

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EDITOR

Dear ISP Members,

This first volume of the new Journal of Plastination (JP) contains abstracts and reports from two Biennial conferences of the International Society for Plastination (Honolulu, Hawaii and Beijing, China) and one Interim meeting (Toledo, Ohio) spanning from 2010 to 2012. The reason for publishing this special volume of the Journal of Plastination is twofold. First, this issue serves as a transition between the old JISP and the new JP. Secondly, it closes the gap of publications between our last issue, vol. 23, 2008 (published in 2011) to the present publication.

In order to maintain a flow of publications during the years, we rely on articles submitted by our scientific community. Many abstracts presented at the Biennial conferences and Interim meetings of the International Society for Plastination are never submitted as a full manuscript. Abstracts alone do not contribute to the advancement of plastination because they lack data - the fundamental principle of a scientific publication. I encourage each of you to expand the data from your abstract(s) and submit it(them) as a full manuscript.

One of the biggest challenges for any journal is to keep a steady flow of publications without compromising the quality of the journal. In recent years many articles submitted to the journal were rejected because they lacked the scientific rigor that is required for a quality manuscript. When submitting an article for publication, please follow the *Instructions for Authors* as outlined on the last two pages of this issue. Manuscripts that do not conform to these instructions will be returned. I also encourage you to use the following queries as you prepare your material for submission:

- What contribution will the article have to the advancement of plastination?
- Is the title accurate and abstract complete?
- Is the work scientifically sound?
- Are the data presented clearly and concisely?
- Do the conclusions follow logically from the data presented?
- Does the discussion concisely summarize the new findings?
- Do the tables and figures clearly present the relevant data and are all of them necessary?
- Are the references appropriate and complete?

In the words of Harmon Bickley (J. Int. Soc. Plastination 2(1) 1988), the first Editor of the Journal,

“Take it from me, being editor is no fun if you don’t have manuscripts to publish. The papers in this issue are based on those published at the conference. But more are urgently needed. Those of you who have an item of information you would like to share with your fellow plastinator are urged to submit it for publication.”

Echoing Dr. Bickley words I again invite you to submit manuscripts. The next issue is already under preparation and I wish to have it published in the Spring of 2013.

Thank you

Carlos A C Baptista
Interim Editor