

Report on the Perkin Journals for the period January 1990–December 1990

In response to a number of requests we would like to present some of the factual data relating to the performance of the Perkin Journals during 1990.

The time taken for an article to appear in print from when the

script arrives in the Editorial Office has fallen quite dramatically over the twelve-month period (Fig. 1), t_{50} now standing at ca. 200 days for full papers (t_{50} is the time taken for 50% of the papers in an issue to be published). The backlog of papers that

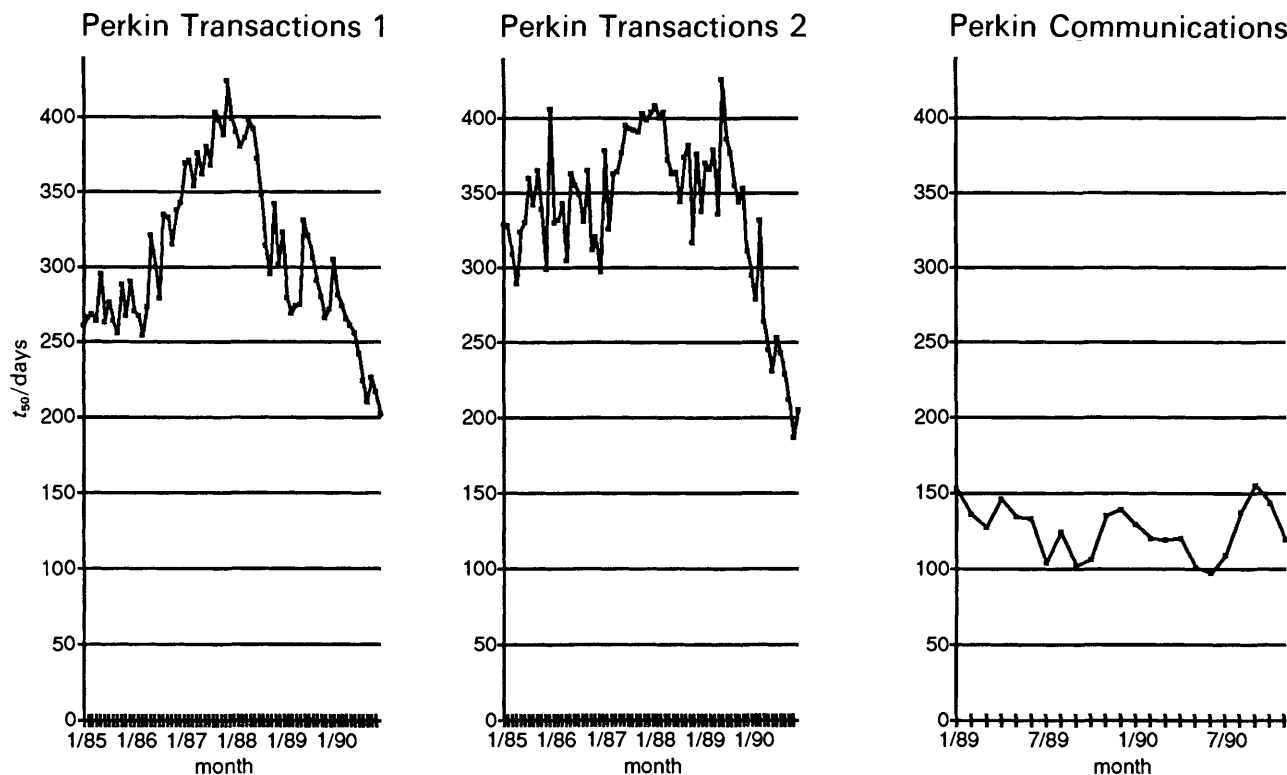


Fig. 1 Times from receipt to publication of papers and communications in *Perkin Transactions* since 1985 (1989 for communications)

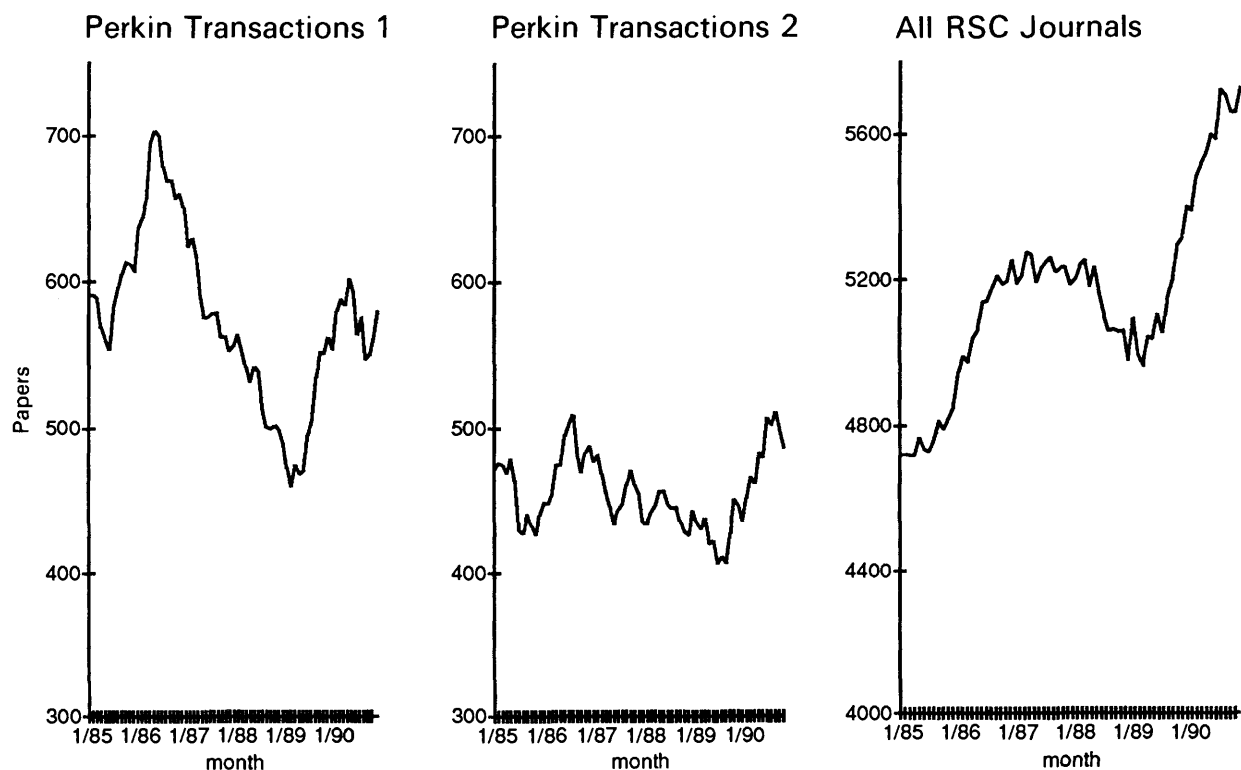


Fig. 2 Rolling annual submissions of papers to *Perkin Transactions 1*, *Perkin Transactions 2* and all RSC journals, from 1985. Each point represents a year's intake

built up as a result of the relocation of the Journals Department from the Editorial Office in London to Thomas Graham House in Cambridge has been cleared. We expect that, from now on, papers that require little or no revision should appear in the Journal 5–6 months after receipt. Obviously the high quality of the presentation of the material will be maintained while we endeavour to reduce 'times to publication' still further.

The decrease in the time taken to publish full papers has contributed to two noteworthy trends. First, the number of full papers received by the office has increased (Fig. 2). It is interesting to note that 1232 papers were processed by the Perkin Editorial staff in the period 1989–1990 and that a total of 5588 pages were published. Secondly, the quality of the papers that have been published in the Journals has markedly improved.

The improvement in the quality of the published papers can be attributed, to some extent, to the fact that stricter refereeing standards have been introduced, with a consequent rise in the rejection rate in recent months. We have attempted to increase the uniformity of refereeing standards by establishing a panel of referees (*ca.* 80 persons), which carries out more than half the refereeing duties.

Submissions to Perkin Communications numbered 148 last year. The rapid (*ca.* 120 days) publication of these short articles provides a means for new work of principal interest to organic chemists to be published without delay.

We are committed to a continuing process of development of systems and techniques that will be useful to authors. Over the past year we have encouraged authors to send disks of formulae relevant to their papers, so that the original artwork can be used in the finished article. We are in the process of investigating the opportunities for taking text *and* formulae from a computer disk directly into print. We may be able to offer this service to authors in the not-too-distant future.

In short, we believe that it has been a highly successful year for *Perkin Transactions* and we look forward to an equally successful 1991 for Britain's premier organic chemistry journals.

Professor Stanley M. Roberts
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Dr. Sheila R. Buxton
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