During the latter half of the 1950s, crop scientists in the American Society of Agronomy expressed their viewpoint that research papers, primarily those in crop breeding and in crop physiology, could better serve their needs if they were published in a journal specifically for these disciplines, rather than in Agronomy Journal. Because of the large number of scientists engaged in crop breeding research, the initial proposal came from plant breeders with the anticipation that certain papers in plant genetics and cytology also would find a better outlet for publication in a new journal than in their existing journals. Crop physiology was then becoming a more important segment in Agronomy Departments, and these scientists also were eager to join with plant breeders to establish a journal for publication of their papers in this phase of crop science. The journal title—Crop Science—therefore became a logical choice among possible names for this publication.

The proposed creation of a new Crop Science journal (in many ways comparable to the earlier creation of the Proceedings of the Soil Science Society of America) raised several important questions to the membership of the American Society of Agronomy. First, and foremost, if papers reporting research in crop breeding and in crop physiology were to be published in a new journal, what would become the ultimate fate of Agronomy Journal—the publication most closely identified with the American Society of Agronomy from the time the society was organized? Second, would the subscriptions to the new journal adequately cover publication costs? Third, would discussions in individual Agronomy Departments, Boards of Directors, and by the society membership. The following resolutions emerged:

1. Crop Science would be published six times during the year and Agronomy Journal, then published monthly, would be published six times a year.

2. Papers submitted for publication in Agronomy Journal would deal primarily with crop and soil management and in some circumstances would papers accepted for publication in Agronomy Journal be of less interest to crop and soil scientists than to the Agronomy profession than those accepted for publication in Crop Science. It was anticipated that during the initial stages in the publication of Crop Science. It was anticipated that at the end of the first year, the wait from submission to reviewers and final publication was longer than desired.

Evaluation of papers published in Crop Science as well as in the Agronomy Journal clearly shows that the initial concepts for publication of technical papers have met a society need. Crop Science has indeed grown in stature during the past 25 years, far beyond the expectation of its founders—a tribute to those who were persistent in the belief that we needed and could support a journal specifically for the Crop Science Society of America.