



ESL: Birth, Life, Retirement, Reincarnation

Fourteen years ago, *Electrochemical and Solid State Letters* (ESL) was born primarily through the vision of The Electrochemical Society officers and staff, extensive efforts of founding Editor Paul Kohl, (then) Editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES), Eric Brooman, (then) Chair of the ECS Publications Committee, the Associate Editors for JES at that time, Noel Buckley, Frank McLarnon, Thomas Moffat, John Newman, Stan Raider, Dan Scherson, Mordechai Schlesinger, and Mary Yess, (then) Publications Manager at ECS Headquarters. ESL has a rich and fascinating history. In 1977, Norman Hackerman, (then) Editor of JES, instituted Accelerated Brief Communications (ABCs), which were incorporated at the end of the Technical Papers Section via camera-ready documents, to satisfy the need for rapid turn-around publication of brief, novel results of high scientific and technological significance. JES Editor Barry Miller in 1991, renamed ABCs the Letters Section, typeset the manuscripts, and placed them at the front of each JES issue. In 1998, The Electrochemical Society and JES spawned ESL to supply a separate rapid publication journal that covered the fields of electrochemical and solid state science and technology. ESL, a joint publication between ECS and the Electron Devices Society of IEEE, was the first electrochemical journal with electronic-first rapid publication. Manuscript submissions have increased tremendously since 1998, confirming the need for and quality established in ESL. Published manuscripts in ESL have increased from 98 papers during the July through December 1998 time frame, to 345 in 2011; the final manuscripts from January to June, 2012 number 159.

Successful publication of ESL during the 14 years of its life could not have occurred without the diligent efforts of numerous individuals. Of course, my first thanks go to the excellent authors and reviewers who have given untold hours to ensure that the quality, significance and timeliness of manuscripts published in ESL met high standards while establishing rapid time-to-publication. I also thank the many readers who have partaken of the content offered by ESL. Former Editor Paul Kohl shepherded ESL at its inception and supplied helpful and insightful advice and guidance to me as I assumed the reins; he deserves considerable credit for establishing a solid base for ESL upon which we could continue to build. I have been extraordinarily fortunate to have had outstanding Associate Editors (AEs) who gave extensively of their time and talents to handle large numbers of manuscripts within their broad areas of expertise. When I became Editor of ESL in January, 2004, Dennis Evans and Doron Aurbach were serving as Associate Editors; within one year, Jennifer Bardwell was added to this list. After serving for 18 months as AE for ESL (5 years as AE for ECS Journals), Dennis Evans completed his term of service; his technical interest areas were subsequently assumed by Andy Gewirth. These AEs set high standards for themselves, authors and reviewers; the success that ESL enjoyed was in large part due to their tireless efforts. These individuals are well-known to the science and technical communities due to their technical accomplishments, their handling of manuscripts, and their ability to efficiently and effectively interact with authors and reviewers.

Less well-known to the authors, reviewers and especially to the readers of ESL, are the hard-working and dedicated ECS staff members who ensured and continue to ensure, well-written technical content, prompt posting/publishing and superb attention to all production and editorial details. I want to especially thank Mary Yess, Annie Goedkoop, Paul Cooper, Anne Clementson, Andrea Guenzel, John Lewis, Patricia Lorynski, Elizabeth Schademann, and Beth Anne Stuebe. Their keen insight and attention to journal production details made my time as ESL Editor enjoyable and interesting. My numerous discussions and interactions with Annie Goedkoop,



Mary Yess, Paul Cooper, and ECS Executive Director Roque Calvo were helpful, stimulating, and enlightening, and their constant advice and support have been greatly appreciated.

This issue of ESL represents the 'retirement' issue. However, ESL is experiencing a reincarnation in that two journals are being launched to cover the content of ESL. In order to better serve our many authors, readers and the scientific and engineering communities, we have split ESL into *ECS Electrochemistry Letters* (EEL), edited by Petr Vanýsek, and *ECS Solid State Letters* (SSL), which I edit. This reincarnation allows rapid publication for and improved focus on the two generic technical interest areas of The Electrochemical Society. Our two Editorial Boards, one responsible for the electrochemistry arena and the other for the solid state arena, have been hard at work establishing the standards and directives needed for these new journals. Additional details concerning these new journals can be found on the Electrochemical Society web site, in the spring 2012 issue of *Interface*, and in the editorials for the first issues (July, 2012) of EEL and SSL.

I want to end this 'retirement' and 'reincarnation' editorial for ESL by again offering my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the many authors, reviewers and readers of ESL during the past 14 years. This has been an exciting and rewarding journey, and one that I expect to re-live in the new letters journal(s). With your continued assistance, dedication and guidance, the reincarnation will be even more exciting and invigorating than the original.



Dennis W. Hess
Editor

