

Studies in Environmental Science 8

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1980

Proceedings of the 14th International Colloquium, Paris, France, May 5-8, 1980

**Edited by
Michel M. Benarie**

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**Organised by the Institut National de Recherche Chimique Appliquée,
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Chemistry (IUPAC)**

edited by

Michel M. Benarie

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Studies in Environmental Science

Volume 1 Atmospheric Pollution 1978

Proceedings of the 13th International Colloquium, held in Paris,
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edited by M.M. Benarie

Volume 2 Air Pollution Reference Measurement Methods and Systems

Proceedings of the International Workshop, held in Bilthoven,
December 12–16, 1977

edited by T. Schneider, H.W. de Koning and L.J. Brasser

Volume 3 Biogeochemical Cycling of Mineral-Forming Elements

edited by P.A. Trudinger and D.J. Swaine

Volume 4 Potential Industrial Carcinogens and Mutagens

by L. Fishbein

Volume 5 Industrial Waste Water Management

by S.E. Jørgensen

Volume 6 Trade and Environment: A Theoretical Enquiry

by H. Siebert, J. Eichberger, R. Gronych and R. Pethig

Volume 7 Field Worker Exposure during Pesticide Application

Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop of the
Scientific Committee on Pesticides of the International
Association on Occupational Health, held in The Hague,
The Netherlands, October 9–11, 1979

edited by W.F. Tordoir and E.A.H. van Heemstra-Lequin

PREFACE

This volume contains a selection of the 81 papers presented at the 14th International Colloquium on Atmospheric Pollution held in Paris, UNESCO Building, from the 5th to 8th May 1980.

Organized every second year, our Colloquium has the aim of covering a very wide area in the field of air pollution. We already stated in the Prefaces of previous reports of this series that the volume is purposely heterogeneous. We intend to show "what is on" in air pollution, in a somewhat different way than is usual in the established scientific journals. The purpose of a colloquium report is different. A rough analogy of the difference can be given as follows. The scientific journal is equivalent to the specialized retail trade, with its established and guaranteed brands, its leisurely timings, and so on. A colloquium report is modelled on the stock exchange, and its hectic dealing in stocks which are not all necessarily blue. But the advantage of the stock exchange is to establish rapidly the worth of commodity.

But let us leave the field of analogies and models and explain the differences as we see them.

The first difference is the quickness of reporting. From the moment of writing the last word of a scientific paper, it can take on the average 12 months in a good journal before the first reader becomes aware of the result. The conference report has shortened the interval between the last word written and the first one read to a mere four months. Therefore its nature is nearer to laboratory and institute ("grey") reports.

Here is our second point. As scientific progress advances these days, as views and scopes change, 12 months is too long for publication. Therefore, much of the effort and results of research teams go into annual reports, special reports to the sponsoring agencies, and xeroxed texts of restricted availability, inaccessible to a fraction of the scientific community and inadequately indexed by abstracts. Some end up published, others not. By offering similar delays as the "grey" circulation, but at the same time a greater diffusion, an adequate awareness *via* the indexing and abstracting services and journals, we think the publication should be of real use to the scientific community.

This shortening of the delay has been made possible by an increased editorial effort, aided by a special goodwill of the team in charge at the publishing house and, lastly, by less editorial interference than is usual with scientific journals. Instead of mailing out the texts for refereeing, two stages of selection have taken place on panel basis. First the abstracts and then the texts were

appraised. But the final assessment will be made by the reviewers, by the whole readership of the volume.

This is the third difference with the scientific journals, where after acceptance by two referees, a "good brand" of research is being offered to the reader. And here the "stock exchange model" becomes useful.

Official financial support, on which so much research nowadays depends, does not necessarily reach the scientifically most prominent, original, or competent workers. Here we put into the limelight pertinent research together with the inconsequential; the creative together with the more routine report. Thus we hope to raise the awareness of both concerned parties: that which allocates the funds and that which uses them. In this way we hope to improve the cost-effectiveness of research funding.

The usual weeding out by refereeing in scientific journals encourages the strong, but at the same time, overprotects the weak. By not being publicly compared, by leaving the less worthy activity in the benevolent shade of the internal reports, a lot of rather below-average research is left to thrive on public funds, thus depriving others, more deserving, from this benefit. In this volume before you, readers are asked to judge each paper on its own merits, independently from the past laurels of the laboratory or other non-scientific considerations.

We see an added benefit in the fact that some papers rejected by journal referees may nevertheless contain some valuable information. If this is relegated to some obscure "grey" report, the effort will sometimes be duplicated -- that much effort wasted.

The authors have been asked to keep their papers short. This may be astonishing at a time when sponsoring agencies often evaluate research reports by their volume. But a well formulated, well executed endeavour can be related adequately in not more than a few pages. Alas, not every paper is equal to Einstein's essay on general relativity, which had a mere five pages, but this kind of result-to-length ratio would be the ideal one. Without daring to say that all long papers are necessarily bad, we may state that most of them would gain a lot by being less rambling and directly and clearly reporting the facts. A short paper is either good as it stands, or lacks something which could be for example, quality, originality, lucidity, etc... In the latter case, the paper is bad, and the shorter is the time the reader losses while browsing through it.

Unfortunately, the production process of this book makes the compilation of a subject index virtually impossible.

Michel Benarie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The enormous administrative work necessary for the organisation of such a colloquium was this time also expertly executed by Mme Monique Thavard, to whom thanks are expressed herewith.

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MODELING

