
Editorial

I do not usually trouble you with more than one Editorial a year, but some interesting things have been happening at *Dalton Transactions* and I wanted to tell you about them.

Change of name for the journal

There have been many discussions over the years as to whether *Journal of the Chemical Society, Dalton Transactions* is still an appropriate name for the flagship inorganic chemistry journal of The Royal Society of Chemistry. Partly there is the anachronism that the Chemical Society no longer exists under that name and the name of the journal itself is very long but, on the other hand, the name is well known and well respected in the community. We were also concerned that we should not affect the Impact Factor by changing the name. After detailed discussions and consultation, including approaches to ISI, we have decided to contract the name to *Dalton Transactions*. This will come into effect in January 2003. Many people already use this title informally and the Journal will clearly be recognised as the same. In addition, the ISI have assured us that this change in the name will not compromise the continuity of citation counts and impact factors.

New Associate Editor for the Americas

After four years of invaluable service to *Dalton Transactions*, Malcolm Chisholm has decided to step down as Associate Editor for the Americas. Malcolm has done an outstanding job, not only in increasing the flow of papers from American authors but especially in successfully encouraging some of the major names in American chemistry to publish with the Journal. You only have to look at the series of Millennium Perspectives to see how successful he has been with this. We are hugely grateful to him and Cyndy Chisholm, who together ran the North American Office, for all the work they have done and suggestions they have made and we wish them great success for the future, which I understand will involve much more travelling now that the children have left home. Malcolm's final act as Associate Editor will be to organise a Dalton symposium at the Autumn 2004 ACS National meeting in Philadelphia as part of the celebrations surrounding the 200th Anniversary of John Dalton's atomic theory (see below).



John Arnold

Obviously, it is difficult to replace someone with Malcolm's stature and enthusiasm for *Dalton Transactions*, but I am delighted to say that we have found such a person in John Arnold from Berkeley. John is very well known for his work on ligands containing the heavier Group 16 elements and their complexation to transition metals and for his more recent efforts in developing new supporting ligands for transition and lanthanide metal complexes. He has served as a Vice Chair at Berkeley and is a regular publisher in *Dalton Transactions*. He is extremely enthusiastic and has some excellent ideas and I am very excited about working with him. We all wish him well as he takes up his new position this month. He can be contacted at dalton@socrates.berkeley.edu.

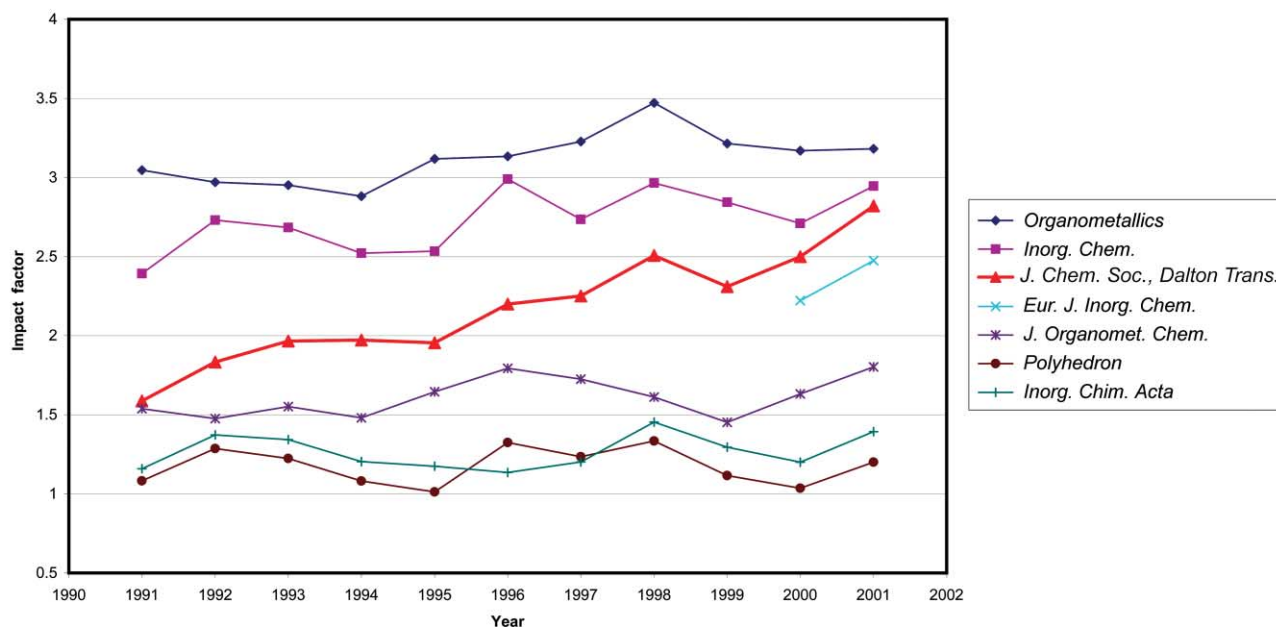
Our highest impact factor ever!

Regular readers of these Editorials will know that we have been monitoring the Impact Factor of the Journal closely over the last few years and it has been rising regularly. This year is no exception (see Figure) and at 2.82 the latest impact factor is now higher than it has ever been. The improvement in *Dalton Transactions* over the years, as measured by this comparative data is spectacular and continuous; it remains ahead of all the European based rivals and is up there with the American journals publishing in the same area.

Celebratory and memorial issues

There are many occasions that we would like to celebrate—milestones in people's lives or careers, the work of a well known inorganic chemist who has recently died. However, as a Journal devoted to the rapid publication of front-line primary articles, the Editorial Board does not wish to interrupt the flow of regular articles by producing special issues. Instead, we have decided on the following procedure. If a member of the community wishes to celebrate an event of the kind listed above, they should write to the Scientific Editor (currently David Cole-Hamilton) or the Managing Editor (Graham McCann) with a suggestion. They will then be asked to solicit articles which will carry a dedication on the first page. These articles will be treated exactly as other papers, undergoing the usual refereeing process and, if accepted, being published in the usual date order without any delays. Once all the dedicated papers have been published, they will then be collected and bound together with suitable editorial preliminaries into a volume, which will be specially bound for presentation to the person being celebrated or another appropriate recipient as well as to the place where the person works/ed. In addition, all contributors will receive a soft bound copy of the celebratory volume. We very much hope that members of the community will take advantage of this possibility for celebrating important chemists or events in *Dalton Transactions*.

Inorganic Journal Impact Factors



John Dalton anniversary

John Dalton was responsible for the first clear exposition of the atomic theory of matter. This theory revolutionised chemistry and provided a fundamental understanding of the nature of chemical processes that, not only killed alchemical attempts to turn base metals into gold, but also represents the basis upon which all chemical endeavour has been built ever since. An important anniversary will arise in the next year since, on 6th September, 1803, John Dalton recorded the results of his investigations that led to the determination of the atomic weights of hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur. It is because he is such a giant of chemistry in general, and inorganic chemistry in particular, that this journal is named after him.



John Dalton

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John Dalton was a Professor and teacher in Manchester and first presented his atomic theory to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. Therefore, it is appropriate that the 200th anniversary of his amazing leap of thought should be celebrated by a Festival of Chemistry in Manchester on 14th October 2003; this will include the presentation of the bi-annual Dalton Lecture by Sir Harry Kroto. *Dalton Transactions* will be heavily involved in these celebrations, both by its presence on the day and through a series of articles that we have commissioned including an article concerning John Dalton—describing his life and times and how his contributions still resonate in the chemistry we carry out today. Thus, without the understanding of Chemistry given to us by John Dalton, we would not have the present Chemical, Petrochemical, and Pharmaceutical industries that are so essential to us, both in terms of the quality of our lives and in terms of the economic health of the country. These industries regularly contribute a surplus of some £4 billion to the UK's balance of trade whilst all other manufacturing industries taken together are in deficit.

Inorganic chemistry in biology

I wrote in my last Editorial about our desire to see more work in the area of Bioinorganic Chemistry published in *Dalton Transactions*. Dave Garner and Luet Wong are spearheading this initiative, which will involve a significant presence for *Dalton Transactions* at the appropriate conferences. Also, a Dalton Discussion is planned for January 2005 on Bioinorganic Chemistry and we will issue invitations to selected authors to write Perspective articles or to contribute primary articles to this and other issues of the journal.

The bioinorganic profile of *Dalton Transactions* will be enhanced by the publishing venture recently launched by the RSC, the *Chemical Biology Virtual Journal* (<http://www.rsc.org/chembiol>) that provides user-friendly access to the literature of Chemical Biology published in RSC journals. The articles are taken from more than fifteen of the RSC's journals, with the primary literature being FREE OF CHARGE for one month, following publication in an issue. In addition the virtual journal includes: scientific reviews; book reviews and information on books on Chemical Biology published by the RSC; current awareness, news and opinion articles; links to current and previous issues; Advance Articles; a search facility; and a diary of relevant conferences are all available. E-mail alerts (see http://www.rsc.org/is/journals/current/ej_update_form.htm) of the new contents are sent out fortnightly.



Therefore, in addition to the advantages of publishing in a first rate journal, Bioinorganic Chemistry contributions to *Dalton Transactions* are included in the *Chemical Biology Virtual Journal* and receive a high profile in both the biological and chemical communities.

New PDF reprints

It has been the custom of *Dalton Transactions* to provide 50 printed reprints of each article free of charge. Many of these may be languishing in filing cabinets taking up increasing amounts of space. Requests for reprints are now rather few with so much electronic access and the ready availability of printers and photocopiers. We have therefore decided to discontinue the practice of sending out paper copies of reprints. Instead, authors will be given access to the PDF file of their articles and these will be available for downloading or passing on electronically to colleagues. We believe this will enhance the availability of reprints significantly since they can be sent electronically at the press of a button—no more searching for and typing addresses, no more postage, *etc.* In addition, there will be no limit on the number of reprints that can be made available in this way. We hope that you will find the new procedure both efficient and effective.

Concluding remarks

I hope you will agree that some very exciting developments are in the wind and that you may be able to become involved in some or all of these. *Dalton Transactions* would not have got where it is without the very dedicated and enthusiastic contributions of the Editorial Staff in Cambridge. They work very hard and we are in their great debt. Graham McCann, Claire White, Nick Holmes, Ian Farrell and Romano Giorgi have done a tremendous job. Sadly Romano is leaving so we wish him well in his future career. Helen Fletcher and Beverley Williams have recently joined the publishing team. Marcus Ennis, who has led the Journals production team for *Dalton Transactions* for many years, is also moving to a different office in Cambridge. Marcus has done an outstanding job and we shall miss him greatly, but we wish him good luck. He is replaced by Nichole Gibson. Another new face on the block is that of Peter Gregory, who has been with Wiley-VCH in Germany for many years. He has very recently moved to the RSC as Director of Publishing.

I hope you have had an excellent summer and very much look forward to receiving your highest quality papers in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact Graham McCann or me (djc@st-and.ac.uk) if you have any suggestions, questions or comments on how we can improve *Dalton Transactions* still further.

David Cole-Hamilton
Scientific Editor
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