

## Editor's Note for Pre-publication Draft 2008-04-14

Back in my college days in the 1970's my favorite inorganic chemistry professor had been looking for a textbook for his new class offering on an advanced topic, but none existed. But "Cube" persevered and discovered that a rather famous professor at the university where I would end up going to graduate school was actually in the process of writing one, and this guru would be quite willing to share an early pre-publication draft. So my classmates and I suffered through a semester trying to make heads or tails out of his manuscript.

Well, as if that weren't enough, the very next year my friend Stan and I ended up in the author's own class on the same topic! This time his publisher's galley proofs served as our textbook. The professor turned out to be quite friendly, with a sense of humor to match his rather large ego, and once we knew Russ we kidded him about all the errors we had found the previous year. So when our next exam was imminent he retorted that the book was in much better shape now and he would buy beer for the entire class of thirty in the unlikely event that we could collectively find a certain substantial number of errors before the test. Although never much of a drinker, I sat down with Stan and started listing errors just the two of us had marked on our copies. After less than an hour we had easily exceeded the free beer requirement for the entire class. I thought differently at the time, but looking back on the experience, from the perspective of an editor, I think the wise professor probably got the last laugh on us!

Unfortunately George, Oram and I do *not* have a captive audience of students to challenge our authority, but we *do* hope you will help us out, for we are writing a book on people's wish lists, with apparent demand far exceeding what existed for Russ' specialized physical inorganic chemistry text! The authors' discussions with clients and online inquiries received indicate that people are hungry for a healthy new building manual. Our sincerest desire is to get this "tool box" into the hands of aspiring new homeowners, designers and builders everywhere, before even one more "sick" building is constructed. So this editor has reined in his strong perfectionist streak and we take the somewhat unusual step of publicly releasing an incomplete draft.

In the publishing world, "pre-publication" still more often than not refers to a draft of a book that is all but ready for publication and entering the serious promotion phase. These books only need some gushy cover "blurbs" to be composed by people having impressive credentials or name recognition, while simultaneously book reviews are solicited and written by the trade journals and magazine editors to whom the book is circulated at a strategically chosen time.

However in the scholarly world in this electronic age, "pre-publication" has taken on a rather different meaning. Rather than just submit their work to their favorite scientific journal for peer review, resulting in a lengthy wait before colleagues actually see it, researchers are increasingly turning to "preprint servers" to post their work and solicit rapid feedback from their peers prior to submission for publication in a print journal. The journal editorial boards have struggled with

this trend and many have (sometimes very reluctantly) altered their long-standing policies forbidding public release of information prior to publication.<sup>3,4</sup>

Our motivation to release this draft now is similar to that of scientists and other researchers who post their research findings online rather than following the traditional publishing model. The good news is that ebooks<sup>5</sup> exhaust virtually no natural resources and can be updated any number of times, offering an affordable means for you to benefit immediately from our knowledge as you design and/or build one or more healthy homes. In the process many of you may give us your valuable feedback to improve the manual before it is published.

As indicated on previous pages this is still a work in progress. Most notably, several whole sections of one chapter (chapter 8) that were less essential are missing. Of course we will remedy these omissions in our updates. Although you can now do unlimited full-text searches of our ebook<sup>5</sup> version, we do intend to add an index and other finishing touches. We acknowledge our manual can still be significantly improved with additional research, writing, illustration (artwork as well as high-quality photos), editing and review by carefully selected experts. Despite my meticulous approach we are still finding errors. Prior to publication we will more thoroughly scrutinize everything and make updates.

Moreover, we are only just beginning to give the book a “soul,” having concentrated to date on accurately fleshing out its highly technical content. Our ultimate goal is to create a more user-friendly and visually appealing book for a wider audience than this volume is likely to attract in its present format. For example we contemplate added sidebars with quotations and interesting stories.

During our journey towards final publication we anticipate making later drafts available to you. These will be released in either ebook<sup>5</sup> or spiral-bound format. To learn about updates please stay tuned to the authors’ websites, [www.geoswan.com](http://www.geoswan.com) and [www.createhealthyhomes.com](http://www.createhealthyhomes.com).<sup>6</sup>

Lastly, should you wish to quote or cite this unpublished manuscript in your own publications, kindly abide by the request made in our Copyright Notice (page iv).

Happy reading!

Wayne Federer, Ph.D.

[wfederer@hotpop.com](mailto:wfederer@hotpop.com)

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<sup>3</sup> The topic of preprint servers and how they relate to the publishing process is discussed on the Bioinformatics Zen blog. See posts dated June 21, 2007 to September 10, 2007: <http://www.bioinformaticszen.com/tag/pre-publication/>.

<sup>4</sup> S. P. Harter and T. K. Park, “Effects of Electronic (Pre-)Publication on Scholarly Journal Publishing: Emerging Manuscript Consideration Policies,” *Proceedings of the ASIS Annual Meeting*, vol. 35, p. 438-44 (1998).

<sup>5</sup> We strongly encourage you consider our ebook offering. Not only does it save trees, it also may optionally be updated (see note 6) at no cost to provide you with the latest and most accurate content. Our ebook offers many features not possible in the print version: color photos, full-text searchability, bookmarks to accelerate navigation within the document, and hyperlinks that connect your web browser to online references..

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