Dear Reader

Bob Kleinmann¹

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Dear Reader,

The journal in your hands may be smaller than last time. We recently discovered that some of the papers intended for this issue were somehow caught up in Springer-Nature's on-line system and did not get sent on to production promptly. If you see only 16 papers, this means that the issue had to go to press before the waylaid manuscripts could be approved by their authors. Alternatively, if the issue arrived in your mailbox later than usual, this means that we were able to have the publication delayed a little in an attempt to get a few more papers into this issue. On-line publication will not be delayed and any manuscripts that had their in-print publication delayed will be included in our December issue.

Next, some good news: our journal's impact factor has risen to 2.145 from our previous rating of 1.521, which was itself a substantial increase over all previous years (The greater impact factor reflects the fact that the papers in our journal are being read and cited more often). Christian Wolkersdorfer posted this news on journal's web page (<https://www.IMWA.info/mwen>) in late June, as soon as we

learned about it, but some readers may not have seen that notice, and this is the first time that I have had a chance to announce it. To put this in perspective, it is extremely unusual for a small journal such as ours to have an impact factor over 1, let alone over 2. Our impact factor is now better than over half of the world's water resource journals in Clarivate Analytics' science citation index! This is extremely important to the academics and researchers whose work is judged by the impact factor of the journals in which they are published. We thank all of you who have read and cited papers published in this journal, as well as our authors, and our excellent group of reviewers and editors.

This means, of course, that we will continue to receive more and more manuscript submissions. However, we expect that many of them will be too academic for our journal to publish. We try to reject such papers immediately, without sending them out for review, as we want our journal to focus on the research that has a reasonable likelihood of being useful (or at least interesting) to the practitioners as well as the researchers among us. And as I have said many times before, we ask the practitioners among us to write up and send us case studies that illustrate something novel or that describe the implementation of a new technology, so that the rest of this community can learn from your experiences (positive or negative). Such papers may not be highly cited, but they are key components of this journal and generally, are of more practical benefit than most of the other papers we publish. Submit them as Technical Communications or as IMWA Insights and let us know if you want the manuscript to be peer reviewed or, alternatively, if you want me to be the sole reviewer.

It is too early to know whether next year's citation index rating will be as high as this year's, but we have great hope for the future, with three special issues in the offing. In addition to the special issues planned on pit lakes and mine water research in China already announced in this column, Professor Rafael Fernández-Rubio has just offered to serve as guest editor for a special issue on tailings dams. If you have experience in this field, either in terms of their proper

✉ Bob Kleinmann
editor@MWEN.info

¹ HDR Inc, Pittsburgh, USA

design or aspects or impacts of tailings dam failures, please send an abstract to Rafael at: R. Fernandez-Rubio@MWEN.info. Note that Rafael's emphasis is on sharing what we have learned from the errors of the past, not to be a "black chronicle" of those tragic accidents.

Moving on to another topic, I recently became aware of an on-line resource, the Oxford Research Encyclopedia, and specifically, an article in the volume on: Environmental Issues and Problems, Environmental Engineering, Sustainability and Solutions at: <https://doi.org/c8vg>, titled "Mining, Ecological Engineering, and Metals Extraction for the 21st Century." It was authored by IMWA member Margarete Kalin. Margarete and I began to research passive treatments systems at about the same time, but went off in different directions. Her co-authors are William N. Wheeler (an algal physiologist), Michael P. Sudbury, and Bryn Harris, both senior mining and mineral extraction professionals. Ecological mine waste and water management processes are described in non-scientific language and comes with a plethora of references to feasibility and case studies. It is a nice overview and introduction to the topic and should be read by new mine water researchers and practitioners as well as anyone else who wants to learn more about the subject area.

I am writing this column from Russia, where our 2019 conference just recently concluded. The organizers and planners did a great job and their staff, volunteers, and translators were all very helpful. We learned when we were there that this was the first time an international conference of that size had been held at Perm State University and until IMWA 2019, many there were skeptical that it could be done. The planning committee headed by Elena Khayrulina can be very proud of their success!

Finally, I can now announce that next year's conference will be held in New Zealand, in September or October, 2020. Many of us are looking forward to visiting that wonderland. More details on the site location and exact dates will be announced in this column in 3 months, and earlier than that at the IMWA web site. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best Regards,

Bob Kleinmann, PhD; Editor-in-Chief