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F.N. Blanchard and G.J. Palenik
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Ron Jenkins, JCPDS-ICDO, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, was formerly Principal Scientist, Philips Electronic Instruments. He has been actively involved in the application of X-ray spectrographic and diffraction techniques and has published six books and more than 100 papers on these methods.

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Second Announcement...

The first international congress on X-ray Analytical Methods for Materials Analysis will be held in Honolulu, August 12-16, 1991, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Congress Theme...

The major thrust of this meeting will be related to the practical aspects involved in X-ray methods for materials analysis. This will be in keeping with the tradition of the Australian X-Ray Analytical Association (AXAA), the Denver X-Ray Conference and the X-Ray Chemical Analysis Group of the Japan Society of Analytical Chemistry.

To be discussed will be the use of X-ray methods based on Powder Diffraction, Fluorescence, Surface Analysis, Absorptiometry, Column Electron Diffraction and Thin Film Characterization by X-ray Diffraction, and Trace Analysis and Thin Film Characterization by X-Ray Fluorescence.

A two day pre-congress workshop program will be held at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, on August 8 and 9.

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Editorial

I am pleased to announce that Jan W. Visser has accepted the position of Editor for the European area beginning immediately. He will be replacing J. (Hans) L. de Vries who has been the Editor for the last two years.

Jan Visser recently retired as the Head of the X-ray Department at the Technisch Physische Dienst TNO-TH, a position he held for many years. He has produced many papers on the characterization of crystalline compounds, but he is best known for his computer program for indexing powder patterns of new crystalline compounds. This program was an outgrowth of his association with P.M. de Wolff in the 1960’s, and it has seen twelve revisions in the last 25 years.

My introduction to the value of this program came in 1981 when we were doing a JCPDS test of peak-finding algorithms. I created several sets of simulated diffractometer traces which contained peaks from two hypothetical crystalline materials with added background and statistical noise. Using the Delft peak finding routine and the indexing routine, Visser solved three of the four test sets and found the unit cell for both components. The fourth set was so noisy, that it was hard to even locate the peaks. No one else ever solved one of the test sets. I was impressed.

Visser has directed the "Delft Associateship" for around 15 years. This project was one of the pattern-producing Grants-in-Aid sponsored by the JCPDS-International Centre for Diffraction Data. An average of 20 patterns were produced each year which are some of the highest quality patterns in the Powder Diffraction File. His experience makes him eminently suitable to be an Editor of Powder Diffraction.

Hans de Vries studied under Professor C.H. MacGillavry at the University of Amsterdam and did graduate work at the Pennsylvania State University. He played a vital role in the powder diffraction method in Europe in the 1950’s. In addition to directing the X-ray Diffraction Laboratory for N. V. Philips in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, he lectured all over the world on X-ray methods for materials analysis. He officially retired in 1985.

Hans de Vries has initiated the editorial activities in Europe over the last two years and has helped establish Powder Diffraction as the primary journal in its field. He reluctantly agreed to accept this responsibility while the journal staff was being formulated and will now relinquish these duties to retire fully. The whole staff of Powder Diffraction would like to express its thanks for his assistance during this period and wish him a long and well earned retirement.

There is another change that will be initiated in this issue of Powder Diffraction. The title of the "Departments" section has been changed to “International Report” to reflect the goals of this section. Helein Hitchcock will continue as the Editor of this section with regional correspondents Jaroslav Fiala and Tony Raftery covering Eastern Europe and Australia respectively. I should indicate that these two “appointments” are not really new. They have been contributing items for some time. We are now structured to recognize these contributions and encourage others with information on meetings, courses, and other activities of interest to crystallographers and diffractionists to supply the information to Helein Hitchcock.

Deane K. Smith
Editor-in-Chief