



Editorial

The journal reaches 100

It is a distinct pleasure that we note the publication of the 100th volume of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*. This milestone in number of volumes occurs just 28 years since the founding of the Journal in 1975.

The *Journal of Hazardous Materials* began with a focus on “...publishing original papers covering the use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials. Particular attention [it was noted] will be paid to procedures which minimise risks, including the safe design of plant, its effective maintenance, transport standards, and the detoxification or neutralisation of residues and wastes. We [the Journal] also hope to review relevant legislation, both national and international with indications of trends and cooperative ventures, standards, codes of practice and safe levels for workers and the general population will be included as they are specified.”

There also was a goal of publishing papers that discussed means of preventing incidents involving hazardous materials. Other topics of interest were risk assessment and papers discussing research into hazardous products and new data pertaining to dangerous situations.

The founding editors were Frank S. Feates and T.A. Kantyka. Elsevier’s managing editor was Ms. Rosaleen Burke.

It was my honor and pleasure to meet Frank Feates at Harwell and to collaborate with him in authoring the *Hazardous Spills Handbook*, published by McGraw-Hill in 1982. As a result of our association, I was invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board when the Journal began. In 1980, Frank Feates retired, yielding the editorial duties to myself and Dr. R.F. Griffiths of the University of Manchester. I have been an editor since that time being joined recently by Dr. Charles Shackelford as a second US editor. The UK editor for several years has been Dr. Clive Nussey, who has just retired to be replaced by Professor Gerasimos Lyberatos. Other editors over the years include Dennis George, Professor Jan Mewes, Dr. Rex Britter, and Dr. Gordon Yang. Unfortunately, my records are incomplete and I apologize to anyone whose name I have omitted.

Essential to the Journal’s operation are the members of the Editorial Advisory Board. The 33 members of this board drawn from numerous organizations worldwide utilize their expertise in a wide variety of areas to peer review papers for the Journal. The assistance of members of the Editorial Advisory Board plus a very large number of engineers and scientists who have contributed their time and expertise to the peer review process have led to the Journal’s recognized quality.

The Journal's size and focus have changed over the years. Initially, only two issues were published in 1975 and 1976. These four issues comprised Volume 1. Currently, 10 or more issues are published annually.

The initial topical focus was, as noted above, hazardous materials. The papers mainly focused upon chemical spills, chemical accidents and even nuclear matters. This focus was expanded in 1998 to include environmental technologies; we designated this as Part B of the Journal. Areas covered under this section include: pollution control processes; inherently safer and cleaner technologies; treatment and disposal of solid, liquid and gaseous hazardous waste; and remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater. Subsequently, papers in this area have exceeded Part A: risk assessment and management.

Book Reviews are regularly published also to keep readers up-to-date on new material available in the field.

As in all areas, modern technology is changing the operational modus operandi of the Journal. The Journal is now available on-line. Additionally, e-submission is now available. Given the rapidly changing field of computers, I am sure even more dramatic changes will occur before the Journal publishes Volume 200.

Gary F. Bennett