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## Editorial

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A very Happy New Year to everyone!

My first year as Scientific Editor has just come to an end and it has been a busy and exciting time. It has involved a steep learning curve for me, but let me at the very beginning thank especially Graham McCann, Managing Editor of *Dalton Transactions* as well as Claire White and Nick Holmes of the Editorial Team, who have made my job so much easier by always being at the end of the 'phone and have talked me through the things I have found difficult.

### Personalia

The terms of service of the Dalton Editorial Board (DEB) and International Advisory Editorial Board (IAEB) impose a cycle of membership and we have come to the time where various members have reached the end of their term of office. In particular, Peter Sadler, who has been an Associate Editor for the last five years finishes in December and I give him my personal thanks for the enormous efforts he has put into his work with *Dalton*. Peter is a moderniser and he has always pushed for important changes. We shall greatly miss his wise council. Bernhard Lippert also finishes his term as a Member of DEB in December and we shall also miss him greatly. Bernhard has brought his great experience of the European scene to the workings of the Board and it is a delight to see that there is now German authorship of over 10% of all accepted papers (see later), and this at a time when the competition is fierce. We are extremely grateful to Bernhard for all his hard work for *Dalton*. Finally, Christian Rømming, who has represented the Nordic countries during the exciting period when *Acta Chemica Scandinavica* has been incorporated into the RSC Journals and has ensured not only a smooth transition, but also the submission of an increased number of papers from Nordic countries to *Dalton*, also retires from DEB in December. We thank Christian for his very positive input.

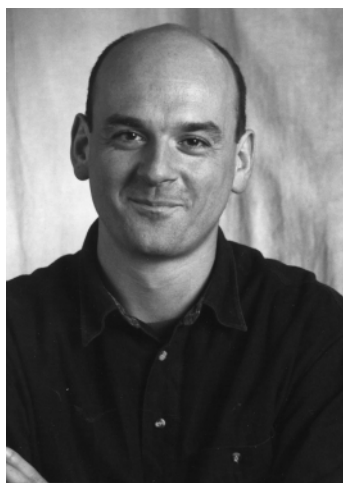
I am delighted to be able to say that these excellent members of the team are to be replaced by David Garner, who will become an Associate Editor and who has a wealth of experience in bioinorganic Chemistry, and Matthias Dri  from Bochum, who joins DEB and will continue the strong representation from Germany. Lars Elding, who has been a very active and effective IAEB member joins DEB as the representative for the Nordic Countries. In addition Peter Bruce will continue on DEB for a further two years maintaining his strong voice in support of solid-state inorganic Chemistry.

*Dalton* has identified solid-state inorganic Chemistry as an area where it would like to be more active and Peter Bruce has been instrumental in encouraging the community so that submissions in this important area are rising. In further acknowledgement of the importance of solid-state Chemistry, we have decided to fill a vacant Associate Editor position with another solid-state Chemist and I am delighted that Richard Catlow has accepted this position.

Members of the IAEB offer advice to DEB at the time of meetings by commenting on the Agenda prior to the meetings whilst in between, supporting and promoting *Dalton* in their own geographical areas and at International meetings. We are extremely grateful to those who have just finished their term of office (A. H. Cowley, F. J. Di Salvo, R. Guillard, R. H. Morris, C. L. Raston, A. Simon, J. Spencer, and A. von Zelewsky) for all the help they have given to the Internationalisation of *Dalton*. We also welcome several new Members (C. Bianchini, A. Corma, H. Grutzmacher,



David Garner



Matthias Dri 



Richard Catlow

B. Harbrecht, G. Heath, I. Horváth, L. Hubert-Pfaltzgraf, I. Manners, R. Sanchez-Delgado, M. Tanaka and P. W. M. N. van Leeuwen) and very much look forward to working with them. *Dalton* IAEB is recognised as being amongst the most effective of the RSC journal Advisory Boards, and the high level of involvement of the individual members of the IAEB is the basis for this.

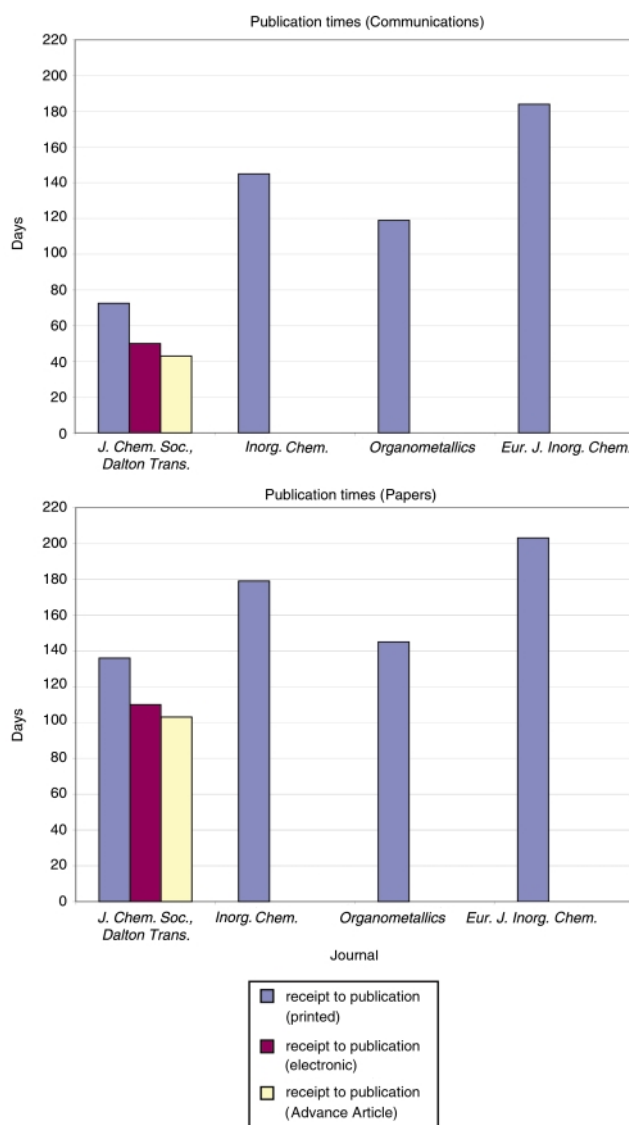
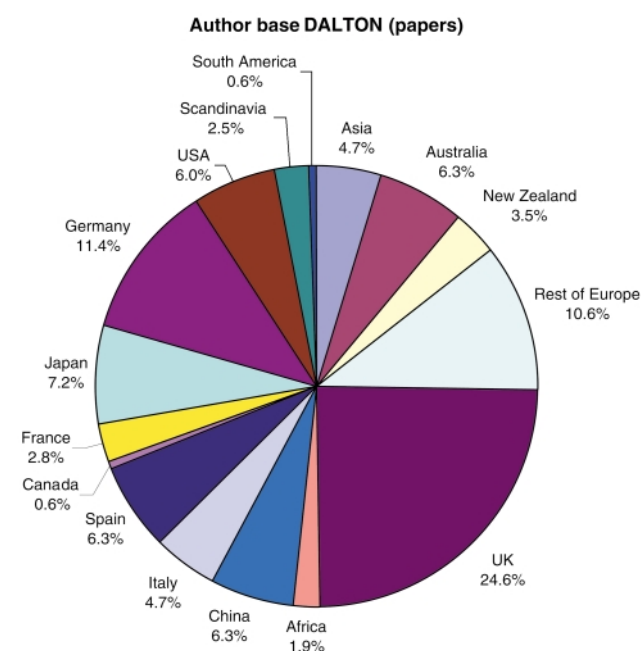
## Internationalism

One of the reasons for introducing the IAEB was to reflect the broad International spread of authors in *Dalton* and to encourage authors from those areas we felt were under-represented. The pie chart shows the countries of origin of *Dalton* authors in early 2000 and comparison with competitor Journals shows that *Dalton* is now the most International of the major Journals publishing inorganic Chemistry.

## Publishing developments

The dawn of the New Millennium is an exciting time in publishing with new approaches being developed all the time. The RSC is embracing these rapidly and much of the work is now being done electronically with on-screen editing and the electronic publication of Advance Articles on the web already in use. Soon, these developments will affect all of us as we shall be able to submit articles electronically, we shall referee on-line and we shall be able to receive our proofs electronically. Look out for the introduction of these exciting developments in the near future. The splendid work of the Cambridge Office, with Marcus Ennis in the Production Department complementing the work of the Editorial team led by Graham McCann, means that publication times for *Dalton* are at an all time low and papers in *Dalton* continue to have shorter publication times than those in any rival inorganic Journal (see bar chart).†

All of these developments lead to regular changes in the Instructions for Authors, so these will no longer be published in full in the Journal. Instead, an electronic version will be available in down-loadable format on the web and this will regularly be updated (<http://www.rsc.org/authors/>). Directions to the web-site will be printed in every issue of *Dalton*. If you do not have access to the web or have difficulty with down-loading these instructions, paper copies will be available on request from the Cambridge Office; simply contact Graham McCann.



† Print publication times were measured from receipt dates and issue publication dates for print versions of papers and communications in *Dalton Transactions* (9 issues), *Inorganic Chemistry* (10 issues), *Organometallics* (13 issues) and *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* (6 issues), published between January and July 2000. For *Dalton*, times to electronic publication (as PDF) are approximately 24 days faster than print, and times to electronic publication (as an Advance Article) are approximately 31 days faster than in print.

## Journal content

*Dalton* continues to publish very high quality papers and communications in all areas of Inorganic Chemistry. In addition, we publish **Perspective Articles**, which are personal reviews of the literature by International leading experts. On occasion these have appeared irregularly, but we are now moving towards having one in each issue of *Dalton*. Important amongst these are the **Millennium Perspectives**, which take a look at where we are and where we are going in the next Millennium in key areas of inorganic Chemistry. These are being written by world leaders in their various fields and already two fine articles on *Transition Metal Chemistry* (F. A. Cotton, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 2000, 1961) and on *Solid State Inorganic Chemistry* (P. Day, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 2000, 3483) have appeared. Look out for several more over the course of the next year.

The series of **Dalton Discussions** initiated by John Evans has continued with an extremely successful and well-organised meeting in Bologna on *Inorganic Crystal Engineering* organised by Dario Braga, who put in a huge amount of work. The feedback on the meeting was very positive and the proceedings, which appeared as Issue 21, speak for themselves. This is a very visual issue with fine Perspective Articles and dramatic use of colour illustrations. It stands as a monument to the state of Crystal Engineering at the present time. A big “thank you” to Dario and to the Editorial Team for all their hard work. Look out for the following *Dalton Discussions*, which have already been agreed and which will be published in *Dalton: Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms* (Germany, January 2002), *The Science and Application of New Inorganic Solids* (Oxford, September 2002), *Coordination Chemistry Ligand Design* (Leiden, April 2003), *Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis* (York, September 2003).

## Final comments

Overall *Dalton* is in very good shape and continues as one of the elite international Journals for the publication of articles concerning all aspects of Inorganic Chemistry. It has been a rare privilege to be invited to take over such a robust Journal and I am excited by the future prospects. To summarise, some of the features that make *Dalton* a first choice for so many authors world-wide are:

- Very rapid times to publication. Current publication times are:

	Papers	Communications
Receipt to publication	110 days	50 days
Acceptance to publication	40 days	15 days

- High impact factor. For many years *Dalton* has been in the top group of 3 inorganic journals, along with *Inorganic Chemistry* and *Organometallics*. The Impact Factor for *Dalton* has increased greatly over the past 5 years and is now 2.3.
- Wide international spread of authors and subscribers.
- 50 free reprints for all papers and no page charges.
- Free use of colour (subject to colour reproduction being scientifically justified).
- A very high standard of editing.

We look forward to receiving your excellent papers throughout the coming year.

If there are comments you would like to make about *Dalton* or suggestions for improvement, please contact me or Graham McCann; we would be very happy to discuss them.

David Cole-Hamilton  
Scientific Editor  
St. Andrews.  
13th November, 2000