

From the Editor

With this issue I am beginning my second year as editor of the *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society*. Last year we published 1000 pages of text and we hope to increase that to 1200 pages this year. Manuscript flow is brisk; we received 320 papers during the first year and the rate is increasing. The drop-out rate, due to rejection, withdrawal or reassignment to other AOCS journals, is about 35%. The speed with which papers can be published upon final approval is greatly increased, because of new state-of-the-art page setting equipment at Headquarters, a more rapid review process, and the disappearance of the long-standing backlog of papers. Once a manuscript is accepted for publication, it can now be published after only two months, provided the authors return the corrected galley proofs promptly.

As you can see, this issue is totally dedicated to papers from the Surfactants and Detergents Section. This is in response to the request made by the Section about a year ago and approved at the annual meeting in Chicago. Rather than printing a few S/D papers in each issue, we will try to print an entire issue whenever enough manuscripts are accepted to fill about 100 pages of printed text. Around July of this year we hope to follow with the second S/D issue.

Soon we will publish another unit publication in which most of the papers presented within the symposium "Oilseed Processing for Edible Food and Feed Products" from the Chicago annual meeting will be featured. Symposium chairs should seriously consider publishing the presented papers as a unit in *INFORM*, *Lipids* or the *Journal*, especially if the size is not sufficient to be considered as an AOCS monograph.

As of January 1, 1992, four of the Associate Editors are leaving the Board. They are Anton Beynen, Phil Sonnet, Gayland Spencer and Mel Tuvell. I have thanked them personally, but I want you all to know how much they helped in maintaining and elevating the technical quality and integrity of the *Journal*. We will miss them. Fortunately, we have been able to replace them with new, capable and eager people. We welcome Tom Cripe, Ed Parish and Richard Wilson as new Associate Editors for three-year terms.

We have made some changes in the Guide for Authors, which is printed in this issue. The main change is that we expect manuscripts to be prepared with line numbering on each page for easier reference by reviewers and editorial staff. Another change deals with manuscript handling: We now prefer to receive a floppy disk plus one hard copy of the manuscript when you are revising your manuscript prior to acceptance, so that we may use the floppy disk directly for the page setting process. We can now accept any disk, regardless of word processing program or computer system, as long as character storage follows the ASCII system. It will greatly speed up and facilitate our publication process. Of course, in case the manuscript was not prepared on a word processor, we will continue to accept two hard copies of the revised manuscript.

We will continue to provide the best services to our authors and readers alike. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let us know.

L.H. (Bert) Princen
Editor, *Journal*