

## Editorial

As the Journal begins its second year of publication, it affords the Editors-in-Chief great pleasure to be able to report the submission of an undiminishing flow of original papers. Moreover the content and standard of many of the papers has been of high quality, and this reinforces our confidence that there is a substantial need for a Journal of this type. The numbers of submitted papers, together with the plans for the publication of special issues outlined in the Editorial for Vol. 1, No. 3, mean that the Journal will be published bi-monthly from the 1985 Volume (Volume 3). The increase in both frequency and page-budget will rapidly ease the pressure from the remarkable number of high quality manuscripts submitted, and will of course accelerate their publication in the Journal.

In these circumstances a major concern will be the prompt handling, refereeing and printing of authors' manuscripts. Following some editorial and production problems experienced earlier in 1984, the publishers and Editors-in-Chief have taken vigorous steps to bring the Journal firmly back on schedule. In consequence, it is hoped that the complete Volume 2 will have been published by the end of December 1984, in readiness for the launch of the new bi-monthly schedule in January 1985.

Once a paper has been submitted, authors have little influence on its progress to final publication, except of course at the vital stages of revision (if required) and proof-checking. However, there is one respect in which authors can render great assistance. This is by ensuring, before submission, that the style, layout and presentation of a manuscript adhere completely to the Journal's policy, as outlined in the "Instructions to Authors". At present the Editorial process is being considerably prolonged by the many changes of format required by some manuscripts. In a number of cases it has even been necessary to retype the manuscripts completely before submission to the printer. To a considerable extent, therefore, authors can help to ensure the rapid publication of their own papers.

To reinforce the guidance in the "Instructions for Authors", this issue and all subsequent issues of the Journal will include an Authors' Checklist, a compilation of all those points of importance that authors should verify before submission of their manuscripts to one of the Editors-in-Chief. Unlike the rest of the Journal, the Authors' Checklist page may be freely photocopied — we wish it to have the widest possible circulation amongst intending authors. The proper use of this checklist, coupled with vigorous steps being taken by the Editors and publishers, will ensure that future publication delays are minimized.

We would therefore urge all our authors to co-operate with this scheme. We expect to summarize from time to time publication statistics (numbers of papers submitted, proportion accepted, publication delay times, etc.), and hope that these figures will soon reflect the substantial benefits of properly-formatted manuscripts.

Anthony F. Fell  
James N. Miller