

From the Editor

The completion of Volume 1 finds *Advances in Cement Research* firmly established as an international journal dealing with the scientific study of cements and cementitious materials. The steadily rising number of subscribers (now in nearly 50 countries) and the high standard of submitted papers illustrate how well the journal has been received.

The index to the volume at the back of this issue illustrates the scope of *Advances*. Mainstream topics, such as studies of clinkering reactions, and hydration of cements, are well represented; and others have been more prominent than expected, for example, rheological properties of cement pastes and grouts. However, the importance of some areas of current research activity have not yet been reflected in the number of submitted papers. Durability of concrete is of major concern at present, and although this depends to a great extent on construction practice, many influencing factors are not fully understood; for example, the nature of the aggregate/paste interface, and the interaction of secondary cementitious materials under different curing and exposure conditions. We also anticipate receiving more papers on fibre-reinforced composites, chemically bonded ceramics, and long-term storage of radioactive wastes, for example, during the next year. Cement is now being studied in similar ways to other materials science disciplines and this is providing a stimulus to fundamental studies of processes such as silicate polymerization. The boundary between the scope of *ACR* and its sister journal *Magazine of Concrete Research* is becoming clearer and a note on the scope of each will be published in a future issue. For the information of readers a list of the papers published in the most recent *Magazine of Concrete Research* is to be included in *ACR*, and vice versa, starting on page 250.

Publication of the four issues in this volume has not been quite to the planned schedule, partly due to the rate of submissions in the first few months after launching and partly to the change in ownership of the journal halfway through 1988 from Palladian Publications Ltd to Thomas Telford Ltd. The recent postal strike in the UK has also caused some delays. The change in schedule has caused some confusion and so

it is worth reminding subscribers that Volume 1 consists of the following issues:

No. 1 October 1987

No. 2 April 1988

No. 3 July 1988

No. 4 October 1988

Future volumes will comprise four issues dated January, April, July and October. If in doubt about your subscription please contact the Sales Department of Thomas Telford Ltd.

The submission of papers is steadily increasing, but we are still able to offer relatively speedy publication of accepted manuscripts: the average time between receipt of a paper by the Editor and publication is less than seven months. A limit of 6000 words plus ten figures and tables is suggested in the Guidelines for authors, but somewhat longer papers may be acceptable on occasion. Conference papers which have only been presented verbally and which will not be published in any proceedings will also be considered. It is always necessary to obtain clearance from the conference organisers first and to inform the Editor of any such prior disclosure. Authors should also bear in mind the somewhat different demands of conference papers and papers for a journal.

In line with the 'international' in the journal's subtitle, papers from authors whose mother tongue is not English are very welcome; every assistance will be given to improve the presentation of such papers before publication.

Discussion contributions on published papers are welcome and we are also pleased to publish news of technical developments, new research initiatives, calls for papers and notices for forthcoming conferences. However, calls for papers must be received well before the closing date to allow readers sufficient time to respond.

Finally, our thanks to all who have submitted papers for this volume (including those whose papers were not accepted), and particularly to the members of the Editorial Advisory Board for their work in reviewing papers and for their support for *Advances in Cement Research*.