

**“Change is inevitable—except from a vending machine.”**

— Robert C. Gallagher

# JOM

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Welcome to the end of 2011 and the end of an era for *JOM*.

Back in 2006, TMS began a relationship with Springer Science + Business Media to put the renowned publisher's global marketing, publishing, and distribution muscle behind the classically structured peer-reviewed journals published by TMS—*Journal of Electronic Materials*, *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions A*, and *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B*. The editorial content and philosophy would continue to be managed by our editors and volunteers, but the heavy-lifting of publication management would shift to the better-equipped Springer. A win-win relationship.

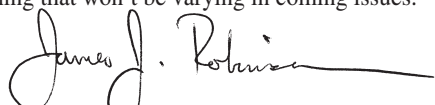
My favorite semi-journal/semi-magazine—*JOM*—was not part of the original agreement as it was not a traditional subscription-based archival publication. It was and still is a hybrid journal/magazine, containing technical articles, news, features, and unique bits of this and that (wait until you see next month's cover story!). It was distributed to TMS members, a handful of nonmembers, and a small number of wise-beyond-their-years librarians demanding it for their institutional shelves. Still, it did not fit the standard Springer product profile and was initially uninteresting to them. After a little more deliberation, however, Springer started to see *JOM* as an intriguing opportunity. A distribution deal for it was soon struck as well.

Fast-forward five years. Thanks to the quality of the journal (Impact Factor = 1.175) and Springer's marketing prowess, *JOM* now reaches not only TMS members but >7,000 institutions worldwide, and there's room for more growth. To develop the opportunity, Springer and TMS are investing in the journal. So, change (and not the small change of the vending machine variety) is on the horizon:

- **Change 1: More Pages, More Papers:** Historically, to control costs, *JOM* has employed a strict page budget, with each volume year averaging 80-page issues. That created a challenge for the editor to decide what to do with a surplus of good papers and no room to publish them all. Delay them to future issues? Mandate cut-downs to draconian page limits? Release them back to the authors to seek publication elsewhere? Going forward, *JOM* essentially has no limit on the number of papers that it publishes (as long as they are deserving, of course). This means more opportunities for authors and more opportunities for volunteers to organize topics.
- **Change 2: Enhanced Author/Reader Experience:** *JOM* is migrating author interactions to Springer's Editorial Manager system. Aside from providing authors and advisors with an industry-standard submission-and-review interface, the system allows for "online first" publication, meaning that as soon as the paper is approved for publication, it will appear on the SpringerLink site—fully readable and immediately referenceable—even if the paper won't appear in print until months later. When the papers are printed, they will be presented in a more traditional technical article format (e.g., larger figures and more readable tables).
- **Change 3: More Web Resources:** Look for a destination *JOM* web portal to debut in the coming months and for a deeper repository of back issues (going back to 1989, at least).

One final note: Change can be challenging to implement. Getting the new systems in place will take some time. That means that the January issue is likely to be late—perhaps arriving in your mailbox in February. After that, however, the issues should consistently arrive before the first of the month for which the issue is dated. That's another change that I can't wait to see.

There's more, but my space to list them all is limited. Alas, the length of this column is one thing that won't be varying in coming issues.



James J. Robinson  
Publisher