



### We Are Indeed International

As your editor, I continue to be impressed by the national and international status of *Optical Engineering*. In my earlier editorials I have indicated in some detail the origin of the papers published in *Optical Engineering*. However, during the SPIE Orlando meeting I was asked what percentage of non-U.S. papers we were publishing these days—well, here is the answer plus a little historical background.

Table 1 shows the data for the last six years (Volumes 27 through 32). From 1988 to 1993 the number of papers published increased by 143%; the number of U.S. papers increased by 63% while the non-U.S. papers increased by 268%. As can be seen from the table, the percentage of non-U.S. papers has now reached 59%. For completeness in the table, I have also listed the number of countries that contribute to the journal, and that too is up significantly. I am, of course, conscious of the fact that special sections can play a role in these numbers. For example, in 1988 the January issue contained a special section on optics in the United Kingdom. In 1993, there was a special section on Asia, and Canada and Hungary were also covered. One of these days when I get a little time I will analyze the trend without these special sections.

The international nature of *Optical Engineering* raises some special issues. Since papers come from around the world, then so must the reviewers. This adds a significant cost to our operations since international mail and other couriers are rather expensive. We must also deal with the uncertainties of international mail, although I am pleased to note that this is currently a minor problem. Occasionally, I get one or two sheets of a paper and the remains of an envelope all wrapped in plastic with a notification that it was damaged in transit. My favorite is the one shown in Fig. 1. It was just part of an envelope and nothing else—but it arrived in its plastic bag! Language is another issue. Our copy editors have to work overtime on some papers to get them into an acceptable style.

I get some charming letters such as the following:

Dear Professor:

I sent this letter to you together with my manuscript which I want to submit to you and hope it can be published on *Optical Engineering* -- the word famous scientific Journal. I will be glad to revise it if the manuscript is not as standard as to be acceptable. I will also appreciate your help no matter this manuscript can be published or not. It's no doubt that I will learn and benefit a lots from you and your colleagues by our exchange.

Thank you for your precious time and hope to hear from you.

Table 1 Comparison of U.S. versus non-U.S. papers.

Year	Total	U.S.	Non-U.S.	% Non-U.S.	Number of Countries
1993	423	173	250	59.1	33
1992	330	155	175	53.0	24
1991	238	169	69	29.0	27
1990	200	153	47	23.5	17
1989	187	132	55	29.4	21
1988	174	106	68	39.1	19

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Fig. 1 Fortunately, an atypical address label.

And I get some rather disturbing ones such as the following postscript:

P.S. Our letters are very often intercepted by some unscrupulous people in the department. We, therefore, request you kindly to use the below mentioned address for all future correspondence which is the residential address of the principal author.

In any event, we are proud to serve the international community in optical science and engineering.

#### Editor's Anecdote

Since I have been talking about the mail my anecdote will relate to that subject on this occasion. My brother in England wanted to send me a journal that he thought would interest me. He obviously gave instructions to someone else to send me a copy. The envelope arrived handwritten and addressed to:

Provost Mr. B.J. Thompson  
(Mr. T's Brother)  
692 Mount Hope Avenue  
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**Brian J. Thompson**  
Editor

## July 1994

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## August 1994

### Digital Image Recovery and Synthesis

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## November 1994

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## January 1995

### X-Ray/EUV Optics

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## February 1995

### High Heat Flux Optical Engineering

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## March 1995

### Optical Engineering in Ophthalmology

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### Optics in the Ukraine

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