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From the Editor-in-Chief



After 18 years at the helm of *Applied Thermal Engineering*, and a further decade and a half as Editor of its predecessors, *Heat Recovery Systems* (launched in 1981 by Pergamon Press, later acquired by Elsevier) and expanded to include within its scope combined heat and power as *Heat Recovery Systems & CHP*, publishing policy requires that I hand over the reins to a successor at the end of 2014. The process of finding a new Editor-in-Chief has commenced, and I will maintain an association with *Applied Thermal Engineering* as Founding Editor (and no doubt as a reviewer!).

I have seen the journals grow from four rather thin issues per annum (typically eight to ten papers in each) to current issues that can number in excess of 500 pages per issue. On a typical day I can now receive up to 20 papers to process – either by allocating them to my most supportive Regional Editors (who in turn have the services of Associate Regional Editors) or dealing with some myself (generally UK and Ireland papers). The transition from literally handling ‘paper’ to electronic submissions and paper management has of course eased the relatively rapid growth from a publication of modest size to the several thousand pages published per annum today. A reduction in my postal charges has been the most obvious financial benefit of this change! My Secretary, Rosemary Williams, who has just today sent invitation letters to 12 potential reviewers for papers, and has been a calm and efficient organiser of my emails over most of the years that the journal procedures have been ‘electronic’, will notice a reduction in the time she needs to decipher some of my hand-written instructions.

Although it takes up a large part of a bookcase, I have retained paper copies of every issue of the Journal since *Heat Recovery Systems* (Vol. 1, No. 1, 1981 – 83 pp) to the latest issue of *Applied Thermal Engineering* (Vol. 69, Issues 1–2, August 2014 – 296 pp). The first issue of *Applied Thermal Engineering* appeared as Vol. 16, No. 1 in January 1996, and two recent issues have each numbered in excess of 800 pages.

I have always believed that an ‘applied engineering’ journal should attract papers from, and be read by, practicing engineers in industry. *Heat Recovery Systems* was fortunate in attracting papers from industry – the first issue having three full papers, including a review article, a paper from Professor Manfred Groll – a long-time supporter of the journals – on heat pipes and a contribution on the role of specialist contractors in heat recovery. This is a paper I still recommend when lecturing on process energy efficiency, and Manfred Groll, still active in research, kicked off the use of the journals as a major forum for heat pipe and thermosyphon research and development that persists to this day.

In 1981 and for several years we existed with one Editor, supported by an Editorial Advisory Board, and of the initial nine EAB members, Professor Leonard Vasiliev in Minsk remains the sole active participant. By 1996, when the name was changed to *Applied*

Thermal Engineering, the EAB had expanded to 22 members, many of whom have remained as loyal supports. We had moved to the Regional Editor format, with four Editors handling papers in different parts of the globe. (We never adopted the ‘topic editor’ post that some journals follow, but to date have retained the regional organisation). Interestingly, the first issue of *Applied Thermal Engineering* included an extensive review of compact heat exchangers in the field of nuclear reactor heat written by Colin McDonald, then of General Atomics. Colin has just completed another review that will be appearing soon – related to gas turbines in small nuclear combined cycle plant.

The increase in the size of the journal in terms of published pages has allowed us to be more flexible in the types of papers we invite and an increasingly important feature of ATE has been the growth in the number of Special Issues. Most notable of these is the PRES series initiated and carried on by Professor Jiri Klemes, but *Applied Thermal Engineering* hosts papers from several other relevant conferences such as the IEA Clean Coal Conference (due out imminently), and Heat Powered Cycle conferences.

Another feature that I would like to highlight, and one that influences positively the growing Impact Factor, is the Review Paper. These are generally either by invitation or via prior discussion with an Editor, and the ‘top’ *Applied Thermal Engineering* paper is a review on thermal energy storage published in 2003.

The move to electronic submission and processing of papers has had several benefits – not least in trouble-shooting. The Editor-in-Chief and his colleagues, as well as the Publisher, increasingly have to handle complaints that may range from an author wanting to add or delete a co-author at a late stage of paper production, to serious cases of plagiarism. The latter area has been substantially eased by the ability of Editors to access the *Ithenticate* software on line to check each submitted manuscript prior to the review process. This does not always identify dual submission to journals however, as it depends upon the prior publication of the paper.

No Editor can function without the support of his co-Editors (in the case of ATE these are regional) their Associate Editors and of course Editorial Board members, who bear the burden of repeated requests to undertake reviews. I have been extremely fortunate in having a loyal and hard-working team of Editors to support me over the decades – ones in which I have seen, in common with other journal editors, a massive growth in paper submissions from the Far East. This region accounts for between 30 and 40% of all papers submitted.

We do not get much time to thank or reward reviewers and these are the bedrock of any respectable scientific publication. While reviewer databases can become inaccurate and Editors tend to concentrate increasing on trouble-shooting and chasing reviews rather than updating the lists, *Applied Thermal Engineering*

has relied upon a growing band of loyal reviewers for whom the task of assisting with our papers is never too much – I thank you all.

Without authors there would be no journal. *Applied Thermal Engineering* is fortunate in having a loyal author base that has expanded substantially since 1996, from which I regularly receive excellent papers on a wide variety of relevant topics. Of the eight corresponding authors of papers in Volume 16, Number 1, three are still contributors. With the title covering a broad range of thermal engineering, the Journal has attracted contributions from fields where in the past it might have been considered inappropriate. Thermal analysis using medical diagnostic equipment is one that comes to mind.

Last, but by no means least, a successful journal needs the full backing of the Publisher. I have been most fortunate in having Keith Lambert as Publisher since before *Applied Thermal Engineering's* conception (with a short break when he took on another task), and Keith has unswervingly supported me over the years. Production and organisation of issues also depends upon staff based overseas – Anup Kumar in India and Betty Chang in China. Anup has

dug me out of a hole on production issues many times, and Betty has put real organisational skills into producing Special Issues on time. My most grateful thanks to all of you.

I wish my successor (or successors – perhaps the task will be shared), whoever he or she may be, a pleasurable and constructive time leading *Applied Thermal Engineering*. No doubt there will be changes – a 'new broom' and all that – but hopefully we have built up an enduring Journal with aims and scope that remain highly relevant today.

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