

Editorial

This issue represents a personal milestone, as, with its publication, I have completed a period of ten years as Editor of *Journal of Materials Science*. It is an appropriate time to acknowledge the contributions of the many people who have aided the development of the Journal during the past decade. On the publishing side, Richard Stileman, Managing Director of Chapman and Hall Ltd., has consistently provided encouragement and support, not only to enable the Journal to be published at a high level of quality, which I have always felt is essential for papers in our field, but also to initiate the separate publication of *Journal of Materials Science Letters* – a new approach to short communications which is proving very popular. The present incumbent Publisher's Editors, Susan Hartley and Nirmala Patel, under the guidance of Mairwen Lloyd-Williams, follow on from a talented group of whom Cynthia Ward, Anne Henkel and David Kelly gave particularly dedicated service.

On the editorial side, I continue to benefit from the corporate wisdom of my four colleagues on the Editorial Board: Robert Cahn, Andrew Keller, Peter McMillan and Geoffrey Sims, from the international Advisory Editorial Board and from the advice of the three hundred referees who are now on my worldwide panel. I have been fortunate in my secretarial support at Queen Mary College with Christine Joyce and Yvonne Johnson providing outstanding service in developing the office systems required to cope efficiently with the almost overwhelming volume of correspondence which is associated with the Journal.

Finally, for my part, I hope that, in spite of our continuing increase in size, a personal touch has been maintained with authors and that each author is treated in a fair, sympathetic and efficient manner. I believe strongly that an Editor should take the final decision on *every* paper he receives, based of course on the advice that he obtains from referees and that he should be prepared to act as arbiter on any points of difference between authors and referees. In ten years I have communicated with literally thousands of authors – in 1973 the first paper logged in was number 1540 (starting from number one when the Journal commenced publication in 1966) and as I write we have reached number 6212, while *Journal of Materials Science Letters* has already reached number 227.

I hope that the coming years as Editor will prove as pleasant as the preceding ten and that *Journal of Materials Science* and *Journal of Materials Science Letters* will continue to serve the needs of authors and readers and hence contribute to the development of our subject.

William Bonfield
Editor