

EDITORIAL

In the early fifties, at the end of my graduate career, the field of solid state chemistry was still in its infancy, and treated as a minor subdivision, with very few practitioners, of the Inorganic Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. Concurrent with the spectacular rise of research on semiconductors and metals by the physics community there was a slowly accelerating trend of research activities in the solid state chemistry sector. By the mid-sixties the list of active researchers had grown considerably. Aaron Wold, then at Brown University, as well as Michell Sienko and Robert Hughes, then at Cornell University, independently felt the need to establish a separate journal in the field. They were persuaded to join forces; this led to the founding of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* (JSSC) under the aegis of Academic Press.

The first issue appeared in June 1969, and the second in January 1970. The pace of publication accelerated so that monthly publication became the norm in 1973. Sienko became the sole editor from March 1975 until encroaching health problems, resulting in his untimely death in 1984, forced him to curtail his activities. After a brief overlap period, J. M. Honig and W. R. Robinson of Purdue University took over the duties of Editor and Associate Editor, respectively, in January 1983. J. W. Richardson joined as Associate Editor in February 1984.

In June 1997, Mercuri Kanatzidis was invited to become Co-Editor to reflect the growth and expanding horizons of research in the solid state area. In September of that year, J. W. Richardson relinquished his duties, and H.-C. zur Loye joined as an Associate Editor. In a late development, I am pleased to confirm that Susan Kauzlarich has just accepted the responsibilities as an Associate Editor, effective January 1, 2000. The *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* will thus continue to be effectively guided by an editorial staff intent on maintaining scholarly excellence in all articles under their purview.

All of us are deeply indebted to the more than 2000 reviewers in our database who have generously given of their time and effort in maintaining the publication standards of the JSSC. Over the years the Journal has grown considerably in size, necessitating a changeover to a larger format in 1994. The world-wide upsurge in research in the solid state chemistry and materials area has also led to the establishment of other journals in the field, both in the U.S. and elsewhere. There is thus ample coverage for documentation of progress in this area.

Over the years there has been a perceptible shift in the research effort from the classical “heat-and-beat” techniques to the “chimie douce” category. Research on primarily inorganic refractory type material has yielded to work involving nanoscale properties, composites, self assembly, macro- and microporous materials, and related areas. Research reported in the early JSSC issues involved primarily the classical techniques of crystal growth, electrical, magnetic, and thermal studies, as well as standard X-ray crystallography. However, even the first volume included articles in which electron microscopy was used to study intergrowth phenomena in oxides. There has been a progressive increase in numbers of papers in which sophisticated modern techniques have been applied to follow ever finer details of chemical properties at the molecular level.

As Editor and as a researcher in solid state chemistry it has been a privilege to witness, and perhaps in small measure, to contribute to the growth of the subject area.

It is my hope that the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* under new leadership will continue to serve as an important medium for recording and disseminating the ever broadening scope of research in solid state chemistry and allied areas.

J. M. Honig
Editor