
Journal of Materials Science

Editorial

The end of an era

It is with considerable regret that I announce the retirement from the Editorial Board of Journal of Materials Science of two of our founding Editors, Professor R. L. Bell and Dr F. J. P. Clarke. This is not the result of a formal career retirement as both Professor Bell and Dr Clarke continue to fulfil active and important positions, but reflects on their part the transition from roles as practitioners of Materials Science to those associated with the higher management of large organizations. The Journal owes much to both Professor Bell and Dr Clarke: together with Professor Cahn, Professor Sims, Professor Keller and Professor McMillan, they formed the original sextet of Editors, who edited the Journal with flair and dedication from its inception in 1966, with quarterly issues, until 1973, when it had become established as a leading international journal in the materials field.

When I assumed sole Editorship of the Journal in 1973, I found that this transition was considerably eased by the corporate wisdom of the Editorial Board and, over the succeeding years, I have continued to benefit from their advice and support.

During the early part of this period Professor Bell was Head of the Engineering Materials Laboratory at the University of Southampton and he and his staff, notably Drs Farrar and Willoughby, provided outstanding refereeing support to me in topics such as semiconductor materials, grain-boundary sliding and creep, for which the group has a deserved reputation. Professor Bell left Southampton to assume the challenging position of Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering in which he is responsible for the direction of the complex range of activities associated with this subject. Personal relationships provide an important and pleasant continuity in science and my particular link with, and indebtedness to, Professor Bell is that he was my Ph.D. supervisor and, as such, stimulated, encouraged and educated my early research on the plastic deformation of germanium single crystals.

Dr Clarke has been a major influence on developments in the ceramics field for many years. He directed an active group at Harwell which made significant advances towards an understanding of the structure and mechanical properties of ionic solids. Since then, Dr Clarke has risen to the highest echelons of the Directorate of the Atomic Energy Authority and is now concerned with corporate strategy and planning. Throughout this period, Dr Clarke has been particularly helpful in placing for me, within the Harwell orbit, papers on the boundary between Materials Science and Chemical Engineering.

It is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the distinctive contributions of Professor Bell and Dr Clarke to the Journal and to extend to them my best wishes for the future.

William Bonfield
Editor