

## Editorial

During the past fifteen years development in the theory of and the construction of equipment for chromatographic techniques has made such rapid progress owing to the latter's outstanding suitability for practical applications that there has been a great deal of specialisation as well as considerable flow of information between all interested parties.

For the past two years the classic *liquid chromatography* has been experiencing a renaissance.

The more recent methods of quantitative evaluation used in *thin-layer chromatography*, which has hitherto only been employed for semiquantitative analysis make it possible to reproduce measured values with a coefficient of variation of from 1 to 3 %, whereas previously the coefficient variation was from 10 to 30 %.

*Gas chromatography* is nearing a stage where quantitative analyses can be reproduced with a coefficient of variation of 0.2 %, which now makes it worthwhile using fully electronic data processing equipment and, in addition, offers entirely new possibilities of control in the organo-chemical industry and in research.

Rapid separations whose recording and quantitative evaluation have hitherto been difficult can now be stored on magnetic tape. Since it is possible to record chromatograms in the usual form by playing back the tapes, the analyst can still exercise personal judgement.

In any case, equipment in analytical laboratories is becoming more and more sophisticated.

This state of affairs is beginning to overtax the knowledge and capabilities of the individual and makes cooperation with other disciplines necessary.

It has been found that it is very difficult to solve certain analytical problems quickly and economically by using only one method; the combined use of chromatographic techniques and other methods of analysis gives better results or, in some cases, is the only way to solve the problem.

The combination of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry provides a case in point.

In order to be able to recognise the possibilities of combination, one must be acquainted with the individual methods.

Excessive specialisation is harmful.

Modern analytical problems place such great demands on the accuracy, sensitivity, reliability, speed and economy of the instruments that they can only be solved by close cooperation between theorists, users and instrument manufacturers.

This necessitates a rapid exchange of information between the interested parties. Many good ideas are not put into practice and valuable hints are lost if there is too much delay in exchanging information after conferences.

In some traditionally produced journals publication delay is as much as 6 to 12 months.

Symposiums are sometimes too highly organised so that – quite unintentionally – the scope of the discussions is restricted by time, and subject matter, quite apart from psychological factors. Accordingly, the yield of information is poor.

Depassing linguistic boundaries, *Chromatographia* will become the vehicle of rapid information exchange. To achieve this purpose the contents will include

**Original Papers** – text in either English, French, German; title, summary, captions of figures in all three languages.

**Short Communications** – with titles in three languages and an English summary if written in German or French, giving the possibility of rapid publishing of new results.

**Letters to the Editors** – permitting exchange of views and information on topics initiated at conferences and meetings etc., and comments on previously published material with absolute minimum delay.

**Review Articles** – meeting the extensive demand for critical examination of recent advances in specific techniques and theories. Titles and summaries will be written in three languages.

**Green Pages** – a particular characteristic of *Chromatographia*. Written in English, French and German, they will give details of good laboratory practice, general apparatus know-how and elegant solutions to common problems. They will contribute to a better understanding of foreign scientific and technical language.

**Scientific Articles by Instrument**

**Manufacturers** – describing the characteristics of their instruments will help users to get the best of commercial instruments.

**General**

**Information** – on forthcoming events, such as meetings, conferences, discussion groups and exhibitions, of interest to all chromatographers.

Unhindered by linguistic obstacles, *Chromatographia* will permit constant and up-to-date comparison of chromatographic and related techniques.

The editors will fully respect the personal touch in form and contents of the authors' contributions.

As *Chromatographia* will meet the pressing demand for rapid transmission of information in three languages, the reader will have to make allowance for any formal deficiencies that may occur. Maximum information density should be the guiding principle to the authors in writing their contributions and summaries.

Translations often entail stylistic shortcomings. The editors will give priority to accuracy and comprehensibility and consider elegant style a less important factor. They will

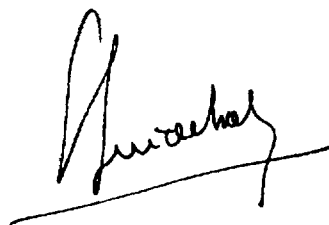
reject chromatograms that have been improved but welcome well drawn diagrams and original chromatograms, as their information yield is particularly high.

Any translation problems will be solved by the acting publisher; control of linguistic accuracy will be maintained by the regional editors.

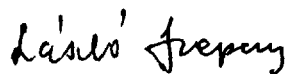
Conditions for submission of manuscripts as well as the regional editors' addresses are indicated on the last page.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D R Deans". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line that extends to the right.

D. R. Deans

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guiochon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line that extends to the right.

G. Guiochon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Szepesy". The signature is written in black ink.

L. Szepesy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Kaiser". The signature is written in black ink and ends with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

R. Kaiser