
Editorial

Special Issue – Some Personal Views

Before discussing this special double issue of the Journal, the present Regional Editors would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and, by proxy, that of our many readers, to Derek Collins, the Founding Editor. Derek has, with extreme hard work, nursed the Journal to its present secure position; and its status in the field is due to the single minded effort he has put in on its behalf. It is difficult for anybody who has had no experience of processing papers for publication, while maintaining a constantly high standard, to imagine just how much effort is required. Suffice it to point out that three Editors now carry the load which Derek carried alone so ably for so long. In our turn we can only say that we will do our best to keep up the exacting standards he has set. Thank you again Derek, may we all wish you a long and happy retirement, although we hope you will not mind us asking for your advice as 'Founding Editor' should the need arise.

The completion of volume 10 was felt to mark the 'coming of age' of the Journal, and to celebrate the occasion a special issue was called for. Bearing in mind the two main bodies of people on whom the success or failure of any journal depends — the contributors and the readers — it was decided to try to give something to both. We hoped this could be done by inviting past authors, and other prominent workers in the general field of power sources, to contribute articles in which they were free to write whatever they liked within the scope of the Journal. These would not be refereed or edited (except in a very minor way) and, therefore, an opportunity was given to write a type of article which may not normally be suitable for publication. At the same time the reader would, it was hoped, be presented with an original overview of the current status of power sources (and in some cases of how that status was reached) and what would be the prospects for the future.

To try and give an Editorial summary of a set of twenty-eight personal articles in a few lines is an impossible task, but hopefully there is something for all interests. It is certainly

clear that lead/acid cells are far from being dead, let alone buried, and that there are ways in which significant advances may be made. The potential and prospects for the advanced systems being developed are also well covered and there are even papers in which the authors express their views concerning systems and techniques which have not yet received any serious study.

To all the contributors and others who have made this issue possible the Editors would like to express their thanks. To you, the reader, we hope you find something of interest and inspiration for future work, the results of which we may ultimately have the pleasure of publishing.

The Regional Editors