

Macromolecules

Volume 25, Number 1

January 6, 1992

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A Quarter-Century of *Macromolecules*

With this issue, *Macromolecules* enters its 25th year. This is an appropriate opportunity for the undersigned editors to recognize publicly the enormous contributions of our fellow editors F. H. Winslow ("Stretch"), F. A. Bovey (Frank), and W. H. Stockmayer ("Stocky"), who have been with this Journal since its inception. If our conspiracy succeeds, this surreptitiously prepared tribute should come as a complete surprise to them. If it does not succeed, then (knowing Stretch's exceptional modesty and avoidance of the limelight) this tribute will certainly be expunged from the pages of *Macromolecules*. In either case, the same might happen to a few editors' names from its masthead!

Macromolecules was launched in January 1968 following the widespread realization among polymer scientists of the need for a Society-sponsored journal that would be affordable to individual subscribers, would maintain highest scientific and reviewing quality, and would assure prompt publication of polymer research. This realization followed the very rapid growth of the field of macromolecular science that began in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Starting in 1963, both the Polymer Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society and the High-Polymer Physics Division of the American Physical Society undertook membership surveys and appraisals of publication media available for polymer research; both indicated widespread support for a Society-sponsored journal in this field. In 1966, the Committee on Macromolecular Chemistry of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the National Research Council recommended to the American Chemical Society that it establish a fundamental journal on polymer research. In December 1966 the ACS Board approved the publication of *Macromolecules*, which began on a bimonthly schedule in January 1968.

The journal has been very fortunate to have been started and guided throughout this quarter-century by Stretch Winslow. Stretch has nurtured *Macromolecules* to its present internationally respected status by emphasizing very rigorous review standards, strict quality criteria, rapid review and publication of manuscripts, and responsiveness to authors, reviewers, and readers. Winslow's emphasis on rigorous reviewing was reflected in the rejection of the first (invited!) manuscript submitted to *Macromolecules*, and continues today with adherence to the same strict standards in the face of an ever-increasing flood of manuscripts. As a result, a large fraction of manuscripts submitted to *Macromolecules* is rejected or withdrawn.

Winslow's responsiveness to authors is evidenced in his continuous efforts to reduce publication time. Through his streamlining of all editorial operations and insistence on vigilant reminders of tardy reviewers, Stretch has kept the manuscript review process to a short time. His vigorous requests to reduce production time, coupled with the efficiency of our ACS editorial and production colleagues in Columbus and with increasing page allotments from the ACS Publications Division, have resulted in a current acceptance-to-publication interval of about 4–5 months for *Articles* and about 2 months for *Communications*.

Winslow's scientific career prepared him well for the multiple tasks involved in leading this Journal. After obtaining his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1943, he worked on the Manhattan Project, where he helped develop some of the early fluoropolymers. He then joined Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1945, where he later became Head of the Polymer Research and Development Department and of the Organic Chemistry Research and Development Department. Stretch has also served as Chairman of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division and of the Gordon Conference on Polymers. He has been a member-

at-large of the National Research Council and has served on a number of committees of the National Academy of Sciences on macromolecular chemistry. His research has focused on polymer synthesis, photochemistry, modification, oxidation, and stabilization. Since his retirement from AT&T Bell Laboratories 3 years ago, he has concentrated even more vigorously on his editorial responsibilities. He still is among the earliest of the "early birds" at Bell Labs, reaching his office before 7 a.m. Stretch's great sense of humor, sunny disposition, modesty and self-effacement, and true warmth and caring toward all are legendary and make it a veritable pleasure to be working with him.

Winslow's guidance of *Macromolecules* during its first quarter-century has been greatly aided by the fact that two of his original Associate Editors have continued with him throughout all these years. The third, John Stille, resigned his editorial responsibilities in 1981 and died tragically in an airplane accident in 1989; a memorial tribute to him appeared in the April 30, 1990, issue of *Macromolecules*.

Frank Bovey began his career at 3M Co. in 1940, before receiving his Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1948. In 1962 he joined Bell Laboratories, where he rose to the position of Head of the Polymer Chemistry Research Department. Frank's enormous productivity and seminal contributions to the areas of NMR spectroscopy, polymer microstructure and characterization are very widely known and recognized. Among his many prizes are the American Chemical Society's Polymer Chemistry Award, Applied Polymer Science Award, Nichols Medal, Minnesota Award, and Carothers Award, as well as the American Physical Society's High-Polymer Physics Prize. Bovey has also been a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1975. He, too, despite his recent retirement from AT&T Bell Laboratories, has continued to come to his office daily where, in addition to *Macromolecules*, he has been occupied with the writing of his eleventh book. In his mind he has the seeds of a twelfth, and in his heart the fervent desire to make it his most important and far-reaching book. It is for this reason that he is resigning as Associate Editor of *Macromolecules* effective with this issue. We all congratulate Frank on his many accomplishments, thank him for his 24 years of very dedicated editorial contributions to *Macromolecules*, and wish him full success in his ambitious plans. We are also pleased to welcome in his place John F. Rabolt of the IBM Research Laboratory.

The other of the original Editors, Walter Stockmayer, is also universally known and admired among polymer scientists for his distinguished career in macromolecular and physical chemistry, for his multitude of accomplishments, honors, and awards, and for his inspiring and warm personality. We will spare him further embarrassment by not enumerating details once again, since a tribute to Stocky, superbly written by Ronald Koningsveld and Marshall Fixman, has been published in the April 1984 issue of *Macromolecules*. We cannot, however, fail to emphasize his delightful wit and sense of humor (a few well-chosen illustrations of which are given in the above tribute), which have also made him a favorite among *Macromolecules* authors.

In fact, both Stocky and Stretch (each of whom is known as something of a prankster) have occasionally joined forces to play a practical joke. One of the best examples occurred in 1976, when Stocky returned from a 2-year sabbatical. During his absence, Stretch had wanted him to retain his association with *Macromolecules*, and so he had appointed

him to the Advisory Board. After Stocky's return as editor, a replacement was needed for the few remaining months of his term on the Advisory Board. Stretch's mischievous choice was the mysterious Waldemar Silberszyc, whose claim to fame rested on his sole publication (*J. Polym. Sci., Polym. Lett. Ed.* 1963, 1, 577). This publication, which gave as author's affiliation a P.O. Box in Vermont, brought to light and corrected an error in an earlier paper by Kurata and Stockmayer (*Fortschr. Hochpolym. Forsch.* 1963, 3, 196). Resolution of the Silberszyc mystery may be aided by the acknowledgment at the end of his article, in which he "thanks W. H. Stockmayer for a useful soliloquy".

Through the guidance of its original editors, *Macromolecules* was established early as a highly successful ACS journal. It has since grown rapidly and achieved an international leadership position in its field. The original six issues per year grew to twelve in 1983 and to twenty-six in 1990. The number of submitted manuscripts has also grown very rapidly, especially since 1985 when the tally was only about 40% of the 1991 number. Despite this ever-increasing tide (which has admittedly strained our own editorial workload and has led to the increase in the number of Associate Editors to six), the quality of the published papers remains highly safeguarded. As a result, *Macromolecules* papers continue to hold a preeminent position in terms of Science-Citation-Index impact factor. About 60% of our annually published papers now come from outside the U.S.A., representing over 40 countries. In an era of rapidly rising journal subscription prices (and consequent selectivity and elimination of titles by libraries), *Macromolecules* continues a steady and impressive worldwide increase in subscriptions. All in all, the goals set by Winslow and his colleagues in 1968, i.e., rapid publication of rigorously reviewed high-quality research in a Society-sponsored journal that is affordable to the individual subscriber, remain a reality for *Macromolecules* as it enters its 25th year.

In paying this tribute to Winslow, Bovey, and Stockmayer, we cannot neglect to thank all the others who have so contributed to the growth and success of *Macromolecules*. These include our office staffs for their efficient handling of an ever-increasing load of manuscripts and correspondence, our editorial and production colleagues in Columbus for their quick and careful publication of accepted manuscripts, and the ACS Publications Division for their budgetary and administrative support of this Journal. Most importantly and prominently, we would like to express our gratitude to our reviewers, adjudicators, and members of our Advisory Board, who make it possible to sustain the highest standards of editorial and scientific quality, for which *Macromolecules* strives. All of them, as well as our authors and readers, should always feel free to contact the editors of *Macromolecules* with their views, suggestions, questions, or criticisms.

In concluding our tribute, we apologize to Stretch, Frank, and Stocky for this public exposure, but we are certain that the polymer community welcomes this opportunity to join us in congratulating them on their achievements, thanking them for their contributions, and wishing them the very best of health, happiness, and fulfillment for many more years to come.

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