

## Introduction to Symposium on ACS Divisional Preprints— Purpose, Production and Costs, and Place in the Chemical Literature\*

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Preprints of national meeting papers are published by five ACS divisions: Fuel Chemistry, Organic Coatings and Plastics Chemistry, Petroleum Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry, Water and Waste Chemistry. One ACS division, Chemical Marketing and Economics, publishes postprints.

In addition to serving specific divisional needs, each of these six publications constitutes a special part of the chemical literature. For a publication to be considered as a part of the permanent chemical literature, however, it must satisfy two criteria: (1) it must be retrievable through reference sources and (2) it must be reasonably available through purchase or loan.

These six publications are not described or listed in ACS pamphlets, *Chemical and Engineering News*, *List of Periodicals Abstracted by Chemical Abstracts*, or *Cumulative Book Index*. They are not well known by ACS members as I discovered on questioning over fifty members chosen at random. The members of a division, regardless of whether the division published preprints or not, may be aware of one of these publications. Chemical librarians may be aware of two or three. I found no one, including several Washington ACS employees, who knew all six publications. No library of the larger chemical companies in the Philadelphia—Wilmington area had all of these publications in its collection.

Availability of these publications is controlled by the ACS regulation limiting the number of copies to 130% of divisional membership. A division may issue more than this number of copies, however, by merely requesting permission to do so. The number of copies has been relatively low, undoubtedly because of printing and storage costs. Consequently, even if a person were aware of the existence of one of these preprints, he might find it difficult to obtain a copy more than a few years old.

It is obvious, therefore, that if preprints are to enjoy a maximum value they must be better known. This symposium, being the first literature on divisional preprints, makes available to other divisions the experience of the five divisions issuing preprints. The papers by Drs. Glenn, Craver, Rosenbaum, and Bramer on the

advantages and problems of preprints from the divisional viewpoint and the paper by Mr. Kuney on the economics of publishing preprints provide other divisions with the facts necessary for establishing their need for preprints. These papers also inform the ACS membership and librarians of the existence of divisional preprints.

One of the more important reasons for a division to issue preprints has been related to the absence of a good publication source for the papers presented. Within the past several years, three divisions not issuing preprints considered preprinting because only a small percentage of their presented papers could find publication media. These divisions were also concerned about the dispersion of their published papers among many unrelated journals. Because preprints may be a logical prelude to the establishment of a journal, the Division of Petroleum Chemistry's considerations and studies of this potential transition are described by Dr. Oblad. Divisions, however, may use an outlet other than preprints for their publication problems. For this reason the possible use of the *Advances in Chemistry Series* by all ACS divisions is discussed by Mr. Gould.

Until the third edition of *Webster's International Dictionary* was published in 1961, "preprint" was defined as "a print made in advance of book or periodical publication." In 1961, the definition included "a printing of a speech, lecture, or paper issued before its formal delivery." The word "postprint" does not appear in the dictionary. Strictly speaking, preprints are "proceedings of. . ." or "papers presented before. . ."

That "preprint" implies subsequent publication prompted *Chemical Abstracts* to delay abstracting the individual papers in divisional preprints for approximately 18 months after the meeting. This, of course, required that *Chemical Abstracts* make sure the paper had not been published during this period. On being abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts*, the paper could no longer be published in an ACS journal. This rule has caused some unhappiness among authors and prompted the Committee of ACS Editors in the Fall of 1961 to recommend that *Chemical Abstracts* not abstract divisional preprints. Dr. Tate discusses the place of preprints in the chemical literature.

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