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Editorial

To keep pace with the ever changing nature of scientific publication, we at *Chemistry of Materials* are constantly striving for and are achieving improvement in bringing the readership high-quality papers in a timely fashion. To this end, another associate editor has been added to our staff. Professor Hellmut Eckert of the University of Muenster, Germany, begins his editorial duties in January 1998. We invite all European authors to submit their manuscripts directly to Hellmut. However, the option of submission to the central office in Troy, NY, is of course always available to authors worldwide. In addition to a new associate editor, our editorial board now includes several new people. We welcome these individuals and look forward to working with them.

The additional editorial office will help us maintain our commitment toward the prompt consideration of manuscripts that reflect high standards of quality and significance in the area of materials chemistry. Our goal is to publish work that is not largely routine or expected but rather innovative and broadsweeping. Thus, we are critically examining manuscripts for these features. Additionally, we are making efforts to reduce the average size of the papers published (the average size has grown significantly over the past several years) and are asking reviewers to assist in the assessment of whether papers are concise and meet the criteria set for publication in this journal (see Notice to Authors).

In 1997, *Chemistry of Materials* published a special issue entitled "Sol-gel Derived Materials" that contains 54 papers.[†] Although this issue did cause delays in the reviewing process during the summer of 1997, these delays were over by the end of the summer, and we believe that the benefit to the readership from this special issue has warranted the extra effort involved on the part of the authors, the reviewers, the editors, and the ACS Publications staff. This year, we are planning another special issue entitled "Frontiers in Inorganic Solid-State Chemistry" (see notice in the August 1997 issue). Submission of manuscripts for this special issue must be done in the period February 1–March 31, 1998, and we urge authors not to wait until the end of this period to submit their manuscripts. A more uniform distribution of submitted manuscripts over this two-month period will be less likely to overload our manuscript evaluation process and lead to delays in publication of the papers. All submissions for

[†] Four of these papers were delayed in the publication process and were actually published a month after the other papers appeared in the November issue.

this issue must be clearly marked "submitted for publication as part of the special issue on Frontiers in Inorganic Solid-State Chemistry." In addition to the normal criteria for acceptance, the papers submitted for this issue will be evaluated according to whether they contain "frontier research" in inorganic, solid-state chemistry.

It is our practice to include illustrations on the cover of each issue and to provide the authors of review papers that appear in that particular issue first preference for submitting potential cover illustrations. We encourage the submission of more short reviews but urge the authors who are considering such submissions to first contact the editor to determine if the topic has been or is scheduled to be covered by another review. Also, please note that we have two types of reviews: research-based and technology-based. When we have no reviews in a particular issue, we will select cover illustrations from other papers that appear in that issue. Authors are encouraged to submit potential illustrations for consideration.

Finally, *Chemistry of Materials*, like other ACS journals, is now available to subscribers in electronic form via the World Wide Web (WWW). Beginning in 1998, papers will appear on the web As Soon As Publishable (ASAP). This will likely result in improved publication time since the effective publication date will now be that when it first appears in the electronic version on the WWW even though it may take longer to appear in print.

We believe that the aforementioned changes and announcements illustrate our commitment to bring the readership high-quality papers in an expedient manner. At no time will we compromise quality for the sake of speed, but rather we strive to achieve a well-rounded perspective on these issues. Best wishes for a fruitful 1998.

Mark E. Davis

Associate Editor

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