

## From the Division of Petroleum Chemistry Preprints to a Journal\*

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I have been asked to tell you something about the plans the Division of Petroleum Chemistry has for converting its preprints into a journal. We are thinking of calling this new journal "Petroleum Chemistry" or "Journal of Petroleum Chemistry," and I shall refer to it accordingly. If we are successful in our plans, a long existing goal will have been accomplished. A journal has been in the works in our Division ever since the Division was founded. When the Division was being founded in 1920 and 1921, a survey was made of petroleum chemists regarding the desirability of founding a Division of Petroleum Chemistry. Some of the chemists urged that the new Division have its own journal. I quote from Dr. Gruse's paper, "The Petroleum Division Forty Years Ago," which contains some of the early opinions about founding the Division. "One of the chief results which might be accomplished by such a section would be a more effective publication of petroleum work; and to accomplish this and develop a sense of organization, it would be desirable to publish all such papers in one journal." Well, we have been a long time at it and the end is only now in sight.

### THE PREPRINTS

The Division of Petroleum Chemistry published preprints of its programs at the very beginning of the Division in 1921. The practice has continued to this day. In the early days the papers were mimeographed on letter size paper, assembled, stapled by hand as individual papers and sent out to the members in advance of the meeting. Cary Wagner, who was Secretary-Treasurer for many years, finally negotiated with a planograph company in Chicago and proceeded to put out our pocket size preprint that is prevalent today. This was first done in 1937 at the Rochester meeting. Rochester was an appropriate place, because the Division was established there in 1921 as a division of the ACS.

The motivating idea behind the preprints always has been the stimulation of discussion at the Division program sessions. The theory has been to assume that the papers have been read prior to the meeting and that the meeting actually should be largely devoted to discussion. The idea worked very well originally, and even now works

fairly well. We try to avoid having the authors read their papers, and concentrate on giving a short summary, followed by discussion. Besides this idea, most petroleum chemists value the preprints very highly as a compendium of the finest literature available on the broad subject of petroleum chemistry.

The Long Range Planning Committee of the Division carried out a survey two years ago, to determine what the membership liked about the Division and what could be improved, changed or instituted to make the Division more effective. The most outstanding result of this survey was the enthusiasm shown for the preprints as they are now published. Over 90% of the replies favored continuing the preprints as is. I am sure, from reading these many letters and talking to the members, that the preprints are the principal reason why members belong to our Division.

The publication of the preprints has been a very important factor in attaining the large membership of the Division, even though our dues are relatively high. Apparently the members feel that they have received in the preprints a concrete and valuable return from their membership. Our renewal rate has been high, and many of our members have been on the roll for a long time. We feel that the preprints have been an excellent rallying medium which, together with excellent communications between Divisional officers and the members, have built up over the years a strong loyalty to the Division, and a true professional spirit among petroleum chemists.

### REASONS FOR "PETROLEUM CHEMISTRY"

Why then, if our preprints are so successful, do we want to consider publishing a journal? The reasons are:

1. Avoids double publication of papers.
2. Assures publication of all divisional papers.
3. Gives a greater flexibility to divisional programs.
4. A journal has been a 40 year goal of the Division of Petroleum Chemistry.

Reasons 1 and 2 considered together appear to be conflicting. In a certain sense this is true, because our preprints are a publication and they are not a publication. The Executive Committee of our Division has felt for a long time that, particularly since our preprints

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have become quite formal, issuance of the preprints as now constituted followed by appearance of the papers in the ACS journals, constituted "double publication." We have felt that at some time in the future, the ACS, because of the expense involved, and the pressure of an ever increasing publication load, could not afford to republish our papers. Presently, we are operating in a gray area regarding whether or not the preprints are a publication. Eventually, preprints will become recognized as publications. It appears to us as unavoidable and the trend will therefore be toward more and more Division journals.

Let me say that the cooperation received from the ACS editors has been excellent, and our decision to go for a journal does not reflect in any way our dissatisfaction with their attitude toward us, or their performance in publishing our articles.

A number of years ago we made a study to determine what percentage of our papers ultimately were published in ACS or other journals. As I remember this, it was somewhere between 60 and 80%. We made a real effort to encourage authors to publish their articles, but never succeeded in getting much out of this effort. Many authors were just not interested, or did not have the time to whip their articles through a final publication. Thus a lot of excellent material was "lost," except for appearance in the preprints. Our own journal will certainly solve this problem.

Since the ACS cannot always say in advance that a symposium will be published, we have had some difficulty in getting desirable papers. Some authors just are not willing to submit a paper to a program if they are not assured that it will be published. This is especially true in certain border line areas of science not ordinarily covered by ACS. The ACS, of course, is willing to release such papers for publication elsewhere. However, this does not always appease the authors, because it is their desire to see the paper published as part of the symposium. Having our own journal will solve these problems.

Finally, being able to guarantee publication will, for reasons already mentioned, allow our program chairmen great flexibility in subject matter. No one will refuse to participate on the basis that his paper will not be published. It will appear where it should, as one part of the symposium. Likewise, we can widen our field of subject matter, which over the years has become more and more limited by ACS's capacity to publish.

What are our plans for the journal, and how will we carry them out? A lot of effort has gone into this already, and much more will be required before we finally establish our journal. Our survey showed that the membership was overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the preprints as they are now. The Division was about evenly divided regarding establishing a journal of Petroleum Chemistry, and it was plain that the membership would not like to see a journal established at the expense of the preprints. The question arose as to how we could have a journal and continue the preprints at the same time. We finally concluded that what the membership really desired was a continuation of the advance receipt feature of our program papers. We cannot print our papers twice, so we decided that four issues a year of the journal should be largely devoted to program papers, and sent out in advance to the members and subscribers. With this feature in mind

we went back and resurveyed our membership regarding the desirability of publishing a journal. The survey showed about 85% of the members now in favor on this new basis. Furthermore, 92% said they would continue presenting papers before the Division, knowing that appearance in the journal would constitute final publication by the ACS.

In view of these results the Long Range Planning Committee recommended and the Executive Committee tentatively accepted the proposition that the Division convert its preprints to a journal. We are now in the process of bringing this about and have set the date for the conversion as January 1, 1964.

In presenting our plans for this conversion, I know of no better way than to summarize our "Proposal for Petroleum Chemistry," which was submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee to the Executive Committee of the Division at their meeting in Washington, D. C., March, 1962.

#### PROPOSAL FOR "PETROLEUM CHEMISTRY"

After many years of consideration of publishing a journal, including surveys of the membership, the Division of Petroleum Chemistry has decided to convert its preprints into a journal. The last survey showed that about 85% of the members favored converting the preprints to a journal. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Society, the Division intends to initiate the following program:

1. Approval of the formal plans of the journal by the Executive Committee of the Division of Petroleum Chemistry.
2. Submission of the plans to the Board of Directors of the ACS for formal approval.
3. Change of the bylaws of the Division of Petroleum Chemistry to accommodate the publication of a journal.
4. Approval by the membership of the Division at a regular business meeting of the Division.
5. Publication of the journal beginning January 1, 1964.

The concept of the journal is somewhat different from that existing for scientific literature. Expenses at all times will be held to a minimum and not more than three months time between receipt of paper and its publication will be strived for. Editorial changes in papers will be held to a minimum.

The name recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee is "Petroleum Chemistry."

#### POLICY

The Division of Petroleum Chemistry shall publish "Petroleum Chemistry" under its own auspices and it will be devoted to the science and technology of petroleum and related materials, such as natural gas, shale, tar sands and derivatives thereof. "Petroleum Chemistry" will be published in at least six issues a year. Certain issues, or parts of issues, will be devoted to publishing papers of National Meeting programs in advance of the meeting, as is now done with the preprints. Papers will be accepted from a world-wide clientele and authors do not have to be

members of the American Chemical Society, or members of the Division of Petroleum Chemistry. Exception to the latter provision will be the papers accepted for presentation at National Meetings. All accepted papers are the property of the Division, and cannot be published elsewhere except by permission of the Division.

The division shall continue its present scheme in preparing its General Session and Symposium programs for National Meeting programs.

Publication of "Petroleum Chemistry," editorial policy, appointing of the Editor and the Editorial Board, budgets and pricing shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Division of Petroleum Chemistry.

The Editor shall be responsible to the Executive Committee, and shall have full responsibility for the publication of "Petroleum Chemistry" within the confines of the duties and policies set forth by the Executive Committee of the Division. The Editorial Board shall consist of seven members, including the Editor and six Associate Editors. The term of office of the Editor shall be determined at the discretion of the Committee. The term of office of the Associate Editors will be three years, two of the Editors being appointed each year. The Editor shall suggest candidates for the Editorial Board to the Executive Committee, but the Committee shall not be bound by such suggestions in making appointments. "Petroleum Chemistry" will be set up as a legal entity as of itself.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

"Petroleum Chemistry" will encompass the following subject matter:

1. Chemistry of composition of petroleum, natural gas, tar sands, shale, asphaltic material, etc.
2. Chemistry and technology of hydrocarbon reactions and processes.
3. Chemistry and technology of chemicals derived from hydrocarbons.
4. Chemistry associated with the origin, exploration for and production of petroleum, natural gas, and alternates as listed previously.
5. The chemistry of the utilization and transportation of petroleum and its alternate materials and their derivatives.

Papers accepted for publication will mainly be concerned with original research. However, review papers, if competently prepared, will be accepted.

In the event of budget restrictions, the members of the Division of the Society will be given preference. "Petroleum Chemistry" will provide space for editorial comment from the Chairman of the Division and the Editor, letters to the Editor, Communications to the Editor, and news of the Division in the form of a secretary's page.

#### FORMAT

"Petroleum Chemistry" shall be of a standard size corresponding to the other Society journals. A page shall be provided giving a summary of editorial policy, and instructions to authors shall be included. Papers will have titles, author's names, location of authors, according to the usual style of the Society's publications. References shall appear at the end of the paper. Usual notations shall be used.

#### FINANCIAL

Based on projected six issues per year, 200 pages per issue and 4,000 circulation, a preliminary budget for a year is projected to be about \$25,000. We expect to meet these budget figures through dues from members, subscriptions and advertising. Our budget is very reasonable, due to the fact that the editorial costs are quite small. For the most part the work will be done on a voluntary basis, as it has for the preprints. All the officers of the Division, and many members, will participate in the overall job of getting the journal out and making it a success. I am sure the usual spirit of enterprise and enthusiasm prevailing within the Division will apply to the journal. With this backing it can't help being a success.

Forty years of experience issuing preprints certainly has prepared the Division for publishing "Petroleum Chemistry." We are quite aware of the difficulties involved, but we are confident that we can make a success of it.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

We anticipate about 1,000 to 1,500 subscriptions in addition to the membership. Pricing of these subscriptions to non-members will be approximately \$9.50 per year.

The printing, wrapping and mailing of the journal will be handled by Sauls Lithograph Company, Washington, D. C. This company has handled these functions for the Divisional Preprints for many years, and has been most helpful and cooperative.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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