



Preview of Coming Attractions

Planning is well underway for the transition of the editorship of your journal *Optical Engineering*. The journal has changed a great deal over the last seven years in almost every aspect of its coverage. As your current editor, I take pleasure and pride in the progress that we have made. The “we” here is the editorial staff in Rochester and Bellingham and you, the authors and reviewers. A new editor appointment provides an excellent opportunity to review the current status of the journal and to plan on how best to handle the multi-faceted tasks that go into producing an authoritative and timely journal every month. Clearly some new and important initiations are appropriate.

Donald O’Shea, as announced in a recent editorial, will become the editor on January 1, 1998. However, he is already hard at work planning for Volume 37 and beyond. These efforts are in conjunction with the staff in Bellingham and the Publications Committee of the Society. A new and different structure will be put in place as of the first of next year. Details of paper preparation and submission will continue to appear at the rear of each issue of *Optical Engineering* on the page entitled “Information for Contributors.” Please continue to consult this page for details and addresses for submission.

A board of associate editors is currently being assembled who will work with the editor to oversee the peer-review process. As of January 1, 1998, manuscripts will be submitted to the editorial office in Bellingham rather than to the editor’s address. We fully expect to continue the current practice of timely review and publication. As a recent news item stated, “The commitment to timely peer-review of all submissions, prompt publication of accepted papers, and high editorial standards will continue to be a priority.”

More information will be forthcoming and I will try to keep you informed through this column.

Editorial Anecdotes

Relative to the importance of “timely peer-review,” I will quote from a recent letter which echoes the sentiments I hear from many other authors:

“I would like to congratulate both you and the reviewers on the short review cycle. I have a paper submitted to _____. It took over a year for the first review, and has taken another year to review some relatively minor corrections. In the meantime, the editor has not deigned to answer a query about the status of the paper 9 months after submission, even with a self-addressed stamped envelope for return and a check list for the status. Bottom line: it has been a pleasure working with OE.”

On behalf of us all, I thank the author of this letter.

Some recent additions to our “name game”:

- “Dear Profes. Thompson”
- “Attn: Bryant Tompson”
- “Dear Dr. Brian Thompsons”.... Have I been cloned?!

Brian J. Thompson
Editor