

Publications Committee Defines Scope of New Archival Journal Through Recent Survey

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For the past several months the MRS Publications Committee has been studying the need for a new archival journal in the materials science field. A survey was part of an overall effort to establish both the need for and defining the purpose and content of the proposed journal. Approximately 40 individuals were involved in executing the survey, providing ideas, and interpreting survey results. Among them were eminent scientists, journal editors and consultants, MRS Officers, committee members, and Society enthusiasts. The survey consisted of 18 questions, which were divided into three groups: (1) questions on format (appearance, title, etc.) (2) substantive issues (editorial policy, aim and scope, etc.), and (3) the "bottom line"—questions dealing with the need and desirability of the journal and degree of support we can expect from within and without MRS.

Background

Discussions concerning the suitability of starting a new materials science journal have been ongoing within MRS circles for the past few years. The Society has been sensitive to the need to provide a medium for the publication of members' archival papers as well as the work of other scientists to augment its Symposia Proceedings series. Additionally, there appeared to be a genuine desire for a high-caliber, interdisciplinary journal as the preferred mode of publication for the scientific community, and it was evident that this need was not entirely met by any of the existing journals.

Last year, 1984 President Woody White asked the Publications Committee to look into the feasibility of launching MRS's own archival journal. The Publications Committee, with John Baglin as chairperson, investigated the mechanics and finances of journal publication. In a report to the MRS Council in the fall of 1984, Baglin and I presented the results of our inquiries concerning (1) commercial publishers, (2) not-for-profit publishers, and (3) MRS acting as its own publisher. The

Council responded by requesting the Publications Committee continue to pursue launching a new journal. Early in 1985, MRS President Elton Kaufmann asked the Publications Committee to further define and clarify the proposed journal by means of a survey.

Survey Results

Respondents to the first section of the survey indicated a preference for a monthly journal that would be 8½ in. x 11 in. in size. The title *Journal of Materials Research* was the most popular title. However, one concludes from the results of the second and third sections that the survey respondents described a journal that was in contrast with most existing journals. The primary distinction, the respondents indicated, was that the journal should cultivate, by the types of articles it encourages and publishes, interdisciplinary approaches to materials science. Disciplinary divisions or sections in the journal were to be avoided. Subject-wise, respondents indicated that it should be very broad-based, encompassing a wider range of materials, material properties, processes, etc., than can now be found between the covers of virtually any other journal. Special consideration was to be given to topics in the forefront of materials research. The new journal would exist primarily to publish full-length, archival articles in the materials science field, although it was also clear that critical reviews would be well received by most readers.

The respondents demanded that the scientific quality of every article be high. In fact, most respondents expressed the view that a journal's reputation for publishing high-quality papers is the most significant factor in deciding whether to submit their manuscripts. It was furthermore recommended that the editorial board be comprised of an Editor-in-Chief and a group of Principal Editors, who collectively, will be responsible for the day-to-day work of reviewing, assembling, and publishing the journal. A panel of distinguished scientists should meet

annually to critique the performance of the editorial board and recommend ways to improve the journal.

One may well ask, as several of the respondents did, why publish another journal for the scientific community? This question was answered partially by the type of journal the respondents defined. Of the few interdisciplinary materials journals now being published, none benefit from the direct ownership and control of a scientific society. With effective management, the society affiliation can be utilized to enhance both circulation and manuscript submission.

On behalf of the Publications Committee, I would like to express our appreciation to the survey respondents for the time and effort they expended helping define the journal. The process of clarifying and refining the concept of the journal will doubtless be an ongoing effort to ensure the journal continues to reflect forefront areas of materials research. This survey provided a valuable means of collecting and synthesizing many excellent ideas and provided the Society with the direction it needed to establish an invaluable publication to meet the specific needs of the materials researcher.

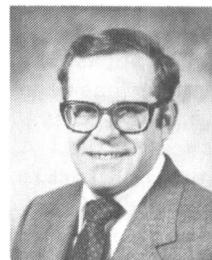
Some of the individuals who participated in the survey are:

B. R. Appleton, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; J. E. E. Baglin, IBM, T. J. Watson Research Center; C. F. Bender, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory; D. Brookins, University of New Mexico; L. L. Chang, IBM, T. J. Watson Research Center; G. Y. Chin, AT&T Bell Laboratories; J. W. Corbett, State University of New York-Albany; W. K. Chu, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; C. Draper, AT&T Technologies; M. Dreselhaus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; R. C. Ewing, University of New Mexico; J. C. C. Fan, Lincoln Laboratory; L. C. Feldman, AT&T Bell Laboratories, F. Y.

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Nominating Committee Prepares Slate of Candidates for Upcoming Elections

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Woody White

The MRS Nominating Committee is in the process of preparing a slate of candidates for several positions to be submitted to the MRS membership in the upcoming elections. Positions that must be filled for 1986 by the elections include those of 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and five positions on the MRS Council. These elections will determine the leadership of MRS for 1986 and beyond.

Balanced Representation Sought for Officers and Councillors

The objective of the Nominating Committee is to submit to the membership candidates who would provide strong, creative leadership and oversight to the Materials Research Society and who meet a number of criteria. An important criterion is that the candidates represent a wide range of scientific backgrounds, since one of the main objectives of MRS is the promotion of interdisciplinary research. The 1985 MRS Officers represent scientific backgrounds in physics, chemistry, and geology, and members of the MRS Council have a similar wide-range of scientific interests. Another important objective is that candidates represent academic, government, and industrial laboratories, since MRS membership is divided roughly equally along these lines.

Individuals who hold the positions of 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President are expected to provide leadership to the Society on a daily (even minute-

by-minute) basis and individuals who seek these positions must be prepared to make a substantial commitment of their personal time to the Society. These positions are responsible for overseeing most of the MRS Committee activities, and candidates for the Vice Presidential positions must have substantial previous experience with MRS and understand its operation. The individual elected to the position of 1st Vice President is also the President-Elect, and will serve as President for the following year as provided for in the MRS Constitution.

The Council of MRS is the governing body and the ultimate authority of the Society. The Council is composed of the Officers of the Society and 15 elected Council members. Individual Council members are elected for three-year terms, and each year five positions on the Council are determined by the elections. Candidates for these positions must be capable of providing careful and thoughtful leadership to the Society. The Council meets twice a year as a body and is responsible for determining all of the major policies and directions for MRS. Candidates for positions of the Council must be capable of assuming these responsibilities. Ideally, the Council should consist of a mixture of individuals who have substantial previous experience with MRS, and some senior individuals with broad vision and experience but limited previous involvement with the Society. These senior "outside" indi-

viduals are expected to provide an objective assessment of the MRS mode of operation, while those with MRS experience are expected to keep the Council constantly aware of the scope and purpose of MRS activities.

1985 Nominations Under Consideration

After the Nominating Committee prepares the slate of candidates, it is submitted to the MRS Council for approval and then submitted to the MRS membership for the vote which will determine the Officers and Council members for the following year. Members can expect to receive their ballots for selection of 1985 Officers and Council by August 1.

MRS is in an extremely rapid growth stage and the prestige and visibility of the Society have increased tremendously in the last two years. The upcoming elections are critically important because the individuals who are selected will be responsible for maintaining and accelerating the momentum which has been established. All members of MRS are encouraged to participate in the election process. This is your Society, and its leaders should be responsive to your needs.

*Woody White is Past President of MRS and chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Publications Committee *(continued from previous page)*

Fradin, Argonne National Laboratory; H. C. Gatos, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; H. Herman, State University of New York-Stony Brook; W. C. Herring, Stanford University; Sir P. Hirsch, University of Oxford; R. Hodgson, IBM, T. J. Watson Research Center; K. A. Jackson, AT&T Bell Laboratories; Q. Johnson, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; E. N. Kaufmann, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; R. K. MacCrone, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, T. B. Massalski, Naval Postgraduate School, G. L. McVay,

Battelle, Northwest; J. Narayan, Microelectronics Center of North Carolina; C. J. Northup, Sandia National Laboratory; G. A. Oare, MRS Headquarters; R. Osgood, Columbia University; J. M. Phillips, AT&T Bell Laboratories; S. T. Picraux, Sandia National Laboratory; G. Pike, Sandia National Laboratory; P. Pronko, Universal Energy Systems; J. M. Poate, AT&T Bell Laboratories; R. Roy, Pennsylvania State University; R. Schwoebel, Sandia National Laboratory; T. W. Sigmon, Stanford University; K. C. Taylor, GM Research Labora-

tories; L. Testardi, National Bureau of Standards; K. N. Tu, IBM. T. J. Watson Research Laboratory; A. R. von Hippel, Weston, MA; F. F. Y. Wang, State University of New York-Stony Brook; C. W. White, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; F. W. Young, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Many other individuals contributed to this survey, but due to space limitations, they cannot all be listed here.

*Dave Campbell serves as chairperson of the Journal Subcommittee which conducted the survey described in this report.