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A Reflection

Editorials have appeared infrequently in the Journal. To continue this tradition, I note here that what follows is not editorial in nature but more of a reflection. The *raison d'être* stems from my request that I be relieved of my editorial responsibilities as of 1 June.

In the past six years during which I have been privileged to be editor of this Journal, I have talked and corresponded with many members of our profession, both as authors and referees. These contacts have made a lasting impression on me. Our profession should be proud of its members who have given freely of their valuable time to help.

Looking back, I note that each day contained its surprises and sadness. In my term, I declined over 1000 manuscripts and, each time, I fully recognized that this would result in personal pain to the author(s). At the same time, the receipt of each new paper or note was a challenge—how to select competent referees, how to evaluate their comments, how to choose the better manuscripts and, particularly, how to decide for or against in cases where mixed reviews were received. The life of an editor is far from tranquil and obvious decisions are indeed rare.

The Editorial Board has contributed significantly in providing advice and encouragement and, in numerous cases, has assumed the role of *amicus curiae* in difficult decisions.

Three assistants worked closely with me in Cambridge—Judy Hawkins, Maria Tseng, and Nancy Blodget. It was they who efficiently ran the Journal, but, also, they too found themselves entangled in the web of author-referee-publisher-editor, and often



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provided the proper common sense so necessary to the operation of any venture involving personalities.

There have been two production editors—Elizabeth Bond and Maura Mullen—in New York. The final production is their achievement. Too seldom are these team members appreciated for their full worth.

F. J. Van Antwerpen and Sylvia Fourdrinier watched the budget and rightly so. Less obvious was their concern for the freedom granted in editorial decisions. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

For those readers who have reached this point, it should be obvious that to publish a successful journal, many individuals are important and necessary. To all, I express my sincere thanks for helping maintain the Journal in the tradition begun by the late Harding Bliss.

ROBERT C. REID
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