

What kind of Journal do you want?

by H. W. GLEN (editor)

In the hope of finding out what the readers of the *SAIMM Journal* want of our *Journal*, we sent out a questionnaire with the October 1979 issue. The 2500 copies of the questionnaire sent out elicited 228 responses, which represents a return of 8,8 per cent. The number of responses received from overseas was 24, i.e., approximately 10 per cent of the total. The following is an analysis of the responses received.

People seeing the same copy

No. of people seeing the recipient's copy	No. of responses	% of total
1	105	46,1
2	44	19,3
3	30	13,2
4	18	7,9
5	5	2,2
6	4	1,8
7	3	1,3
> 7	19	8,3

Thus, 53,9 per cent of the copies sent to the readers who responded have more than 1 reader, and 8,3 per cent have more than 7 readers. If the response 'more than 7 readers' is taken to indicate an average of 10 readers, 228 copies were read by 615 readers, giving an average readership of 2,7 readers per copy.

Other journals read

Other journals read	No. of responses	% of total
Coal, Gold and Base Minerals of S.A.	183	80,3
J. Mine Ventilation Soc. of S.A.	23	10,1
Engineering Week	54	23,7
Mining Week	150	65,8
S.A. Mining and Engineering J.	165	72,4
Certificated Engineer	13	5,7
M.S.O.A.	28	12,3
The Reef	89	39,0
The Underground Official	25	11,0

Of the readers of the *SAIMM Journal* who sent in these responses, 80,3 per cent also read *Coal, Gold and Base Minerals of South Africa*, 72,4 per cent also read *South African Mining and Engineering Journal*, and 65,8 per cent also read *Mining Week*.

Number of other journals read

The *SAIMM Journal* is the only journal read by 8,3 per cent of the people who responded; 76,3 per cent read 2, 3, 4, or 5 other journals. The details are as follows.

No. of other journals read	No. of responses	% of total
0	19	8,3
1	16	7,0
2	44	19,3
3	53	23,2
4	42	18,4
5	35	15,4
6	13	5,7
7	3	1,3
8	2	0,9
9	1	0,4

Readers' occupations

Readers' jobs	No. of responses	% of total
Mine Manager	37	16,2
Consulting Engineer	28	12,3
Mining Engineer	25	11,0
Ventilation Officer	2	0,9
Reduction Officer	13	5,7
Metallurgist	69	30,3
Chemist	2	0,9
Assayer	0	0
Scientist	7	3,1
Other	73	32,0

'Other jobs' included the following, with the number of responses for each:

Librarian 4	Academic 6
Student 8	Retired 5
Geologist 4	Surveyor 4
Editor-Journalist 2	Director 5
Project Engineer 5	Export Manager 1
Plant Superintendent/Manager 4	Marketing/Sales 2
Research Managers 4	Product Manager 1
Minerals Economist 1	Shift Boss 1
Investments 1	Government Official 1

The readers who responded to the questionnaire are about equally distributed between mining and metallurgical activities. Very few of the responses were made by people not directly associated with mining and metallurgy.

Buying decisions

Readers were asked to indicate whether, in the course of their work, they participate in the decisions made by their companies to purchase equipment. The number of positive responses received was 154, or 67,5 per cent.

New products and services

To the question of whether readers would like the *SAIMM Journal* to publish information about new products and services, 156, or 68,4 per cent, replied in the affirmative. It is interesting that the number of positive answers to both this question and the previous one was 110, indicating that 71,4 per cent of those who participate in buying decisions would like the *SAIMM Journal* to publish information about new products and services.

Future topics

The 228 responses received on the subjects that readers would like to see in future issues cover a wide range of topics, with some requests for more mining articles and fewer metallurgical articles, and *vice versa*. The main topics and the number of requests for them are as follows.

Mining (new developments, practical and research papers, ventilation, history, effluents, deep-bench blasting, refrigeration, geostatistical methods, new developments in equipment and concepts)	26
Extraction metallurgy (new developments, milling, flotation, flocculation, dense-medium, pyrometallurgy, electrowinning, base metals, mineral beneficiation)	23
Management and planning (mineral economics, feasibility studies, costs of equipment, grade control)	14

Physical metallurgy (new developments, foundry techniques, selection of materials, failure in service)	13
Gold and uranium extraction (technology, new developments, electrolysis, flow-sheets, NaCN regeneration, sand dumps and slimes dams, sulphuric acid production)	12
Coal (technology, beneficiation, strata control, mechanization, new developments)	12
General information (forthcoming events, abstracts of technical papers, reprints of lunch-hour lectures, personal news of members, international safety programmes)	9
Computer applications (plant simulation, control)	3

It is a pity that so few of our readers took the time and trouble to complete and return the questionnaire. A return of 8,8 per cent is not sufficient to indicate what the majority of readers require, and the analysis given here cannot be regarded as anything but an indication of what *some* of our readers want.

Perhaps our readers don't like answering questionnaires, or perhaps they were too busy to reply at that particular time. We always welcome letters from readers, so why not write in to tell us what features you would like to see in future issues, and to comment on the material already included? Please address your letters to The Editor, SAIMM Journal, P.O. Box 61019, Marshalltown 2107, South Africa.

Letter to the Editor

I am a partner in a minerals' development company called A.B.F., Limited, that does minerals development in Africa and Asia.

I have read your very fine magazine often at the Colorado School of Mines Library in Golden, Colorado. I would like to ask your assistance in trying to locate a South African smelter; preferably on the coast, but not totally necessary for the project, that can separate the first four metals (Au, Ag, Cu, and Pb). Please note the high percentage of arsenic present, which can create an environmental problem if the smelter is not set up to handle it. It is a problem sometimes.

I will be most grateful for your assistance in helping us locate a South African smelter that can handle the tailings and smelter refuse listed below.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Dr William J. Anders,
Mountain-Plains Minerals
and Petroleum,
6996 South Gibraltar Street,
Aurora, Colorado 80016.

Typical analysis of flue dust

	New Production %	Stockpiled %
Gold (Au)	0.153 oz/t	0.146 oz/t
Silver (Ag)	5.50 oz/t	9.14 oz/t
Copper (Cu)	15.86	11.72
Lead (Pb)	13.99	21.02
Molybdenum (Mo)	1.28	0.263
Silica (Si)	2.1	3.5
Iron (Fe)	6.4	9.3
Sulphur (S)	10.12	10.2
Arsenic (As)	9.78	5.2
Antimony (Sb)	0.34	0.23
Bismuth (Bi)	1.55	2.55
Available tons	15 000	16 000
New production/day in tons	32	00

Can any reader help? If so, please send your reply to the A.B.F. Office, whose address is 2095 Urban Drive, Denver, Colorado 80215, U.S.A.—Editor