

## *Editorial*

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The first issue of the journal *Magnetic and Electrical Separation* in its new format was launched in September, 1991 at the XVII International Mineral Processing Congress in Dresden, Germany. Although the Congress was held at a time of rather depressed conditions in the mining industry, more than 700 participants from 45 countries were attracted to Dresden. The Congress confirmed that despite diminishing interest in theoretical and basic research into magnetic and electrical separation, these techniques are alive and well, and their role in a wide spectrum of applications is more impressive than ever.

Out of 188 contributions selected as papers or posters, 16 dealt with magnetic separation and six with electrostatic or electrodynamic separation. These contributions reflect several factors: the diminution of domestic mineral reserves in most developed countries, and a realization that countries supplying raw materials increasingly want to process them at source to derive added value. An increasingly important role is played by magnetic and electrical separation in the recovery of metals from scrap, municipal solid waste, and other secondary materials.

Similarly, the environment is a preoccupation for a variety of industries and many companies make substantial provisions in their accounts against future obligations and liabilities. Magnetic separation is one of the most powerful and economical techniques applied to environmental protection.

Although there is, as yet, no clear-cut evidence that the recession has bottomed out, the outlook for the 1990s promises increased capital and research expenditure,

particularly for the more sophisticated and efficient techniques of materials treatment and environmental protection. Magnetic and electrical separation are well positioned to benefit from such a development.

The first issue of our journal attracted considerable interest at the Congress, and the positive comments and constructive suggestions received from a wide cross-section of the delegates are encouraging. Gordon and Breach Publishers, Inc. organized a luncheon for the Scientific and Programme Committees and for the Editorial Board, and the presence of numerous distinguished scientists and industrialists was an indication of interest in our journal. The following three pages capture the atmosphere at the Congress.



**The exhibition hall of the Cultural Palace in Dresden, Germany.**



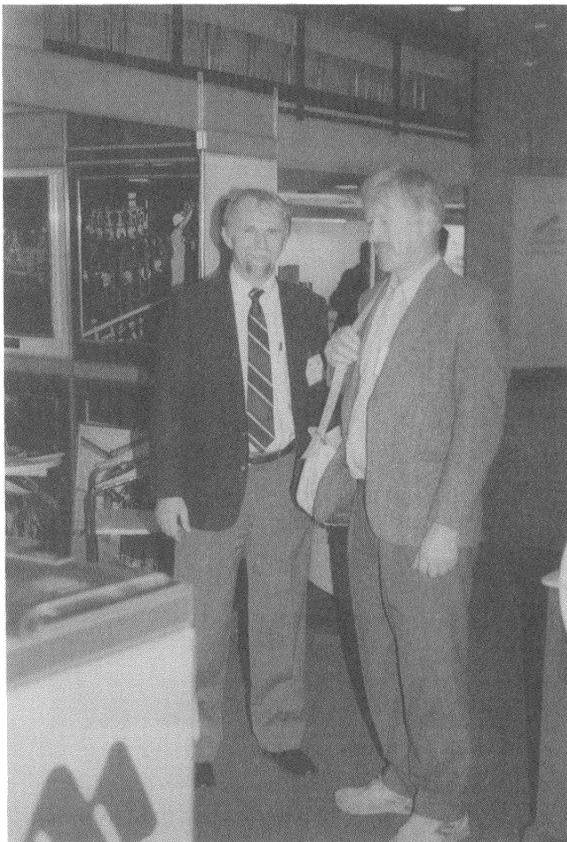
**K. Graichen, Germany (left) and K. Sztaba, Poland (right)**



**I. Wells, UK (left) and E. Forssberg, Sweden (right)**



**H. Schubert, Germany (left)  
and H. Muhlberg, Germany  
(right).**



**F. Knoll, U.S.A. (left) and  
K.L. Sandvik, Norway (right).**