

Report on the Perkin Journals for 1991

In 1991 the RSC celebrated its 150th anniversary. *Perkin Transactions* marked this event by publishing 24 commemorative papers throughout the year which have been bound together as a limited edition, collected volume. In addition, four prizes of £150 have been offered to the four papers (two in each *Transaction*) voted by the Refereeing Panel and Editorial Board as being of the very highest quality.

We are pleased to announce that the four papers thus adjudged are from Professor Steven Ley, Imperial College (Total Synthesis of the Anthelmintic Macrolide Avermectin B1a), Professor Albert Meyers, Colorado State University (Asymmetric Diels–Alder Reactions. A Route to Chiral Carbocycles *via* Bicyclic Lactams), Professor Mike Page, Huddersfield Polytechnic (Thiazolidine Ring Opening in Penicillin Derivatives Part 1, Imine Formation and Part 2, Enamine Formation) and Professor Jay Kochi, University of Houston (Charge-transfer Nitration of Naphthalene and the Methyl-naphthalenes, Part 1. Direct Comparison with Electrophilic Aromatic Nitrations). We hope that the recipients will find the prizemoney useful and we extend our thanks to all of the referees who took the time and trouble to send us their votes.

Statistics

Following the trend for the whole of the Journals Department, *Perkin Transactions 1* received more submitted articles in 1991 than in each of the previous four years (627 manuscripts in 1991, 588 in 1990). *Perkin Transactions 2* receipts seem to have levelled off at around 490 per annum (489 manuscripts in 1991, 495 in 1990) (see Fig. 1). Submissions continue to be worldwide with overseas contributions constituting 71.6% (*Perkin 1*) and 75.3% (*Perkin 2*) of the total.

Times to publication have shown further decreases since 1990. Full papers are now published on average within 150 days with many papers requiring little or no revision being processed in under four months (see Fig. 2). This compares very favourably with most non-RSC chemistry journals, including those making use of author-prepared camera-ready copy. *Perkin Communications* have now achieved publication times of 80–90 days.

Perkin Transactions 1 published more pages in 1991 than in the previous year. Increased submissions and raised rejection rates (32.7% for *Perkin 1*, 35.6% for *Perkin 2*), coupled with the rapid publication times, reflect the higher quality work attracted by the *Journal*.

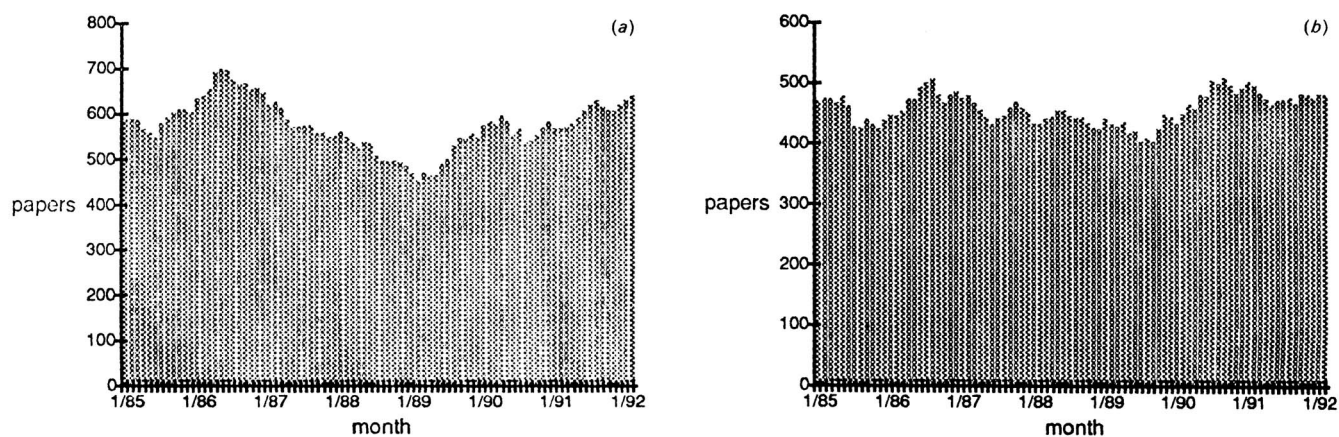


Fig. 1 Rolling annual submissions of manuscripts to (a) *Perkin Transactions 1* and (b) *Perkin Transactions 2*. Each bar represents a year's intake.

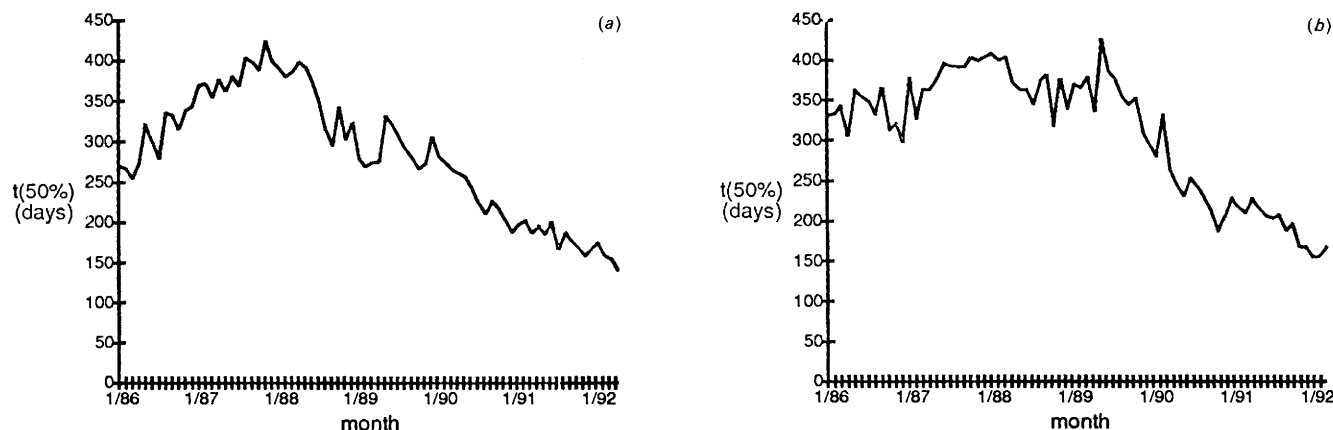


Fig. 2 Times-to-publication (from receipt) of full papers in (a) *Perkin Transactions 1* and (b) *Perkin Transactions 2* since 1986. $t(50\%)$ represents the time taken for the fastest 50% of the papers in an issue to be published.

Many authors, new to *Perkin Transactions*, chose to publish their work with us for the first time. It is our hope that this trend will continue and that authors will continue to be satisfied with the service they receive.

New for 1992

Following discussions at recent Perkin Editorial Board meetings, International Advisory Boards are in the process of being set up for both *Perkin* journals, the names of the members to be listed on the inside front cover. Now that times to publication have been greatly reduced, attendance by editorial staff at conferences and meetings to promote *Perkin Transactions* is likely to increase and it is hoped that the Advisory Boards will benefit the *Journal* by providing contact points.

Perkin Communications, which have been established in *Perkin Transactions 1* for three years, have now been extended to *Perkin Transactions 2*. In addition, the communications are now positioned at the front of the *Journal*, the greater

prominence reflecting the urgency of the work. Each communication now starts on a fresh right-hand page and it is hoped that this editorial change will expedite the production and despatch of communication reprints.

In response to the increasing intake and to aid the rapid publication of articles and especially communications, *Perkin Transactions 1* is now published 24 times a year. Increased frequency of publication should enable us to avoid making up very large unwieldy issues such as the 1991 December issue.

Finally, *Perkin Transactions* now incorporates a Conference Diary, placed at the back.

1991 has seen major improvements to the quality and timeliness of *Perkin Transactions* which we hope to build upon in the future.

Professor S. M. Roberts
Chairman, Perkin Editorial Board
Dr. Sheila R. Buxton
Editorial Manager, Perkin Transactions