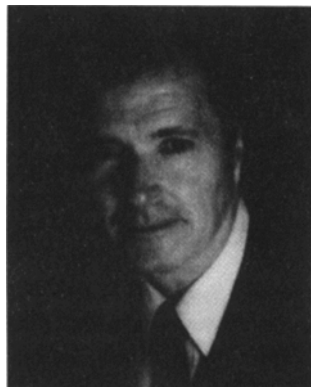


COMMENTS



We are indebted to Larry Foreman, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), who served as Guest Editor for this special issue of *Fusion Technology (FT)* on target fabrication for inertial confinement fusion (ICF). After getting the issue well under way, unfortunately, Larry fell ill. Consequently, James Hoffer (LANL) and Peter Gobby (LANL), who had already been assisting the editorial effort, took over and finished preparations.

The *FT* staff is most pleased to continue the tradition of publication of special issues on this topic based on the ongoing Target Fabrication Specialists' Meeting (TFSM) series. Papers from two prior TFSMs were published in earlier special issues of *FT*, Vols. 28 and 31. These, combined with the present special issue, provide an extensive set of reference articles on a wide range of topics related to ICF targets. In view of the rapid expansion of ICF activities, driven by the ongoing construction of the National Ignition Facility, interest in target technology is rapidly growing. This series of special issues should provide a most valuable resource of information, one which will assist the rapid progress in this area.

All those involved (guest editors, authors, and reviewers) who have made these outstanding papers possible are to be congratulated. While much of the basic technology is now covered in these issues, as the field continues to expand, we look forward to further contributions of forefront research on target fabrication, both from individuals and from future TFSMs.

On a closing sad note, I just learned of the passing of Jim Phillips, a long-time personal friend and contributor to *FT*, both by articles and by reviewing papers. To quote from the brief notice that I received:

James A. Phillips, Los Alamos National Laboratory Fellow and Research Affiliate in Plasma Physics, passed away Tuesday, December 1. Jim was an internationally recognized expert and pioneer in the development of magnetic fusion energy. His career at the laboratory epitomized the ideals of scientific excellence and creativity. He was a mentor and friend to many in the fusion community, and will be profoundly missed.

I am sure many readers of *FT* remember Jim and join me in the sadness over the loss of one of our long-time leaders in the field. The example he set for us will, however, live on.

George Miley