

Editor's Page

International Character of Optics

It has been a long-established policy of this Journal to publish articles on optics written in English only. Considering the wide-spread ability to read English on the part of scientists in non-English-speaking countries, such as those of western Europe, Russia, and Japan, this policy seems to make sense even in these later years when sizeable fractions of our total circulation go to foreign countries, and appreciable fractions of our authors reside in foreign countries. Another long-established policy of this Journal is to accept for publication all clear, concise accounts of original optical work of merit and significance, and many papers submitted in awkward, faulty English by foreign authors have been recast by our cooperative associate editors before publication.

These two policies have finally come into conflict. A paper on geometrical optics, originally submitted in Hungarian for publication in the Journal, was resubmitted in German and found by the assigned readers to be closely allied to the early work of our most recent Ives Medalist, Dr. Max J. Herzberger, but with sufficient originality in treatment to justify publication as a Letter to the Editor. Rather than risk losing this paper through language difficulties I decided to accept it for publication in German. It appears on pages 1301 to 1305 of this issue, and is entitled "Über die neue Grunddeterminante der Optotechnik," by Alexander Majoros.

The development of optics is becoming increasingly a matter of international cooperation. Many of the members of our Society are traveling abroad with some regularity to attend optical meetings, such as those of the International Commission for Optics. Perhaps they would prefer to read an account of optical work skillfully written in French or German instead of a rewritten English account. It is doubtful whether a language not written in the letters of the English alphabet, such as Japanese or Russian, will be used in this Journal within the near future, certainly not until there is an editor with more language competence than I have. Our sister journal, *Applied Optics*, however, has carried articles in French, and even one in Russian with English translation in parallel columns. If anyone has a strong opinion, pro or con, regarding the desirability of using languages other than English in this Journal, I would be happy to hear it as a guide to future decisions.

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National Science Fair-International

For two years now, our Society has participated in the National Science Fair-International, sponsored by Science Services. At these meetings the science exhibits prepared by high-school students that have won regional awards compete for national awards. Our participation has taken the form of awarding money prizes to the exhibits in optics judged to be best and second best. In addition each winner is given a student membership in the Society. The judges are appointed by our Board of Directors. This has been done for the competition in Kansas City in 1961, and for that in Seattle in 1962. At the meeting of the Board last month, it was voted to continue the awards of \$100 and \$75 for the fair in Albuquerque scheduled for 6-11 May 1963. It is believed that this partici-

pation not only draws attention of young people to the fascination of optics, but also encourages science teachers to give optics its proper emphasis in their courses.

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Quality in Photographic Reproduction

A three-day symposium, with speakers from many countries, with the above theme has been arranged by the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain. It will be held on 5-7 December 1962 at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2. Subjects to be covered are color photography with particular reference to tone reproduction, slope control by densitometry, measurement of color appearance, granularity and grain, mass production of motion-picture prints, and variation in color reproduction for emotional effects; tone reproduction in the widely separated fields of graphic arts, professional photography, photogrammetry and microreproduction; sharpness of photographic and electronic imaging systems; and modulation transfer functions.

Further details of the symposium may be obtained from Dr. C. Roberts of the Research Laboratory, Kodak Limited, Harrow, Middlesex. Applications for tickets and registration fees (£2.10s.0d) should be sent to Mr. R. J. Cox, Royal Photographic Society, 16, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, England.

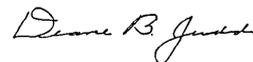
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Spectroscopy of Fluids

A copy of a letter from R. H. Tourin to Mr. H. Jenkins, Editor, *Physics Abstracts*, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2, England, protesting against the inclusion of papers on the spectra of gases under the heading "Fluids, Gaseous State," has recently been received at this office. Mr. Tourin writes in part: "Abstracts of articles on the spectra of gases have been classified in *Physics Abstracts* under 'Optics' as long as I can remember. . . . I think that almost all spectroscopists would agree that articles of this type belong under the classification 'Spectroscopy.' With the present classification, many people interested in this type of work are going to miss noting these abstracts. . . ." The examples cited are *J. Opt. Soc. Am.* 52, 539, 543, 546 (May 1962).

Having just finished the subject index for volume 52 of *JOSA*, I tend to sympathize with the Editor of *Physics Abstracts* who must decide for each article what the primary subject is. When radiant energy is absorbed by a fluid, it is hard to decide whether the fluid or the energy plays the leading role. Since optics as we define it includes both the effects suffered by radiant energy and the effects produced by it, absorption spectroscopy has to be classified as a part of optics. Whether another definition of optics is more useful for *Physics Abstracts* is not for us to decide; but those who agree with Mr. Tourin may wish to make their views known just as he did.

October 17, 1962



Editor