

## Editorial

This issue commemorates the 35th anniversary of *Polymer*, which began publication in 1960 with a volume comprising four issues, 534 small-sized pages and 54 contributions. The Editorial Board of C. H. Bamford, C. E. H. Bawn, Geoffrey Gee and Rowland Hill accepted articles from G. Allen, E. F. Casassa, G. Gee, A. Keller, A. S. Lodge, J. G. Powles, B. G. Rånby, T. Saegusa, M. Szwarc, L. R. G. Treloar, I. M. Ward, and many other well-known scientists. Some of the topics discussed included graft, living and block polymerization, crosslinking, blends, polyelectrolytes, the glass transition, the tough–brittle transition, rheology, viscoelasticity, n.m.r., e.s.r., d.t.a., chain folding in crystals, and calculations of crystal moduli. The average time from receipt in accepted form to publication was approximately six months. By 1994, the journal had grown by more than an order of magnitude to 26 issues, and 5824 large-sized pages with more than eight hundred articles and communications per year. A very wide range of topics, as well as authors from about 40 nations, were represented. The Editorial Board had 49 members. The average time from receipt in accepted form to publication was approximately six months for articles and four months for communications.

To celebrate these 35 years of success, Elsevier Science brought members of the Editorial Board together at Oxford University for a symposium, board meeting and banquet in September 1995. The two days were most enjoyable and successful. A day-long symposium featured presentations by a number of members of the Editorial Board. It began with Donald R. Paul of Austin who discussed polymer–polymer interactions and interfaces, a field which has exploded in the past 35 years. This was followed by presentations of other topics which either did not exist in 1960 or have grown rapidly since then. These included model blends of polymers having complementary charge transfer groups on the ends, supramolecular assembly of hydrophobic  $\alpha$ -helical peptides, photophysical studies of block copolymer micelles, quasi-elastic light scattering from surface capillary surface waves, equation-of-state models of polymer solutions, liquid crystal holographic gratings, structure and morphology of polypropylenes, polymerization with zirconocene catalysts, Raman microscopy, as well as computational modelling of small molecule diffusion. The final presentation was made by Gregory C. Rutledge of MIT who discussed computational

modelling of electrical properties. A summary of the symposium was given by Ian Ward. The papers in this issue have been contributed by members of the Editorial Board, including C. H. Bamford who, as noted above, was on the inaugural board. These papers also deal with topics that either didn't exist 35 years ago or have greatly expanded since then.

One of the many stimulating lectures during the two days was that on the future role of the research journal in scientific communication by Dr Hans Roosendaal of Elsevier Science. He noted that since the first journals of science, *Le Journal des Sçavons* and *Philosophical Transactions*, were published on a regular basis, starting in 1665, the number of published research papers has continued to exhibit the growth mentioned in the first paragraph above. Indeed, he pointed out that the average growth rate in the number of papers published is about 5% per year, corresponding to a doubling time of about 15 years. This provides challenges for research journals in the future. *Polymer* is in an excellent position to address them. In the hands of a forward looking publisher, it has taken many steps to facilitate and to improve the reviewing, processing and dissemination of the research results submitted to it. The Editorial Board is working to shorten review times through the use of fax, e-mail and better procedures. Editors are positioned in a number of countries. The journal accepts manuscripts on disks in many formats and has greatly increased the number of issues as well as the number of pages per volume. Further, it has expedited publication by adopting a flexible policy on the size of each issue and is expediting its publishing procedures. Finally, the publisher is preparing for the coming norm of electronic storage and publication of papers. There are no page charges and reduced subscriptions are available to individuals whose institutions have regular subscriptions. The contributors to and readers of *Polymer* can look forward to a continued effective dissemination of important science in the future. No doubt, the Editors can also look forward to future celebrations of special anniversaries.

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