

Editorial from the Previous Editor

THE DECEMBER 1977 issue of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES marks the end of my term as Editor. The January 1978 issue is the first issue published by the new Editor, Dr. J. L. Allen. Lamar is an excellent choice to serve as Editor; he has a great deal of experience in the microwave field, is conscientious, receptive to new ideas, and is a fine gentleman. The members of AdCom wish him well and are confident that he will not only maintain the high standards and quality of this TRANSACTIONS, but will bring fresh ideas to increase its usefulness.

My three years as Editor of this TRANSACTIONS have slipped by rapidly, even though, in the beginning, my apprehension about this assignment made three years seem like ten. I am grateful to the MTT AdCom for the opportunity to have served the microwave community in this way, and I have learned a great deal from this experience.

It now seems appropriate to review briefly some of the changes that have occurred in this TRANSACTIONS over the last three years. The major actions recommended by the Editor between June 1974 and June 1977 and approved by AdCom include:

- 1) grouping papers by theory or applications and publishing alternate issues accenting each area;
- 2) initiating publication of author biographies and photographs for short papers;
- 3) discontinuing short paper category completely;
- 4) instituting technical note category;
- 5) revision of Review Form to highlight evaluation criteria;
- 6) instituting mandatory page charges for overlength papers;
- 7) instituting quota system for number of unpaid pages published each month;
- 8) establishing two Associate Editor positions—one as Business Editor and the other an Associate Editor for Applications.

Each of these actions was taken in response to needs felt by either the membership, AdCom, or the Editor. Grouping papers together under the heading of Accent on Applications or Accent on Theory was an attempt to highlight the fact that application papers are considered to be as important as theoretical papers and are desired for publication in this TRANSACTIONS. Whereas theoretical papers provide the basis and rigorous foundations for microwave component and system design, application papers should provide explicit information on design techniques including design equations and data. They should not merely be a report on the performance obtained. The latter is useful in establishing the state of the art, but without the detailed design information these papers tend to degenerate into little more than an advertisement.

The inclusion of authors' pictures and biographies for short papers and, finally, the elimination of the category

of short papers altogether, reflects recognition by AdCom that the length of a paper does not necessarily indicate the significance of an author's contribution. Furthermore, without a well defined and commonly understood definition of a "short paper" by all parties—the authors, the reviewers, and the Editor—this category was occasionally abused. It is hoped that all manuscripts will be judged equally on the basis of their technical accuracy and usefulness and that their length be consistent with the need to include only relevant theoretical and design information, data, and descriptions.

The introduction of the paper category "technical notes" is in response to a need to publish quickly new information of engineering usefulness without waiting for the full and complete development characteristic of regular articles. By limiting these notes to one page of author-prepared photo-ready copy, the publication time can be reduced.

The changes in the forms used by the reviewers and the Editor in evaluation papers were made to help establish a better understanding of the criteria to be used in judging the adequacy of a paper for publication and, also, to enhance the feedback provided to authors. We need to continue to better define objectives for this TRANSACTIONS and criteria for the selection of papers.

The other actions in the above list were taken to keep this TRANSACTIONS on a sound financial basis in the face of increasing publication costs.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have assisted me in the past three years. Each has given freely and willingly of his time, receiving a return only in the personal satisfaction of a job well done. Special thanks to the reviewers, for they are the key to maintaining the quality of the papers. Most spend several hours reviewing each manuscript and provide valuable suggestions to the authors. During the past three years seven special issues were published and three more are in preparation. The Guest Editors have assumed full responsibility for their respective special issues. They have done an excellent job and all have benefited from their efforts.

The Editorial Department at IEEE headquarters has been very helpful and most cooperative and understanding. Thanks to Gail Ferenc of the Editorial Staff who received the rough manuscripts of each monthly issue and turned them into the finished product. The secretary to this TRANSACTIONS Editor is really the one who carries the bulk of the daily work in logging in manuscripts, mailing them to the reviewers, tracking the papers, and, finally, preparing an issue for shipping to IEEE headquarters. I feel I had two of the best secretaries possible in Dianna Tseu (SRI) and Carolyn Parker (Hughes). Finally, I would like to express my thanks again to AdCom for the opportunity to have had the experience as Editor and wish Lamar Allen every success as he takes this TRANSACTIONS to new heights.

DON PARKER