Editorial

Welcome to 2002!

The year 2001 has been a good one for *Dalton* with the best news being the high Impact Factor of 2.5 being recorded (see graph). 2002 looks set to be very good for our readers, especially as price rises for *Dalton* and the other RSC Journals will be very modest.

Personalia

After six years of very loyal service to *Dalton*, in which he promoted the Journal tirelessly all over the world and was a regular contributor both to *Dalton* and to our Dalton Editorial Board meetings, Pierre Braunstein has completed his term of office as an Associate Editor. It has always been a pleasure to work with him, we shall miss him very much and we thank him for all his many contributions that have helped to make *Dalton* the respected international Journal it is today. Manfred Bochmann, who has been a member of the Board for four years, retires as well and he will also be greatly missed. Manfred has always been full of good ideas and helpful advice. He was particularly keen to see the price rises for *Dalton* held low and it is partly as a result of his representations on the subject that this year the rise is minimal. We thank him for his very hard work for *Dalton* over the years. We welcome Roger Guilard to the Board as an Associate Editor. Roger is a porphyrin chemist from Université de Bourgogne (Dijon) and has been a very enthusiastic supporter of *Dalton* as a member of the International Advisory Editorial Board. In addition, Judith Howard (Durham), an expert on all aspects of structural Inorganic Chemistry, has very kindly agreed to join the Board to strengthen its coverage of Physical Inorganic chemistry.

There have also been many changes in the editorial office in Cambridge. Janet Leader and Gurminder Marwaha left the RSC to pursue other careers and Nick Holmes moved temporarily to the *Perkin* journals. We thank Graham McCann and Claire White for keeping publication times low during this busy year. I am delighted that Ian Farrell and recently Romano Giorgi have joined the team. Mark Green, whose association with *Dalton* goes back to its beginning in 1977 has retired. We are extremely grateful to Mark for all his hard work as Editorial Manager, and since 1990 as a Technical Editor. Steven Evans and Janette Lane in the Production Department have worked hard to cope with the volume of work which Mark previously handled and we thank them both and other members of Marcus Ennis' Production team for their efforts in ensuring that the publication of issues continued to run smoothly. We also welcome Andrew Barron (Houston) and William Buhro (St. Louis) who will be strengthening our very active International Advisory Editorial Board.

We also said "Goodbye" to David Bardwell, the RSC's in-house Crystallographic Data Editor who really streamlined the editorial process for handling crystallographic material submitted to all the RSC's journals. He has now joined the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. We are very grateful to him and wish him well in his new post. We are also very grateful to all those who helped to assess the crystallographic material, which increases in volume with every issue, after he left. We are especially indebted to George Ferguson, who took over a very significant proportion of this temporarily from August onwards. He carried a massive load with fortitude and good humour. We are delighted that Kirsty Anderson, who did her PhD in Bristol with Guy Orpen, has recently taken up the post of Crystallographic Data Editor. Finally, we welcome Carol Megginson as Editorial Secretary, one of the key positions in the Cambridge Office. Carol replaces Debbie Middleton, who had held the position for several years and to whom we are extremely grateful for all her very hard work on behalf of *Dalton.*

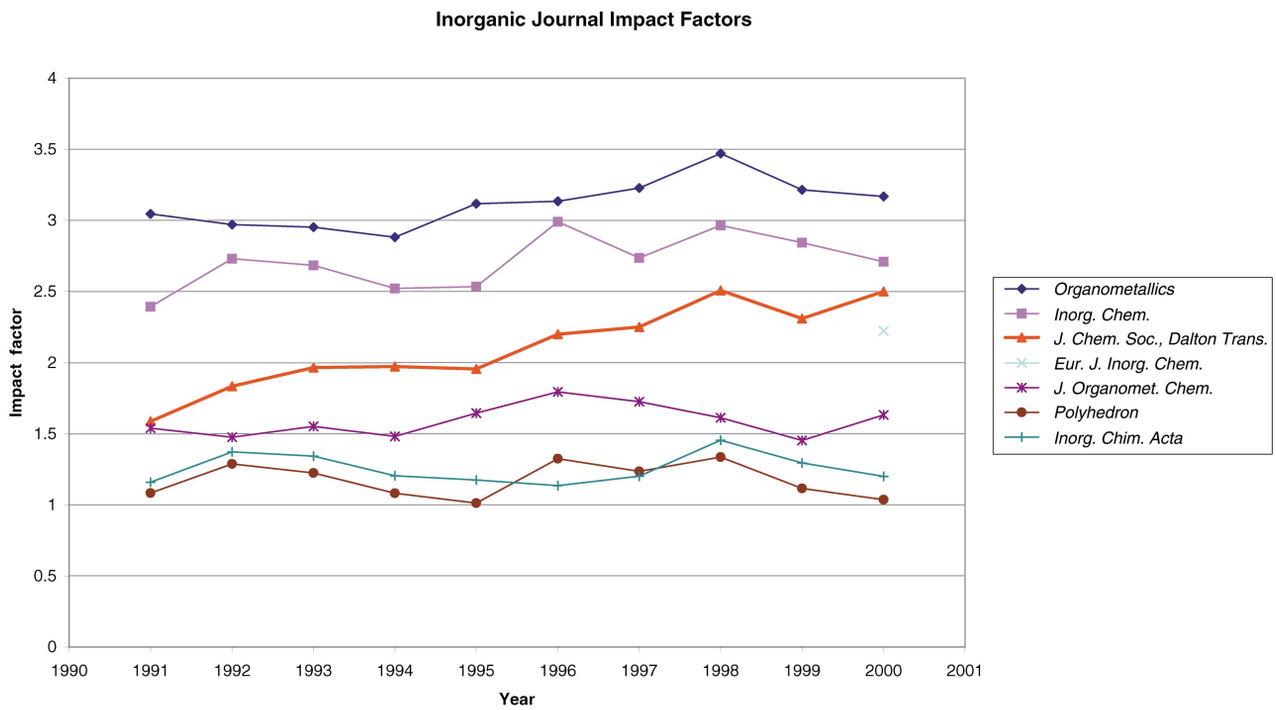
Judith Howard

Roger Guilard

Publishing developments

The major change in publishing practice over the last few years has been the move to electronic handling at all stages of the publishing process. Production editorial staff have been trained in on-screen editing and most manuscripts are now edited in this way. This saves greatly in time at the production end of the cycle. In addition the office welcomes articles

submitted in electronic format *via* the web and 40% of all articles are now submitted in this way. We anticipate that this will increase as it avoids postal delays and the time (and paper) associated with printing and photocopying when preparing manuscripts. All referees are now asked to submit their reports electronically and this again helps to speed up the process from submission to publication. A most recent innovation is that all proofs are sent out to authors electronically as pdf files, which again is helping to accelerate the publication process. It is not unknown for proofs to be sent to authors, corrections returned and the article published on the web within the space of a working day.



Content and scope of *Dalton*

We continue to publish many very exciting **Perspective Articles** and these have proven very popular with readers, both as judged by their "hits" on the web-site and by their citations, which are much higher than the average for all articles. The very successful series of **Millennium Perspectives**, which sought to give an overview of developments in particular areas of Inorganic Chemistry over the last millennium and look forward to the next, has been completed with fine articles by Norman Greenwood (Main Group Chemistry), Bob Crabtree (C–H Bond Activation) and Dick Schrock (M–C Multiple Bonds). We thank the various authors for their fine and timely contributions.

We have been looking at the scope of *Dalton* and our attempts to attract more papers in the solid state area have been successful. However, there is no desire to be in competition with *Journal of Materials Chemistry*, and the Instructions for Authors for both journals have been revised and clarified (see http://www.rsc.org/authors). In summary:

- Articles which predominantly cover the synthesis and study of solid state compounds may be more suitable for *Dalton.*
- Articles which mainly emphasise the novel properties, applications or potential applications of materials may be more suitable for submission to *Journal of Materials Chemistry*.

As far as possible the wishes of the author will continue to be respected as to which journal they feel is most appropriate. Graham McCann is Managing Editor for both journals, so he is in an ideal position to ensure as far as possible that manuscripts are considered for the right journal. Please see the *Summary of Changes to Instructions for Authors* which follow this Editorial and do not hesitate to contact the Editorial office if you require further information.

We have also been looking at Inorganic Chemistry as it is applied to Biology. We believe that *Dalton*, as a journal specialising in the publication of articles in all areas of Inorganic Chemistry, should be concerned with publications in Inorganic Biochemistry, an area which we would like to develop. We have asked Luet Wong and Dave Garner to see how we can best serve this community, but our task should be made much easier by the recent decision by the RSC to create a web based "virtual journal" bringing together all biology related articles in RSC publications. This will be launched in the second quarter of 2002 as part of a joint venture between RSC Publishing and the Chemical Biology Forum. The intention is to provide a valuable resource for the chemical biology community, a major component of which will be the virtual journal. This will of course include the papers concerning Bioinorganic Chemistry and

Inorganic Biochemistry found in *Dalton*. So by publishing your bio-related work in *Dalton* it will be easily accessible to both the Inorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology communities.

There were no Dalton Discussions during 2001, but the next one is in January 2002 in Kloster Banz, Germany, on Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms: Insights into Chemical Challenges. The pre-prints have been distributed and it looks like an excellent programme, which has been put together by the Organising Committee (chaired by Rudi van Eldik with Martyn Twigg as guest Scientific Editor), to whom we are extremely grateful. There will be a second Dalton Discussion in 2002, DD5—The Science and Application of New Inorganic Solids, to be held in Birmingham in September, which is being chaired by Peter Edwards.

Others, for which the initial planning is already at an advanced stage, will be on Coordination Chemistry Ligand Design (Leiden, April 2003) and Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis (York, September 2003).

Final comments

Overall *Dalton* is in very good shape and continues to improve its standing amongst the elite international Journals for the publication of articles concerning all aspects of Inorganic Chemistry. It is a great privilege to be involved with such a prestigious journal and to work with such dedicated teams as those in Cambridge and on the Dalton Editorial Board.

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 Graham McCann or me; we would be very happy to discuss them.

David Cole-Hamilton
Scientific Editor
St. Andrews
December, 2001