

## EDITORIAL

This volume is the first in more than 25 years which does not carry the name of Frank Stone as Europe-based editor of the *Journal of Catalysis*. We take this opportunity to mark the end of an era with a statement of principles and practice with which we will try to maintain the excellence that Frank has nurtured so ably.

The quality of a scientific journal depends on its authors, referees, editors, and publisher; of greatest importance, of course, are the authors. The quality of their articles determines the quality of the journal. All an editor and the referees can do is to aid the authors in improving the quality of their science and presentation, or to convince them that additional work is required. Frank's personal attention has helped many authors in this area of pride and disappointment. The effort associated with authors as well as referees who do not have English as their mother tongue was already mentioned in Frank's valedictory editorial last month. The new Europe-based editor and the publisher will try to find ways to continue this service which Frank mastered single-handedly.

The *Journal of Catalysis* aims at publishing papers in the field of catalysis, be it heterogeneous or homogeneous, emphasizing principle rather than application, and reporting well-substantiated results. This means not only heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysis, but also surface science, chemical engineering, and theoretical chemistry, as long as they are clearly related to catalysis. We urge authors to submit manuscripts that are well written, of a high scientific standard, and of interest to a broad catalysis community. We, the editors, will see to it that your work is published as quickly as possible.

The referees' contributions to this process are crucial. The more colleagues willing to participate in reviewing the manuscripts of their peers, the better the system will function. As scientists, we are well aware that your prime interest is research and of the pressures you bear. There is, however, no alternative for your referee reports if we are to maintain the high standard of our journal. Timely responses will be appreciated by the authors and editors. We assure you that there will be an interval of at least three months between the dates we send you manuscripts for review.

To speed up the flow of manuscripts, the American and European editors invite all authors to send their manuscripts straight to the Academic Press editorial office in San Diego or Cambridge. On the advice of the Editor or Associate Editor, the Academic Press secretary will send the manuscripts to two referees and ensure that their reports are returned promptly. Although less personal, we hope that this system will speed up the publishing process.

As we well know, more does not necessarily mean better. Our goal is first and foremost to publish papers of high quality as efficiently as possible. With your contributions, as author and as referee, we are certain to succeed.

W. Nicholas Delgass  
Roel Prins  
*Editors*