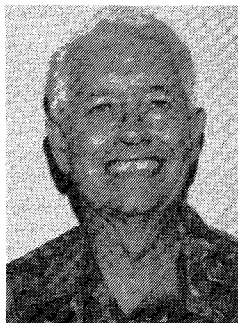


Hail and Farewell!



PART II of this TRANSACTIONS marks a new milestone in our history: All contributed papers will henceforth be published in a fully edited and typeset format. The papers join most of the other IEEE periodical publications in using a uniform type style, hopefully enhancing their appearance and content. It should be pointed out, however, that papers appearing in the proceedings of our various symposia will continue to be printed on author-prepared sheets.

In making this decision the Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society Administrative Committee (AdCom) wrestled with the pros and cons. What do we gain by taking this step? What do we give up?

In "Hailing" the change we gain a better prepared journal. There is no doubt that using a uniform type font provides for easier reading and a more pleasing appearance. In addition the papers receive additional editing at IEEE Publishing Services, resulting in uniform spelling and punctuation.

A part of the change is the preparation of galley proofs. A copy is sent to the author for further checking. Only then is the manuscript ready for printing. These extra readings will no doubt catch most of the typos and trivial mistakes.

It goes without saying that handwritten notes are often questioned for their authenticity; typing improves the credibility. But when a paper is typeset, the assumption is made that many responsible persons have reviewed its content. The prima facie impression is that the paper is worth consideration. We trust that this feeling does, in fact, hold true.

A more obvious improvement is that we will no longer be handling oversized sheets. These sheets do not lend themselves to computer printers, mail handling, or normal-sized file cabinets. Most of us will be glad to see their demise.

In saying "Farewell" what is it costing us? Mainly additional time; it will now take another two months from the date the final draft is sent to the Editor until it appears in print. Timeliness is important in our business; novel ideas and improved performance are worthy of immediate dissemination to the scientific community. We only allow additional time for printing schedules when the benefits appear to outweigh the costs in time.

What is the next step toward further improvement? With the recent advance in word processing and computer-controlled printers, we look forward to the time when author-prepared symposia papers can be submitted with a uniform type style and regular-sized sheets. The next step after that will be the submission, review, and editing of papers by computer mail. Won't that be the day?

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