



International Association of Geoanalysts

THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOANALYSTS



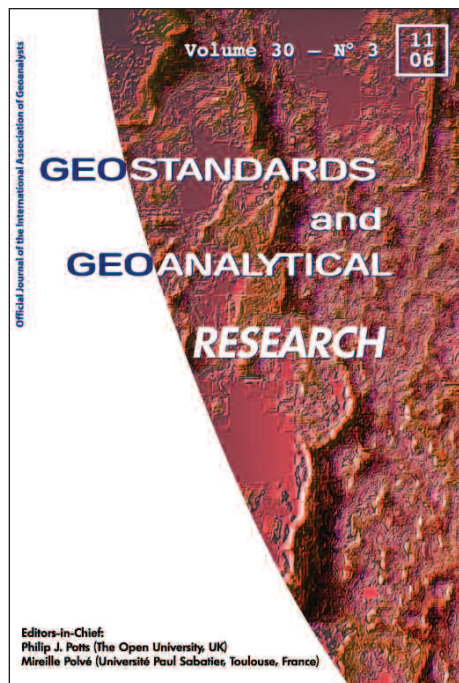
Michael Wiedenbeck

A core activity of the International Association of Geoanalysts is the support of the society's official journal, *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*. In this article, I highlight the history of the journal and report on recent, important developments regarding its publication.

By the mid-1970s, an urgent need had arisen for a journal devoted to fundamental research into the chemical characterization of reference samples for use in geochemistry and geological sciences. Thanks to the foresight and commitment of its founding editor, Dr. Kuppusami Govindaraju, who assembled an international editorial board, attracted top-name contributors, and worked to establish a strong subscriber base, *Geostandards Newsletter* was established in 1977. Dr. Govindaraju continued in his role as editor-in-chief of *Geostandards Newsletter* for the next 20 years until he retired as director of the Service d'Analyse des Roches et des Minéraux of the CNRS at the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques (CRPG) in Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France.

His retirement provided an opportunity to relaunch the journal on a number of fronts. Thus, in 1997 the scope of the journal was widened to include contributions on the latest developments in laboratory techniques applied to the analysis of geological and environmental samples, an expansion that was reflected in the retitling of the journal as *Geostandards Newsletter*, *The Journal of Geostandards and Geoanalysis*. Also at this time the journal was recognized as the official journal of the then newly established International Association of Geoanalysts, with members of the IAG taking a leading role in the editing of the relaunched publication. Philip Potts (The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK) and Mireille Polvé (Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France) became the new editors-in-chief of *Geostandards*, both of whom continue in their roles to this day. Despite all these changes, the editorial office and the publication operations of *Geostandards* continued to be based at the CRPG. In 2001 the publication schedule was increased from two to three issues per year, and in 2004 the journal was renamed *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*. By this point the journal had achieved an ISI-JCR impact factor of 2.4, reflecting the growth in the journal's importance as a vehicle for communicating the latest information and trends in the chemical analysis of geological materials.

The phenomenal growth of electronic publishing over the past decade has exerted new pressures on the independent publishing sector. The demand for both searchable electronic content and online subscriptions has compelled many small-scale publications to merge with established publishing houses. Furthermore, large publishing houses can offer valuable synergies through the bundling of journals from across broad scientific disciplines, leading to a potentially much larger audience for any given manuscript. Such realities of modern-day scientific publishing



have brought a further wave of changes to *GGR*. At the beginning of 2007, the IAG took a formal role in the running of the journal and will work with Blackwell Publishing Ltd (Oxford, UK) as its partner. Blackwell will be responsible for the production and distribution of the journal, as well as internet access to all scientific content. This tie-up with a highly reputable publishing house, initially until 2016, is expected to bring many benefits to *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*, including a growth in readership within the broader geochemical community. The format of the journal will remain largely unchanged, though publication will now be quarterly. With the journal's publication office remaining at the CRPG and with a largely unchanged editorial team, the quality of the journal is now assured well into the future.

Speaking on behalf of the IAG Council, I hope that the readers of *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* will be pleased with these new arrangements and that they will find the new electronic access, ultimately to stretch back to the very first issue of the journal, a valuable tool for your future research endeavours.

Michael Wiedenbeck
President, IAG

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