



## Editorial

Times have changed since I took over from Frank Stone as European editor of *Journal of Catalysis* in 1996. First, upon the advice of the American editor, Nick Delgass, a computer program was installed to store all the data about submitted manuscripts and reviewers. In 1998, Nick and I set up a system to enable the editors to see when a reviewer had been sent a manuscript, with the objective to avoid overloading reviewers with review requests. Thanks to the confidence of the authors in our journal, the number of submissions grew, and we appointed four associate editors to share the workload. Our journal changed publishers; it went from Academic Press to Elsevier and, at the end of 2003, Elsevier went fully electronic. Since then, correspondence among authors, reviewers and editors has been by electronic mail. To achieve greater efficiency, the European and American editorial offices, as well as the production department of *Journal of Catalysis*, are now all located in Oxford (UK).

The introduction of electronic communication removed geographical barriers and the need for two editors-in-chief with specific geographical allocations, as had been the case since our journal started in 1962. I decided to step down as editor-in-chief on January 1, 2005. However, I am continuing to work for the journal as pre-editor for Asia. The number of submissions from Asia has increased dramatically in recent years. In 2003 we received a total of 637 manuscripts, of which 237 were from Asia. In 2004 these numbers increased to 824 and 334, respectively, and with it the workload of editors and reviewers. My current tasks are to review the quality of the language and the science of Asian man-

uscripts and to advise authors about how to improve their submissions. Once they have reached the required standard, manuscripts will be forwarded to the editor-in-chief, Enrique Iglesia, to be handled by the usual editing process.

It was a pleasure to serve you as editor of the *Journal of Catalysis*. Following in the footsteps of Frank Stone, I did my best to assist in helping authors improve their manuscripts, while I did not shy away from making difficult decisions when so required. All this work would never have been possible without the help of my associate editors, Hans Niemantsverdriet and Graham Hutchings, of the other members of the editorial and publisher teams, and of the numerous reviewers, who made personal sacrifices to review the manuscripts we sent them. I thank you all and hope that you will continue to help us maintain the high standing of our journal.

The goal of the editors of *Journal of Catalysis* has always been to publish high-quality papers in the field of catalysis efficiently and in clear language. For many authors, English is not their mother tongue. Nevertheless, they have valuable contributions to make and can be aided in doing so by receiving the right kind of assistance. Now that most Europeans are fluent in English, it is time to pay attention to other, rapidly expanding parts of the world. I hope that you will support me with my new task, as you have done in the past.

Roel Prins

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