which 89% came from countries other than Germany. Submissions in 2010 were lead by China, the



**Figure 1.** Page development of *Angewandte Chemie* from 1986 to 2010. In 1994 the frequency of publication was increased from 12 to 24 issues, in 2003 to 48, and in 2008 to 52 issues.



**Figure 2.** Number of submitted Communications per year since 1986 and their origin. Reviews, Minireviews, Essays, Highlights, Book Reviews, and other more rare article types are not included here.

USA, Germany, and Japan, and the fifth place is taken by South Korea—before the other big European countries! The rejection rate increased from 30 % to 78 % over the past 25 years (Figure 3).

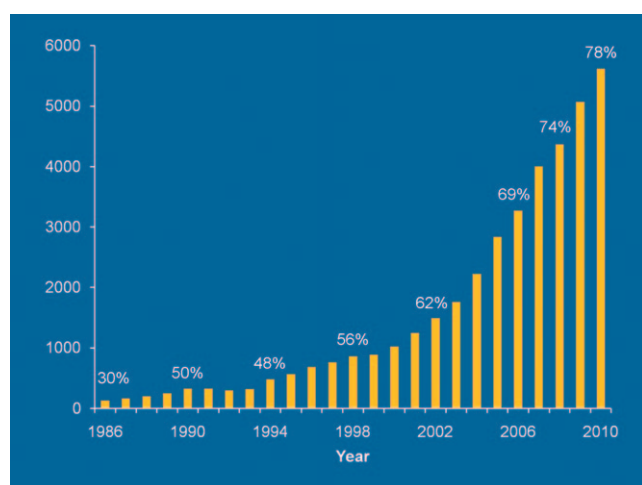
Not just the numbers have changed dramatically. The entire publication process has changed, from the way the authors write their manuscripts to the way the manuscripts are handled in the editorial office and finally to the reception of scientific journals by readers. The fax machine was not around yet in the mid 80s, and today it has nearly disappeared again. There was no e-mail and no internet. Around 1986 the editorial office began to request floppy discs (5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch) from authors to avoid having to re-enter text. The road from there to today's seamless electronic treatment of manuscripts was not always easy, and it has required substantial investments by the publisher. Today the online version of a journal is the primary product, and some printed journals have shrunk their page format or been discontinued altogether. The more confidence is placed in the long-term archiving of electronic data (or the more the problem is blocked out), the faster printed journals will disappear. Reading behavior has changed such that for top journals like *Angewandte Chemie*, the homepage is checked for new articles on a daily basis. Figure 4 clarifies this point: A Communication that was published online in EarlyView on Wiley InterScience (now called Wiley Online Li-

**Table 1:** Constant Innovation at *Angewandte Chemie*.

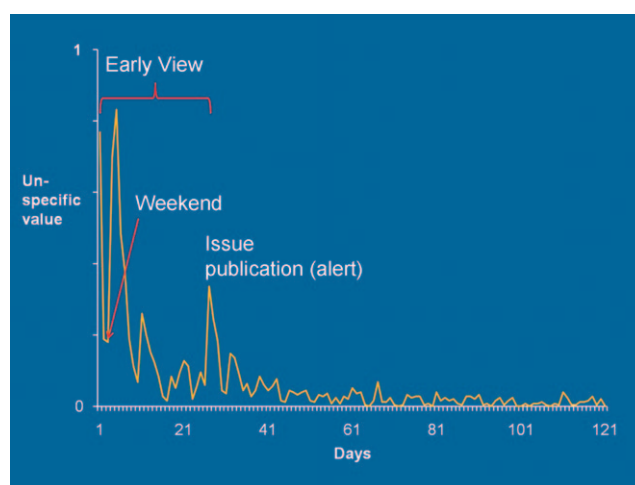
Year	Innovation
1888	First volume of <i>Angewandte Chemie</i>
1962	First volume of the International Edition
1978	Graphical abstracts
1979	Cover picture for each issue
1982	First personal computer in the editorial office
1986	First floppy discs from authors
1991	New section Highlights
1992	First electronic editorial system
1994	Increase of publication frequency from 12 to 24 issues
1995	International Advisory Board established
	First internet service for readers
1998	Regular press service
	Full-text articles online on Wiley InterScience
2000	New section Essays
	Selected articles appear online first (EarlyView)
2001	Color in the Table of Contents
2002	Online manuscript submission
2003	Increase of publication frequency from 24 to 48 issues
	New sections News, Obituaries, and Conference Reports
	Introduction of a fully electronic editorial work flow
2004	Online publication of volumes 1–36 of the International Edition
2005	All articles published in EarlyView first
2006	Online publication of volumes 1–109 of <i>Angewandte Chemie</i>
2007	New section Spotlights on Sister Journals
	Most accessed articles on homepage
2008	Increase of publication frequency from 48 to 52 issues
2009	New sections Author Profiles and Eyewitness Reports
	<i>Angewandte Chemie</i> on Twitter and Facebook
2010	Certificate for referees
	Cover of the week etc. in EarlyView

brary) on a Friday had the highest number of “full-text downloads” that very same day. The weekend was quieter, and the few days immediately following again showed a high number of readers. After that, the interest waned, and it was briefly renewed when the

issue containing the article was published online. The editorial office of *Angewandte Chemie*, with the support of many different departments at the publisher—whether it was called Verlag Chemie or VCH or is called now Wiley-VCH—has always reacted to sug-



**Figure 3.** Number of rejected Communications (absolute and in percent) from 1986–2010.



**Figure 4.** Online usage profile for a Communication published in *Angewandte Chemie* in 2010.

gestions from authors, referees, and readers to optimize the workflow for all involved and to make the printed and online versions of the journal as reader-friendly as possible: Constant innovation was and is key (Table 1). To achieve this, we have not lost track of the editorial “leg work”, the editing and the galley and page-proof corrections, although the effort invested here is constantly being adjusted to economical necessities and the expectations of authors and readers. And today this work, which takes place almost exclusively on-screen, is heavily supported by software.

**R**egardless of innovation and leg work at the publisher, in the end—or rather, at the beginning of the process—a

journal needs high-quality contributions, in order to be more substance than appearance; and these contributions come from authors and are critically analyzed by referees. The referees work anonymously, and I thank them in the name of the editorial office, the GDCh, the publisher, and the readers. This last group in particular profits from the careful selection of published articles, which are improved further by the referees’ critique and subsequent author revision. We began to recognize individual referees in 2010 by sending a certificate of recognition to those who wrote 12 or more reports for *Angewandte Chemie* in 2009. We received very positive responses and will continue the practice for 2010.

**O**f course *Angewandte Chemie* has many authors, and I once listed those who had published the most articles since the beginning of the International Edition (see the Editorial in issue 28/2004). Table 2 shows the names of the corresponding authors who have published 20 or more manuscripts in our journal since the year 2000. We are glad of every author who offers us his or her manuscript for publication—ideally after critical self-reflection as to whether the subject matter is suitable for the journal and the quality of the results is appropriate for its high standards. We especially thank the authors listed in Table 2 for their loyalty. In each issue since the beginning of 2009, we introduce an author who has published ten or

**Table 2:** Authors who have published 20 or more articles in *Angewandte Chemie* (mostly as corresponding authors) from the beginning of 2000 to mid-November 2010.

Name	Publications	Country	Name	Publications	Country
Nicolaou, K. C.	108	USA	Shibasaki, Masakatsu	25	Japan
Knochel, Paul	54	Germany	Shinkai, Seiji	25	Japan
Waldmann, Herbert	51	Germany	Buchwald, Stephen L.	24	USA
Müllen, Klaus	48	Germany	Carell, Thomas	24	Germany
Danishefsky, Samuel J.	45	USA	Grützmacher, Hansjörg	24	Switzerland
Beller, Matthias	43	Germany	Kim, Kimoon	24	South Korea
Osuka, Atsuhiko	42	Japan	Mulvey, Robert E.	23	UK
Braunschweig, Holger	41	Germany	Schultz, Peter G.	23	USA
Roesky, Herbert W.	40	Germany	Xia, Younan	23	USA
Fujita, Makoto	39	Japan	Antonietti, Markus	22	Germany
Carreira, Erick M.	38	Switzerland	Che, Chi-Ming	22	Hong Kong
Mirkin, Chad A.	38	USA	Giannis, Athanassios	22	Germany
Barluenga, José	37	Spain	Hoveyda, Amir H.	22	USA
Bertrand, Guy	36	USA	Leigh, David A.	22	UK
Fürstner, Alois	35	Germany	List, Benjamin	22	Germany
Willner, Itamar	35	Israel	Maruoka, Keiji	22	Japan
Jørgensen, Karl Anker	34	Denmark	Meijer, E. W.	22	Netherlands
Stoddart, J. Fraser	33	USA	Schlögl, Robert	22	Germany
Diederich, François	32	Switzerland	Thomas, John Meurig	22	UK
Férey, Gérard	32	France	Yamamoto, Hisashi	22	USA
Kitagawa, Susumu	30	Japan	Driess, Matthias	21	Germany
Baran, Phil S.	29	USA	Frenking, Gernot	21	Germany
Niemeyer, Christof M.	29	Germany	Jacobsen, Eric N.	21	USA
Wong, Chi-Huey	29	Taiwan	Lehn, Jean-Marie	21	France
Fu, Gregory C.	28	USA	Müller, Achim	21	Germany
Kobayashi, Shū	28	Japan	Malacria, Max	21	France
Jansen, Martin	27	Germany	Mayr, Herbert	21	Germany
Kunz, Horst	27	Germany	Power, Philip P.	21	USA
Ley, Steven V.	27	UK	Schüth, Ferdi	21	Germany
Reetz, Manfred T.	27	Germany	Scheer, Manfred	21	Germany
Schnöckel, Hansgeorg	27	Germany	Würthner, Frank	21	Germany
Trost, Barry M.	27	USA	Grubbs, Robert H.	20	USA
Corma, Avelino	26	Spain	Hayashi, Yujiro	20	Japan
Whitesides, George M.	26	USA	Kennedy, Alan R.	20	UK
Aida, Takuzo	25	Japan	Ma, Shengming	20	China
Cronin, Leroy	25	UK	Oshima, Koichiro	20	Japan
Feringa, Ben L.	25	Netherlands	Reinhoudt, David N.	20	Netherlands
Möhlwald, Helmuth	25	Germany	Shinokubo, Hiroshi	20	Japan
Que, Lawrence	25	USA			



Hartmut Michel



Ryoji Noyori



Barry Sharpless

another round number of articles in *Angewandte Chemie* since the turn of the century. After the Author Profile in this issue, written most wittily by K. Peter C. Vollhardt, is a table of the authors who have been highlighted to date. These Author Profiles are valued by readers and give authors a chance to “profile” themselves.

The cover pages and Communications frontispiece (online as “Cover Picture of the Week” etc.) are also good places for authors to profile themselves. Starting in this issue, this chance will also be available using the back cover page. The cover pictures in *Angewandte Chemie* have been around since 1979, and many of them have high didactic value and give a clear presentation of current topics. The whole collection can be viewed in the cover picture gallery on the journal’s homepage. The cover picture of this issue, created by David Leigh and co-workers, inspired me to the introductory thunder-and-lightning metaphor. And that is exactly what every cover picture, every manuscript, and every issue of *Angewandte Chemie* should do: inspire new ideas and ignite sudden inspiration! The current “anniversary issue” is especially suited to this role. It has more Reviews, Minireviews, and Essays than usual, and they cover the full breadth of chemistry, from bio to nano! The authors of this issue come

primarily from the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board, and more articles from these groups will appear throughout the 50th volume of the International Edition. Apart from the “more of the best” agenda, the *Angewandte Chemie* homepage will have various features reflecting the past 49 volumes of the journal. For example, every day will highlight a different “Article of the Day”, which refers readers to a past article that has been particularly highly read or highly cited.

What does *Angewandte Chemie* have to do with the GDCh? The journal simply belongs to the German Chemical Society, and so, for example, GDCh committees decide who is appointed to the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board. Prof. Manfred Reetz’s term on the Editorial Board ended in 2010; new appointments are Prof. Alois Fürstner and Prof. Christof Niemeyer; new members of the International Advisory Board are the professors Wilfred van Gunsteren, Itamar Willner, and Younan Xia (you can find more about all of these scientists in the News section of this issue). Prof. Reetz has written a “farewell” Review for this anniversary issue. The editorial office and the publisher as well as the GDCh thank him for his dedicated contributions to the Editorial Board (2002–2010).

The GDCh is taking the publication of the 50th volume of the International Edition and the International Year of Chemistry as an opportunity to hold a one-day symposium together with the Chinese Chemical Society (CCS) in Beijing on June 22nd and with the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) in Tokyo on June 20th. Nobel laureates Hartmut Michel (a member of the *Angewandte Chemie* editorial board since 2004), Ryoji Noyori, and Barry Sharpless will be among the speakers. This is especially pleasing, as 2011 is the tenth anniversary of the Nobel Prize for the latter two, and the legendary “click” article by Sharpless et al. was published in *Angewandte Chemie* exactly ten years ago. For the GDCh, Editorial Board members François Diederich (chairman, see also his Editorial in this issue) and Alois Fürstner will give talks in Beijing and Tokyo. Chinese and additional Japanese speakers will be announced shortly. It is fitting that in 2011, the International Year of Chemistry, *Angewandte Chemie* celebrates the publication of the 50th volume of the International Edition!



IYC 2011  
International Year of  
CHEMISTRY

Peter Göllitz

PS: From 50 to 5, *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, which was founded with the support of *Angewandte Chemie*, published its fifth volume in 2010. The journal’s enormous success exceeds the high expectations.

A Journal of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker  
50th International Edition  
Angewandte  
Chemie