



The Communications Sections

We announced a new section of *Optical Engineering* called Communications in the April issue of 1992 (Vol. 31, No. 4). I wrote in the editorial of that issue about the concept behind this new section.

The purpose of this new section is to publish short communications on original work, comments on recent papers, and errata. It will be my responsibility to determine what material is accepted for publication and, when necessary, I will seek outside reviewers' assistance. This is not meant to be a "letter to the editor" section where writers comment on issues of the day, whether political or scientific. Contributions must be technical in nature and add something positive to our further understanding of our field of optical science and engineering.

The first communications paper appeared in the January issue of 1993 and there has been a reasonable flow of papers since that time. As of the May issue of 1996, we have published some 46 contributions (7 in 1993; 18 in 1994; and 17 in 1995). So far this year four communications have been published and seven more are scheduled through July; two more have yet to be scheduled, and five are currently in review. This gives a total to date of 55 papers accepted for publication.

A total of 70 papers have been received as of this writing (May 29, 1996). Six papers have been rejected, one withdrawn, one transferred, and two files closed, leaving five currently under review. This is a high acceptance rate, but many contributions go through a revision

before being accepted. Eight of the papers were originally submitted as full-length papers, which, after review, were reduced in length and accepted as communications. Interestingly, one paper submitted as a communication was revised to make a regular contribution.

One of the advantages of the Communications section is that these papers are handled on a different track than the regular full papers. I try to expedite the review process, which can, of course, be shorter since the manuscripts are themselves much shorter. Thus the time from receipt to decision is shorter. Finally, the interval from acceptance to publication is currently averaging three months, which is half the time of a regular paper.

The conclusion at this time has to be that the Communications section of *Optical Engineering* serves a useful purpose, and even though we are not overwhelmed with contributions, there is an adequate flow. So I can end this editorial in the same vein as my April 1992 editorial: I encourage your submissions to the Communications section of *Optical Engineering*.

Editor's Anecdote

Some time ago I received a short biographical statement from an author that contained the following: "He loves his wife very much..., and (he) is one of only a few engineers left who really enjoys their work." I couldn't possibly comment on his first statement, but do reject his second, since I think that there are many of us who do indeed enjoy our work. It may not be significant, but I did receive this biography on Valentine's Day!

Brian J. Thompson
Editor