

EDITORIAL

The *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* at FIFTY

“No other journal published in the United States professes to cover the broad field of the chemistry of agriculture, food, and nutrition. Only the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* provides a common meeting ground for all the scientists and technologists concerned with food, clothing, shelter, and industrial products from agriculture.”

So wrote Walter J. Murphy, first Editor, in the inaugural issue of *JAF*C, April 1, 1953. Fifty years later, thanks to the hard work and stewardship of editors Murphy, Rodney N. Hader, Philip K. Bates, and Irving E. Liener (Chart 1), and a host of Associate Editors, technical assistants, reviewers, and, particularly, authors and readers of *JAF*C, Murphy’s optimistic statement rings true.

I am pleased to proclaim 2002 as the 50th anniversary year for *JAF*C. The journal’s 49th year, 2001, set the stage most appropriately. A thorough monitoring of *JAF*C, conducted by the American Chemical Society’s joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, concluded that “the journal received very high ratings from readers and authors, and results indicate the journal has a healthy and loyal readership and a strong relationship with authors...The journal received its highest ratings for overall scientific quality...” This was based upon surveys returned by readers and authors in response to a questionnaire.

In August 2001 the journal’s turnaround time was 16 weeks from receipt to acceptance, and 27 weeks from receipt to print. These are among the lowest numbers for the journal’s 50 years, although number of pages published (6470 in 2001) has increased by over 5-fold compared with 1953 (1243) (Figure 1). An estimated 1700 manuscripts were processed in 2001, despite a noticeable decline in September following the tragic terrorist attacks in the United States. As has been the case for some time, over two-thirds (66.73%) of the manuscripts are from outside the United States and Canada (Chart 2).

According to the Institute for Scientific Information’s *ISI Journal Citation Reports 2000*, *JAF*C was **the most cited journal** in three ISI categories (Applied Chemistry, Multidisciplinary Agriculture, and Food Science and Technology), with a total of 15487 citations. *JAF*C also ranked No. 1 in ISI “impact factor” in the Multidisciplinary Agriculture category (with an impact factor of 1.560). Total citations and impact factor are both based on data drawn from articles published in roughly 5000 scientific journals during 2000 that cited *JAF*C articles published during 1998 and 1999.

*JAF*C received the 2001 ACS “Newsmaker of the Year Award” in two categories. Author Donald R. Buhler received the award for research in an ACS journal that generated media coverage, potentially reaching 7 million people, for his article “Antioxidant and Prooxidant Actions of Prenylated and Nonprenylated Chalcones and Flavanones in Vitro” (2000, 48, 3876–3884). And the Journal’s Editor received, on behalf of all associated with the journal’s editorial process, the award for “identifying news in an ACS journal” that potentially reached 30 million readers. People are clearly interested in the latest scientific findings related to agriculture and food—a healthy sign

Chart 1. Editors through the Years^a

Walter J. Murphy
 American Chemical Society
 April 1953–June 1956

Rodney N. Hader
 American Chemical Society
 July 1956–December 1964

Philip K. Bates
 Directory of Research
 Carnation Company
 January 1965–June 1982

Irvin E. Liener
 Department of Biochemistry
 College of Biological Sciences
 University of Minnesota
 July 1982–June 1999

James N. Seiber
 Western Regional Research Center
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 February 1999–Present

^a See the editorial, “The *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*: Past, Present, and Future”, by Irvin E. Liener (*J. Agric. Food Chem.* 1999, 47, 2501) for a more complete description of the historical development of the Journal.

Chart 2. Nations from which Manuscripts Were Published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* in 2001

Argentina	France	The Philippines
Australia	Germany	Poland
Austria	Greece	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	India	Slovenia
Cameroon	Ireland	South Africa
Canada	Israel	Spain
Chile	Italy	Sweden
China	Japan	Switzerland
Colombia	Korea	Taiwan
Cuba	Malaysia	Thailand
Czech Republic	Mexico	Turkey
Denmark	The Netherlands	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Finland	Norway	United States

for the journal and its areas of coverage for the present and, especially, for the future.

Beginning with this first issue of 2002, *JAF*C has introduced a new cover and a more modern interior layout designed to make it more “reader friendly”. The Journal will publish biweekly starting in January 2002. In February, the journal will begin receiving manuscripts and routing them for review and revision electronically. Soon all of the Journal’s archives will be available electronically (in pdf format) back to April 1953, complementing the Web version of the journal that first became available in 1998. The Web posting of manuscripts makes them available to the public an average of 6 weeks before the print version appears.

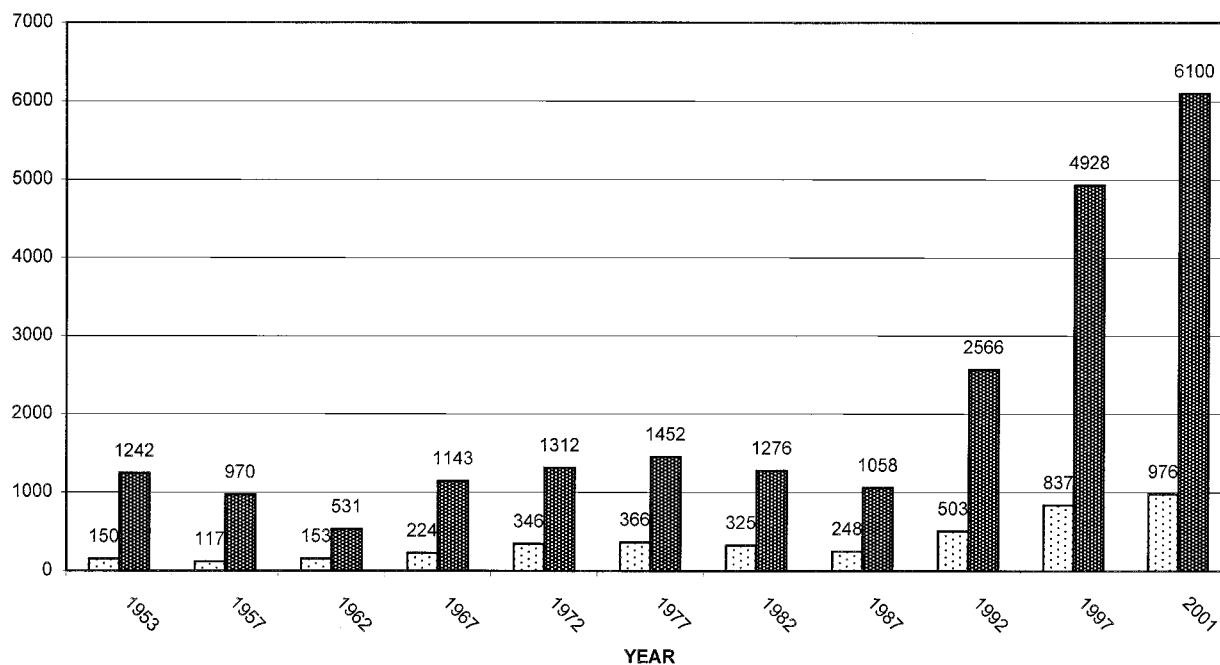


Figure 1. Number of manuscripts (lightly dotted bars) and number of pages (heavily dotted bars) published every fifth year 1953–2001.



Figure 2. Photograph taken at the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* Advisory Board meeting in Chicago on August 28, 2001. Front row: Willis Wheeler (Associate Editor), Marshall Phillips (Associate Editor), James Seiber (Editor-in-Chief), Russell Molyneux (Associate Editor), and John W. Finley (Associate Editor). Middle row: Fereidoon Shahidi, Richard Scanlan,* Ann Lemley,* Sharon Shoemaker,* Sharon Martini (Editorial Staff), John Johnston,* Russell Rouseff,* John Whitaker,* and Peter Schieberle.* Back row: Michael Tunick, Takayuki Shibamoto,* Harold Pattee,* Okezie Aruoma,* Nancy Ragsdale,* Barrington Cross,* Michael Morello,* and Jeffrey Jenkins. (Asterisks designate Advisory Board members.)

For the remainder of this anniversary year, we will publish several invited “visioning” articles, which will address the current and coming trends in agricultural and food chemistry. The histories of the two ACS divisions that have been most closely allied with the Journal, Agricultural and Food Chemistry and Agrochemicals, are published in this issue. We are also planning an event at the ACS National Meeting in Boston (August 18–22, 2002) for readers, authors, reviewers, and Advisory Board members to celebrate the anniversary together.

Longer term, *JAFCh* and its Editor, Associate Editors, and Advisory Board members will be more proactive in staying in touch with its authors, reviewers, and subscribers. We recognize that there is a healthy competition for your attention; our goal is to make *JAFCh* responsive and adaptable to changes in the sciences of agricultural and food chemistry and the changing needs of authors and readers. Under consideration are more special features, which will join the occasional editorials, recent

book lists, and meeting announcements as at present. We also encourage more review articles and symposia papers, but please let us know in advance if you are considering such submissions, as indicated in the *Scope, Policy, and Instructions for Authors* elsewhere in this issue.

I am pleased to introduce and acknowledge the present members of the Advisory Board and our Associate and Assistant Editors, many of whom are included in the accompanying photograph (Figure 2). Along with the excellent staff of the ACS, these folks do the work of assembling the journal and fine-tuning its policies and procedures. I also thank the 2392 reviewers who reviewed in 2001, whose names are listed in this issue. And special thanks to our authors and subscribers, without whom there would be no *JAFCh*.

James N. Seiber
Editor
JF0115185