

The Birth of a Journal

By *Esther Levy**

Almost 15 years has passed since the launch of *Advanced Materials*. The first issue, published in May 1988 was bound into the journal *Angewandte Chemie* and contained only 36 pages. 36 pages of excellent contributions comprising an Essay by C. Razim (“Advanced Materials—A Critical View”), a Review article by H. Möhwald (“Controlling the Microstructure of Monomolecular Layers”), a Nobel Lecture by J. G. Bednorz and K. A. Müller (“Perovskite-Type Oxides—The New Approach to High- T_c Superconductivity”), a Research News article by M. Ballauff (“Polymer Liquid Crystals Forming Biaxial Nematic Phases”), Conference Reports, Book Reviews, and a Conference Calendar. An Editorial written by the six founding Editorial Advisors E. M. Engler, D. Haarer, N. Ogata, G. Petzow, J. M. Thomas, and G. Wegner was also published. The theme was the launch and scope of *Advanced Materials*. This Editorial has been reprinted on pages 1685–1687, so you can judge for yourself how well the journal has fulfilled its original purpose and how it has responded to research developments and an increasingly interdisciplinary approach.

There is no doubt that *Advanced Materials* has developed at an amazing pace since its first pages were printed. The following special section is intended to give you a taste of the history, people, and innovations that have helped (and continue to) shape the journal.

Why was *Advanced Materials* founded? Who and what were the driving forces? Why was it launched “piggyback” with *Angewandte Chemie*? These and many other questions are answered by Peter Göllitz, Editor in Chief of *Angewandte Chemie* and first Editor of *Advanced Materials*, in the interview on page 1682. During the interview Dr. Göllitz also reflects on the factors that have contributed to the success of the journal.

One innovation that has proved popular is the unique cover picture for each issue, displaying outstanding work reported within that issue’s pages. Initiated by the editorial team, this attractive feature symbolizes the diversity and dynamic nature of materials science research and invites the reader to delve within the contents of the journal. On two of the following pages we have printed a gallery of past cover pictures of *Advanced Materials*. Displayed are the standard cover picture used between 1989 and 1995, the cover of the issue of *Angewandte Chemie* containing the very first pages of *Advanced*

Materials, the first non-standard cover (issue 1/95), and another 47 of the more than 140 cover pictures that have appeared to date. For those interested in looking at more than just a pretty picture, we have also provided an index of this cover gallery, supplying the issue number, authors, page number, and a short cover description. All the covers that have been printed since December 1999 can be found on the journal home page (www.advmat.de).

Other innovations have of course come from our authors: new materials, properties, synthetic methods, characterization techniques, applications, ... all reported within the pages of *Advanced Materials*. With the aid of the ISI Web of Science science citation index we have investigated the publication behavior of our authors: who our top 50 authors are,^[1] how often they have published with us, and their most highly cited *Advanced Materials* article. This information has been compiled in the table on page 1692.

Five of the authors listed have published over 30 articles (each!) with us (G. A. Ozin, J. S. Miller, K. Müllen, G. M. Whitesides, and Y. Xia), a very impressive number. Several of the authors listed have collaborated closely with each other, for example, M. R. Anderson and O. Inganäs; D. Fichou and G. Horowitz; B. F. Chmelka, G. D. Stucky, and P. Yang. This is reflected in a common most highly cited article. A significant proportion of the papers are Communications. The rest comprise Reviews and a smattering of Research News articles. Not unexpectedly, 80 % of the articles listed were published over 5 years ago—the older an article is, the more time it has had to accumulate citations.

We have also compiled a complete list of Review articles that have been published in *Advanced Materials* (see page 1695). These represent topics that have occupied materials scientists over the past 15 years: polymers, luminescence, optics, liquid crystals, semiconductors, ceramics, hybrids, porous materials, materials characterization, self-assembly, nanotechnology, etc. This list, sorted according to topic rather than year, is also available on the *Advanced Materials* home page.

We hope you enjoy browsing the following pages. Further highlights, both past and future, will be presented in the first issue of 2003—the year marking 15 years of publication of *Advanced Materials*. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you.

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[1] The top 50 authors are defined as those with the highest number of citations for their *Advanced Materials* papers. Owing to the method used to determine these names, we may have inadvertently missed a few of our most highly cited authors. We apologize if this is the case.