

Editor's Preface

THE FIRST MTT index issue (June 1981, Part II) collected all references to TRANSACTIONS articles from the first issue, in March 1953, through 1980. The second index issue (September 1983, Part II) collected all references to papers published in proceedings of the IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium. Papers from the first technical meeting of the then PGM TT in November 1952 through the June 1983 meeting in Boston were included in this second issue.

In this, the third index issue, citations to TRANSACTIONS as well as to Symposium publications are contained, updating MTT-related publication information to the present date. Citations to conference activity include the biennial Cornell Conference as well as the Microwave and Millimeter-Wave Monolithic Circuits Symposium, held jointly with the MTT-S International Microwave Symposium each year. The criteria for conference inclusion in this issue are

- 1) that the meeting be sponsored, either cooperatively, or fully, by the MTT Society, and
- 2) that the digest of the proceedings be published and available to libraries as an archival document.

There are other conferences which meet these criteria; choosing the appropriate set of these meetings has been the subject of lively debate at MTT-S Administrative Committee (AdCom) meetings. The benefits to the membership must in the final result be weighed against the publication

cost of this undertaking. To know that the cost of this issue (~ \$21 000) exceeds the net worth of MTT-S only 15 years ago is to understand the strong corporate memory which influences the Society's fiscal commitments. Publication of this special issue emphasizes AdCom's commitment to membership services by providing archival reference to MTT-related publications and presentations.

While it is the intention of AdCom to continue providing this service to the membership, this may be the last special issue devoted to indexing. A sign of the times, announced recently as an experiment by IEEE/IEE, in conjunction with a number of experimental user sites, is the availability of complete IEEE and IEE publications on one or more CD ROM's. As the computer becomes a more important part of the engineer's desk top, access to the literature will be increasingly electronic. Some Society newsletters are considering electronic distribution. Could we see the library shelves actually shrink with time?

As was the case with the two previous index issues, historical notes of interest regarding the TRANSACTIONS and Symposia are included in the following. As the statistical tables indicate, the financial figure and membership activity for MTT-S continue to be robust. We are indebted to Ted Saad for his continuing efforts in recording the history of MTT-S.

PETER STAECKER
Guest Editor