

## *Preface*

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### **The Journal of Thermal Analysis/ Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry is 30 years old**

30 years on a historical scale may be a passing episode, whereas in the life of a scientific journal 30 years is a relatively long time. There have been wars that lasted for 30 years. Naturally, the Journal has not experienced such a conflict, but there have been numerous struggles in our everyday activities in the past 30 years.

It is true that 30 is not a round anniversary that should be celebrated by organizing a solemn commemoration, but it perhaps allows a brief pause for reflection.

In 1969, the science of thermal analysis was ripe for the start of its first independent publication, the Journal of Thermal Analysis. Following monofunction methods and instruments, simultaneous methods had also developed by this time, and this gave a huge impulse to this field of science. A thermoanalytical school displaying a preference for complex methods arose in Hungary, and this furnished the opportunity to establish the Editorial Office of the Journal of Thermal Analysis in Budapest.

Many of the founding members have – unfortunately – already departed, but six of us remain who, helped by scientists from all over the world, keep on fulfilling our original aim of publishing the latest results and developments in this field of science.

During this 30 years, our publishers have also changed (Heyden, Wiley, Kluwer), but the viability and development of the Journal have been uninterrupted.

The number of pages published yearly has increased from the initial 480 to 4200 at present. In consequence of the recent changes in trend in the profession, the title of the Journal has been extended to Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, in line with ICTAC and ESTAC. Although calorimetry of all types has always been included among the main subjects of the Journal, the growing interest in the fields of application of both non-scanning and scanning calorimetry justifies the decision for the word 'calorimetry' to appear on the title page. The present policy of JTAC recognizes four types of publications:

i. *Regular papers* which meet international requirements. These can be originals, research papers, short communications or review papers.

ii. *Conference issues*. The selected papers of various international thermal events are published in order to perpetuate the scientific atmosphere of these meetings. These papers are refereed by two independent reviewers, one a member of the scientific committee of the conference and the second a member of the editorial staff of the Journal. A few examples of such Proceedings may be given: the 9<sup>th</sup> ICTA (Hatfield, UK), the 11<sup>th</sup> ICTAC (Philadelphia, USA), the 12<sup>th</sup> ICTAC (Copenhagen, Denmark, future plan), ESTAC 4 (Jena, Germany), ESTAC 5 (Nice, France) and ESTAC 7 (Balatonfüred, Hungary).

iii. *Celebration issues*. These issues are intended to celebrate the birthdays of scientists who have played outstanding roles in thermal analysis and calorimetry.

iv. *Theme issues*. Collections of papers which deal with a 'hot topic' of thermal analysis and calorimetry.

In addition to that, the Journal constantly publishes critical reports on scientific books and the agenda of international scientific events.

What could an Editor wish for on the occasion of a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary? I wish that our branch of science may continue to develop and flourish, and that our Journal may attain many more anniversaries, always striving to provide more and more readers with the best service possible.

**Prof. G. Liptay**  
Consulting Editor