

## THANK YOU JAN VISSER

This issue is the last one with Jan W. Visser as Editor for Europe. He began his editor tenure in 1989 and has had a major impact on the contents of the journal since that time. Not only has he processed technical articles, but he also acted as data editor for European contributions. Editing for technical journals is a behind the scenes activity, and its importance is rarely recognized by the reader community. However, the editorial staff of POWDER DIFFRACTION does know his contribution well and wants to take this opportunity to acknowledge this contribution and to thank him for these efforts.

Visser retired from Technisch Physische Dienst TNO-TH in 1988 where he carried out research on characterization of new materials. He was a student and an associate of Prof. P. M. deWolff and has carried on many projects initiated under Prof. deWolff. One of his projects sponsored by the ICDD was to study the use of holography in the possible identification of powder patterns.

Visser's long association with the International Centre for Powder Diffraction as a data producer uniquely qualified him as a data editor. He has produced many of the best powder diffraction patterns in the Powder Diffraction File since the early 1960s. He is an expert in the use of the Guinier method and a promoter of its value compared to the diffractometer method. In fact, I still remember a debate over the virtues of the two methods with a well known diffractometer expert at the 1972 Kyoto, Japan Congress of the International Union of Crystallography. The result was a standoff with both sides making good points. During his 8 years as Editor, he has processed over 150 manuscripts.

Visser has been associated with the ICDD in many ways in addition to producing good data. He has represented ICDD at many meetings in Europe with the book exhibit and has organized and participated in many workshops at these meetings. He has been a major factor in the ICDD becoming an internationally recognized organization as the Centre for archiving and producing powder diffraction data and activities. He was Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors 1990–1994 and was the first of the overseas members of ICDD to

participate on the Board for whom he has been an Overseas Consultant since 1976. He brought insight on the needs of European diffraction community to this body.

Jan Visser may be best known for his computer program for indexing powder diffraction data for unknown structures. His program VISSER-ITO is usually the first to be employed because of its speed and high degree of success when the input data is good. This program was originally written in ALGOL and ultimately "evolved" through PL/1 to FORTRAN. This program has been through fifteen major revisions and distributions and is found in many commercial software packages for analyzing powder data often without proper recognition. He is also responsible for VISSER-PEAK, a peak locating program that he developed with E. Sonneveld.

The new POWDER DIFFRACTION Editor for Europe is

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All future submissions to POWDER DIFFRACTION from Europe should be sent directly to him. We are also planning to establish an Editor for Eastern Europe, but that individual has not been confirmed as of this editorial.

This journal owes much to Jan Visser for his long association and guidance on the many manuscripts he has processed. Thank you Jan Visser.

Deane K. Smith  
*Editor-in-Chief*