

Editorials—A Communication Tool

We come to the last issue of Volume 33 and the end of 1994, another very good year for your journal. At the same time we look forward to Volume 34, which is already well under way with the January issue at the printer, the February issue essentially made up, and papers scheduled through May.

Through the use of this editorial column I can greet all our readers and send my best wishes to those who have major religious or sectarian holidays coming up in December.

The editorial column, as my heading states, is an effective way for me to communicate with a large audience on a variety of specific topics relative to our journal and our disciplines. Since I am not generally a very good correspondent with my colleagues around the world I can perhaps be forgiven for now and again using this column in a more personal way. I would like to acknowledge the many letters, faxes, and other communications that I received in the last few months triggered by my July editorial. They were all good messages of support and acknowledgments of past and present contributions and the hope (expectation) for future contributions (or else!). Of course I gratefully accept the accolades with as much humility as I can muster, but recognize that personal achievement invariably is a reflection of many other people's sterling contributions.

In the journal editing business one group of people stand out as making invaluable contributions to the success of the journal. I am referring to the referees or reviewers. Unfortunately I do not have the time to feed back to the reviewers the sincere thanks of the authors. I thought that I would do that here by sharing just a few quotes from my recent letters from authors.

"Thank you for giving us some good advice on our paper."

"Please convey our gratitude to the reviewers for reviewing the paper and the useful suggestions."

"We thank the reviewers for their suggestions and have modified the manuscript."

"We thank the referees for their valuable comments."

"Please convey our thanks to the reviewers whose comments have made this paper more informative."

"We would like to express our appreciation and great thanks for all the efforts paid by the reviewers for taking care of our manuscript and particularly their really valuable comments."

Erratum

An interesting question is whether it is possible to have an erratum to an editorial. The answer is yes if the editor is willing to own up to not being infallible—and I freely admit to what is already well known.

In my editorial of January 1993 the total number of authors listed under the key statistics (line 19) should have been 875 (not 865) and the percentage quoted should have been 26.4 rather than 25.0. Of all things I had an error in the number of English authors—it should have been 37 not 27. Please correct Table 3 accordingly. Also, it follows that under the heading "The Authors" on page 6 the item 865 should be 875. Finally, in my February 1994 editorial on page 325, in Table 1 the percentage change in the number of authors should read 45.1

Editor's Anecdote

This quote is from a recent letter: "Note that I started reviewing this manuscript on the day I received it hoping to mail it back to you the same day (expecting to qualify for some unnamed award)! However, I must admit that I failed to achieve this ambitious goal."

Brian J. ThompsonEditor

Optical Engineering Editorial Schedule

February 1995

High Heat Flux Optical Engineering

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March 1995

Optical Engineering in Ophthalmology

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April 1995

Optics in the Ukraine

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May 1995

X-Ray/EUV Optics

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June 1995

Polarization Analysis and Measurement

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July 1995

Optics in Switzerland

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August 1995

Photorefractive Nonlinear Optics

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September 1995

Optical Science & Engineering in Finland

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November 1995

Optical Remote Sensing and Image Processing

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December 1995

Optics in Polymer Science and Technology

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January 1996

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Visual Communications and Image Processing

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February 1996

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March 1996

Sensor Fusion

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May 1996

Optical Engineering in Romania

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