

Statement by the Editors

In its 41st year of publication, the *Journal of Catalysis* appears in print as a special issue for the first time. The journal remains in excellent health as it reaches literary middle age. As its current caretakers, we dedicate this special issue to those most responsible for its success over its 40 years of life: the founding editors, J. de Boer and P. Selwood; the past editors, F. Stone, W.K. Hall, G.L. Haller, and W.N. Delgass; and our catalysis community, which has consistently provided the scholarly science and the novel concepts that have charted our path. Together, they have made the *Journal of Catalysis* the archival journal and the indisputable leader in scientific quality and impact in the field.

This special issue of the *Journal of Catalysis* emerged from our early discussions about a fitting celebration of this success. We decided to ask Nick Delgass, Michel Che, and Alex Bell to assemble a distinguished and representative group of scientists to provide the peer-reviewed scholarly contributions that appear as part of this issue. As guest editors, they struggled with difficult choices about areas and individuals, with the expected differences in opinion, and with review and editing processes that, because of their rigor, took slightly longer than planned. In the latter respect, not much has changed. For the first issue of the journal, the founding editors gave the invited authors three weeks to submit their manuscripts; two months later, a quarter of those manuscripts were in hand. On behalf of the *Journal of Catalysis* editorial team and of the catalysis community at large, we thank the authors, the reviewers, and the guest editors for their earnest efforts and for their excellent contributions.

The *Journal of Catalysis* was conceived as heterogeneous catalysis itself was acquiring a scientific identity, separate

from its relevant technological impact and from its constitutive sciences. The idea of a journal of catalysis was extensively discussed at the 2nd International Congress on Catalysis, held in Paris in 1960, as a way of bringing together the many sciences and applications that form our catalysis field. Over the last 40 years, the *Journal of Catalysis* has served admirably as birthplace and nurturing conduit for most of the scientific concepts and practical advances that have shaped our field.

We end with the brief and lucid introduction used by the founding editors to announce the birth of the *Journal of Catalysis* in March 1962.

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After much discussion, and not a few labor pains, the *Journal of Catalysis* makes its appearance. We hope that people everywhere working in catalysis and related fields will find it to be a service; and we take this opportunity to thank the members of the Editorial Board, and our many scientific colleagues in all countries, for their assistance and advice.

J. H. DE BOER
P. W. SELWOOD

As a community and as individuals, we have found it indeed to be a great service and we acknowledge with thanks the vision and efforts of all of those who preceded us as editors.

Enrique Iglesia
Roel Prins