

Editorial

In Volume 200 of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* Professor Christoph Raub announced his retirement as Editor-in-Chief of this Journal. He has kept this position since 1979, many years before I joined the same Journal, formerly the *Journal of the Less-Common Metals*, in 1985 as Editor. During the nine years of our collaboration I have very much appreciated Christoph Raub not only as Editor-in-Chief but also as scientist and colleague. During personal contacts as well as in the many letters I received from him he displayed his typical type of humour, adding a pleasant dimension to our cooperation. As continuing Editor-in-Chief I wish to thank Christoph Raub in the name of all those who have profited from his wisdom and guidance, including authors, Editors, members of the Advisory Board and the Editorial Office.

I have agreed to become Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* firstly because there is a very good match between my personal scientific interests and the scope of the Journal. I have always been fascinated by the process by means of which a new compound or a new physical principle develops into an application. Solid state chemistry and solid state physics are important scientific areas in their own right, but the rigid demarcation lines which once separated these disciplines have become more and more vague under the impact of technological developments. While solid state chemistry and physics have kept their fires burning it is mainly the area of materials science that has seen a rapid growth in recent years. This is partly due to industrial needs and partly due to the fact that many solid state chemists have become interested in physical problems and vice versa. In my opinion, new opportunities for fundamental and applied research have arisen in all these areas. Here one has to bear in mind that nowadays a novel material is less frequently discovered in the form of a novel compound than in the form of novel processing of existing compounds or alloys. Also, novel applications may originate from the exploration of existing physical effects by means of computer-aided data processing. All this presents an editorial challenge for providing a harbour for scientific publications of topics from newly emerging fields and from already existing fields. This is the second reason that has led me to serve as Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*.

As previously, the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* will continue to have its present unique scope and to remain an international medium for the publication of work on the physical sciences of so-called less-common metals, their compounds and their alloys, comprising results from materials science, solid-state chemistry and physics. The interdisciplinary nature of the journal welcomes publication of experimental and theoretical studies dealing with materials problems and keeps providing a unique international forum where materials scientists, chemists and physicists can communicate with each other and present their results both to workers in their own fields and to others active in related areas. Although the scope of the Journal will remain the same it is my goal over the coming years to slowly but continuously implement changes in order to optimize the performance of the Journal, leading to better service to the scientific community without losing the high scientific standards.

A logical extension of the scope calls for three Editors, each mainly responsible for one of the three core areas of the Journal mentioned above. Professor Fritz Franzen has agreed to extend his editorial responsibility in the area of Solid State Chemistry to all countries of the world. I myself will continue to take the editorial responsibility in the field of Solid State Physics. It is with much pleasure that I can announce that Professor Gin-Ya Adachi has agreed to serve as Editor for the third section: Materials Science.

The Editors and the Publisher have decided to publish articles only in the English language in future issues of the Journal of Alloys and Compounds. This decision is based on the results of an investigation among the readers of this Journal, showing that only about one third masters languages other than English. Moreover, all scientists who regularly attend international scientific conferences agree on one point: the most international language is broken English. The large variety of pronunciations and the varying degree of "brokenness" add to the flavour of international conferences. The same language also serves as the most suitable medium for the many scientists spread over the whole world when communicating with each other in writing, mostly in the form of publications in international scientific journals. This has led to Publisher and Editors of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* to reconsider the need to foster international communication of European scientists by means of the Journal's multilingual character. It is anticipated that scientists in non-European countries, in particular, will profit mostly from the fact that all papers appearing in future issues of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* will be published in the English language.

The Editors and the Publisher agreed to open the possibility for members of the Advisory Board to accept papers under special conditions, in order to cope with the increasing specialization in all three fields of interest to the Journal and in order to facilitate the refereeing of papers requiring a highly specialized expertise.

Reduced processing time for manuscripts and lower error rate are behind the idea of the Editors and the Publisher to encourage disk submission along with standard submission of papers in the form of the final manuscript and the original figures. More details for submitting manuscripts can be found in the Instructions for Authors published separately in each issue of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*.

Jürgen Buschow
Editor-in-Chief