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Foreword

This issue, like any special issue, has a story to tell. Back in the mist of time (~1998) our Elsevier representative, Swan Go, started making increasing noises about the need for a “special” special issue when Volume 200 rolled around. The Editors had been doing their best to ignore the question, especially Helmut Schwarz, who had single handedly edited Volume 100 a decade or so ago. He eventually joined the chorus, however, by announcing that since he’d had the honor of doing Volume 100, the glory should be spread around and therefore he would have nothing to do with Volume 200! If you do the math, that left fellow editor Scott McLuckey and myself as the prime targets. I lobbied for a “bio” special issue to highlight the Journal’s commitment to this area of our science in the new millennium. Besides, I could recruit others to edit it! While everyone thought a “bio” issue was a great idea, most felt that something broader and “old millennium to new millennium” was more appropriate. So, putting something together fell to Scott and myself. At least until Scott decided to move from Oak Ridge to Purdue last year. That major move, plus the fact Scott is a relatively new Editor, prompted yours truly to offer to do the entire thing. Besides, there is a kind of symmetry to the year 2000, Volume 200, and my 20th year as Editor (well it seems like 20!). And of course Helmut and Scott would be at the top of the author invitation list.

We decided to try to cover both the entire scope of mass spectrometry, with emphasis on areas covered historically by IJMS, and to try to get those who have been leading figures in the various areas to contribute. The idea was to give a “state of the field” as we stepped into 2001. In order to entice the authors we asked them to provide “overviews” of their areas, not “reviews” and to personalize them as much as they

wished. We sent out 41 invitations and ended with 34 manuscripts—a pretty good batting average. Most of the authors are seasoned travelers, but some younger stars on the rise have also contributed. The final breakdown, in my arbitrary labeling, is 3 Bio, 10 Analytical/Methods, 11 Physical/Theory, and 10 Organic/Materials. This distribution is fairly representative of the historical emphasis of the Journal. We wanted more biologically oriented work but, probably understandably, had the most difficulty recruiting authors in this area. Of course many of the papers I’ve listed under other categories have significant bio emphasis because of the tremendous current interest in this area of mass spectrometry.

I’ve read all the papers and enjoyed them all. In fact I personally reviewed about half of them! Since this is Volume 200, not just a special issue, it has to fall in sequence. That is, there is an absolute deadline for receipt of the papers by Elsevier. It was determined that the last possible date of receipt by Elsevier was September 15, 2000 if the issue was to appear in 2000, not 2001.

Even so, Volumes 201 and 202 would have to be published first!! I’m not sure if this is a first in the publishing business or not but I’m not aware of another instance in which this has been done. I’d asked for the papers to be submitted in May, 2000 which would give plenty of time for review and revision. Well, by the end of May we had received 4 manuscripts! We actually received 5 in August and 2 in September, with the latest arriving September 11th. That fact, coupled with tardy reviewers forced me to jam my entire 2000/2001 reviewing quota into 2 weeks!

Now that I’ve put the laundry on the line, I want to say I am very pleased with the finished product. The

authors of the papers form a who's who in Mass Spectrometry and I am very pleased and honored they chose to contribute. Reading the papers was exciting, and reminded me how fortunate I am to have serendipitously found my way into this evolving, important and stimulating area of science. Thank you authors for your sometimes personal, sometimes thorough but always interesting and insightful contributions. I hope all of you enjoy reading them as much as I have.

With much relief I send this last little bit of the

“special” special issue, Volume 200, to my Elsevier colleagues to publish. Oh, and by the way Scott, Volume 300 will be here before you know it!



Michael T. Bowers

Santa Barbara, California

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