



Preface

The concept underlying Catalysis Today was developed at about the end of 1985, at a time when Applied Catalysis was in its infancy and, due to its eager acceptance by the catalysis community, was expanding rapidly. There was a clear need for a journal in the field of catalysis which was able to publish rapidly the proceedings of small specialised conferences as well as collections of review articles and even short monographs. Applied Catalysis had already published several conference proceedings and was under pressure from the organisers of such meetings to publish more. However, it was also at the same time under pressure from academic librarians not to expand so rapidly the number of volumes appearing yearly. Under the firm yet kindly vigilance of the then Editor-in-Chief of Applied Catalysis, Bernard Delmon, and having been working with him as Editor of News Brief in Applied Catalysis, I was asked to take on the job of editing a new sister periodical, the name of which was to be Catalysis Today. We were to take over the publication of specialised issues devoted to the proceedings of workshops and also to commission reviews and monographs, the idea being that it should try to cover up-to-date developments in all fields of catalysis.

The first three issues of Catalysis Today were devoted to the proceedings of a workshop on selective oxidation catalysis held in Louvain-la-Neuve early in 1986 and, to demonstrate the other aspects of its brief, these were followed by an issue devoted to a review on maleic anhydride catalysts, another containing two invited reviews on alcohol synthesis and a third with a series of reviews on pillared clays. The experience gained in editing the proceedings of the Louvain-la-Neuve workshop soon led to the recognition that such proceedings were much more effectively edited by the organisers of the meeting and so, with a rapid expansion of the number of issues per year, the concept of the Guest Editor was introduced and the team of Editors was also expanded. A further important advance was when the new publication was accepted for inclusion in Science Citation Index and authors presenting at workshops recognised that any papers included

in proceedings issues of Catalysis Today were cited as freely as normal journal articles. Our impact factor increased as a consequence and we became one of the most cited journals in the field. Some of our issues have become real citation classics. I am personally very proud of the fact that an early issue on de-NO_x catalysis (Vol. 2, No.4), written by two colleagues who were preparing theses on this subject under my 'supervision', Hans Bosch and Frans Janssen, has been cited well over 1000 times.

The success of Catalysis Today has to a very large extent been due to the Trojan efforts of the many Guest Editors who have worked on the issues, ensuring that all the papers were carefully and rigorously refereed, and also to the efforts of the other Editors and the Editorial Board, all of whom have sought out and encouraged new projects. Many of the members of the Editorial Board and the Editors themselves have acted as Guest Editors by taking on the responsibility for individual issues – and indeed, many members of the current Editorial Board first acted as Guest Editors for one or more issues before being invited to join the Board. When we recognised in the summer of 2004 that we were in danger of letting the important milestone of Vol. 100 slip by without suitable recognition, we realised that we had to work very quickly in order to assemble the celebratory issue you have before you. Having taken on the task of editing this, I immediately approached all the members of the Editorial Board and my fellow Editors and invited them, with a very tight deadline, to write largely personal reviews of their own work, including their ideas on the future of the areas in question. I hoped that I might be able to attract a dozen or so such papers from our very busy colleagues to mark the occasion. To my delight, the vast majority of the members of the Board accepted the challenge. However, not only did they do that; many also acted as referees for the papers submitted by their colleagues (and by the Editors) and all records were broken for the rapidity of refereeing. The result is, I hope, a very worthwhile but unusual and readable issue which includes papers, written with personal slants, on a

wide variety of subjects that give a good snap-shot of the many fields covered by our editorial team. My sincere thanks to all those who have contributed. It is my hope that many of their articles may become citation classics in their own rights as each sets the subject treated in an historical perspective as well as setting the scene for future research in our continuously changing but very important subject area.

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Available online 4 March 2005