Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

Contributed Papers for Optical Engineering

About a year ago I wrote an editorial* in which I expressed my opinion that too many SPIE Proceedings papers were being submitted for publication in *Optical Engineering*. In that editorial I revealed my bias that papers previously published in the Proceedings should not, in general, be reprinted in *Optical Engineering*—at least not without substantive revision. I am pleased to say that we are now receiving far fewer such papers than we were at the time I wrote that editorial.

My primary goal as editor of *Optical Engineering* is, I suspect, the same as that of my predecessor, John Caulfield, and his predecessor, John DeVelis: to improve the stature of the journal without reducing its usefulness to the practicing optical engineer. This means that we must strive to upgrade the quality of the papers published in the journal without allowing its nature to swing too far in the direction of the academician. This may not be an easy task, but it is one that I think we must strive for and have a reasonable hope of attaining.

On the whole, I believe that we have been making progress. We have been receiving a steady flow of contributed manuscripts submitted for consideration, and it appears to me that there has been an improvement in the quality of these manuscripts during the past year. Not only does the quality of the writing seem to be better, but the illustrations also seem to be in better shape. I would like to express my appreciation to those authors who have submitted high-quality manuscripts and to encourage them and other prospective authors to help maintain or raise the standards of the journal in the years to come.

*"Submission of Previously Published Proceedings Papers to *Optical Engineering*," Opt. Eng. 25(1), SR-006 (Jan. 1986).

Future Special Issue (see p. 173 for complete editorial schedule)

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Optomechanical Instrument Design

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The field of optomechanical instrument design has expanded over the last few years and has become more definitive and identifiable. The two disciplines of optical engineering and mechanical engineering have been working together from the time the first optical instrument was conceived, designed, developed, fabricated, and assembled. Now, with the precision and stability requirements of optical system design and of the optical instrument or precision instrument itself, the mechanical engineering of the supporting structures and the ability to adjust and align components has become of paramount importance, at times equaling the importance of the optical system design or the precision instrument's basic function.

The November 1987 special issue of *Optical Engineering* will be devoted to exactly what the title implies—the design of an instrument that requires the combined disciplines of optical and mechanical engineering. Authors who wish to have papers considered for inclusion in the special issue should submit three copies of the manuscript to the Guest Editor by April 10, 1987, for consideration.