

Editorial

In May of this year Randolph C. Wilhoit retired as Associate Editor of this Journal. His retirement marks another turning point in the Journal. The first three volumes of the Journal, starting in 1956, were published as the Chemical and Engineering Data Series of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry with W. H. Shearon, Jr. as Editor. It was only with the fourth volume in 1959 that it officially became the Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data with W. Albert Noyes, Jr. as Associate Editor. B. W. Sage was Editor from January 1965 till October 1971 when Bruno J. Zwolinski, Director of the Thermodynamics Research Center, was appointed Editor and Randolph C. Wilhoit, Associate Director of the Center, was appointed Associate Editor. That began the 27 year association of the Journal with the Thermodynamics Research Center (TRC) at Texas A&M University, which has now terminated with Wilhoit's retirement. Zwolinski retired as Editor in 1990. I retired as Director of TRC in January 1997.

Randolph Wilhoit has served the Journal tirelessly during those 27 years, giving unstintingly of his advice and wisdom. He would spend many hours studying obscurely written and complex manuscripts and then write a clear and comprehensive critique summarizing clearly the concerns of both the editors and reviewers. His major, at present largely unrecognized, contribution to science and engineering has been his work on the systemization of computerized storage and retrieval of thermophysical property data, culminating in the TRC SOURCE database, a massive 300 megabyte relational database that presently stores much of the world's published thermophysical property data.

In June the Journal welcomed Dr. Joseph W. Magee of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Boulder as Associate Editor. It is appropriate that NIST has a strong association with the Journal, since it remains the major laboratory in the United States devoted to accurate thermophysical property measurements.

There continues to be an overall decrease in funding devoted to thermophysical property research in the U.S. The year 1998 saw the closure of the Thermodynamics Section of the National Institute for Petroleum and Energy Research, Bartlesville, OK. Other well-equipped laboratories are largely inactive because of lack of funding. This decline is reflected in the fact that only 23% of the Journal publications now originate in the U.S.

Dr. Kenneth N. Marsh, *Editor*

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