

Editorial

As from this year, each volume of the *Journal of Engineering Mathematics* will consist of six issues, instead of the four that we have had so far. With the issues of the journal appearing more frequently, authors should have to wait less time before they see their papers in print. Also, by increasing the number of issues published annually, those associated with the journal are showing that they wish it to grow and have a greater impact on the area it serves.

The first issue published according to the new regime, which you now see before you, is somewhat different from what you have come to expect from us. First of all, it is a special issue on a selected topic, with five papers emphasising various aspects of this topic. But also, in some of the papers, mathematics is completely absent, as the aspect those papers deal with is experimental. The contribution of these papers should be viewed in combination with the other, theoretical ones, much as a single paper that we might have published before could have included a section dealing with an experiment. By also presenting those aspects of the topic, a richer and deeper discussion of the central theme is possible. Applied mathematicians should be aware, of course, that often the final test for the validity of their theories is a good experiment.

This does not mean to say that henceforth we are also inviting the submission of papers devoid of mathematics and discussing experiments only. As before, authors of such papers are advised to send these to journals specialising in the publication of such works. Only in the context of special issues, such as this one, may you expect to see the occasional paper which is slightly out of character with our aims and scope. At the same time, we do hope that you, our distinguished reader, will appreciate the small experiment which this special issue really is.

Editor-in-Chief