



PERGAMON

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SCIENCE @ DIRECT®

Polyhedron 22 (2003) 1



POLYHEDRON

www.elsevier.com/locate/poly

Editorial

In the beginning—a historical note

In 1981 Robert Maxwell, owner of Pergamon Press, had become dissatisfied with the Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry (JINC) and decided to replace it with a new journal for Inorganic and Organometallic chemistry. Impressed by the success of the Organic chemistry journal Tetrahedron he consulted his editors of the multi-volume series on Organometallic Chemistry, Professors Eddie Abel, Gordon Stone and Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, about a suitable title for the new journal and they came up with Polyhedron. It was also decided that Sir Geoffrey would be the Editor-in-Chief with Don Bradley as Executive Editor. I needed some persuading to take on this challenge but the promise of some generous funding for the Chemistry Department helped me to make up my mind to give it a go.

Unfortunately the editorial team of JINC were only informed of the change at short notice and, before I had set up my own organization, I was suddenly engulfed in an avalanche of manuscripts diverted to me from JINC. Also I found it difficult to recruit a panel of expert referees because people who were happy to referee manuscripts for their professional journals were not so keen to act for commercial journals. Eventually, with the invaluable help of my departmental secretary Mrs. Phyllis Miller, we got things moving and the first Volume of Polyhedron was published in 1982. My next problem was with the Printers and this required the intervention of Mr. Maxwell who sacked them after several warnings and changed to another firm. Unfortunately a fire at the original printers destroyed a large number of accepted manuscripts shortly after I had eliminated copies of the originals from my files so I had to write to the authors requesting new copies thus causing further delays.

After that things improved with steadily increasing numbers of quality papers coming in for publication. An Editorial Board was established, initially mainly with British members, but later expanded to include members from other countries. At one memorable Board meeting at Mr. Maxwell's London headquarters, he announced the institution of the Polyhedron Medal which he awarded on the spot to the Editor-in-Chief Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson. A panel of distinguished Inorganic chemists

was convened to determine subsequent recipients of this prestigious award.

Another innovation was the launch of Polyhedron Reports later followed by Polyhedron Symposia-in-Print with their own Editors and they have proved to be a great success. When my secretary Mrs. Miller retired, the Polyhedron operation with an increasing number of manuscripts required a full-time secretary and Hanna Hursthouse was recruited to fill the post. This also brought us the expertise of Professor Mike Hursthouse who organized the computerization of the Editorial office in addition to stringently refereeing all of the X-ray crystallographic data accompanying the manuscripts. When Mike moved to Cardiff we also lost the invaluable services of Hanna so once again I was seeking another secretary. Fortunately my wife Ann, who had recently retired from a challenging job in the City, agreed to take on the position which she did with considerable aplomb.

In the 1990s the volume of manuscripts was becoming too large for one Editor so it was decided to appoint a separate Editor for manuscripts emanating from the Americas and we were fortunate in persuading Malcolm Chisholm to take this on which he did with great energy for several years before handing to George Christou.

Meanwhile Mr. Maxwell had sold Pergamon Press to Elsevier so Polyhedron came under new management, a transition which took place smoothly due to the friendly cooperation of all concerned.

In 1996, after 15 interesting years as Executive Editor, I decided to retire and was pleased to hand over the controls to Professor Catherine Housecroft who has taken the journal from strength-to-strength. Interestingly I still occasionally receive a manuscript addressed to me as Editor and on one occasion received one addressed to the Editor of JINC!

It is a pleasure to join in the celebration of 21 years of Polyhedron and I wish it further success in the future.

Donald C. Bradley
*Department of Inorganic Chemistry,
Queen Mary College, University of London,
Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK*