

Preface

The American Institute of Physics published its first *Style Manual* in 1951. It was produced at the request of the Publication Board, which was made up of the editors of all Member Society journals, and with their approval.

At that time there were five Member Societies, each publishing one or two journals through the services provided by the Institute. Now there are ten Member Societies, which between them publish about forty archival journals and seven translated journals. In addition, AIP itself now has a publishing program that comprises seven archival journals, eighteen translated journals, and two magazines.

Roughly half of the Member Society journals are still produced through AIP's publishing services, as are all of AIP's own publications. But the remainder are published by their Member Society owners independently of AIP's copy-editing and composition facilities.

The 1951 *AIP Style Manual* was followed by a second edition in 1959 and a third edition in 1978. This year, in the fourth edition, the emphasis is changing. The *Style Manual* is no longer tied closely to the procedures followed in the AIP journal production offices, but instead attempts to accommodate the different style rules and procedures practiced throughout the AIP "family" of journals. It presents advice which, if followed, should result in the preparation of clear, concise, and well organized manuscripts eminently suitable for submission to any physics or astronomy journal editor's office.

At the time of the third edition (1978) the text pages of many AIP and Member Society journals were composed by typewriter, because the monotype composition used earlier had become too expensive. Since then practically all journal pages have been produced by computer-controlled photo-composition, and at the present time a second generation of computer typesetting systems is coming into use. The next steps, which will be made possible by this new typesetting technology, will include the easy transfer of authors' own digitized text files to the publisher's composition system without rekeyboarding, and, eventually, the production of complete "electronic pages" that can be stored on disks or transmitted by telephone line.

Given the accelerating march of new publishing technology, it appears probable that the next edition of the *AIP Style Manual* will have to follow this one at a closer interval than has been the case with the previous editions.

The number of members of the AIP staff and of the Publication Board, both past and present, to whom the Institute is indebted for their various contributions to this Manual is so great that it would take another section to name them all. Instead, therefore, a hearty "Thank you" to all of you from today's AIP and Publication Board.

Robert T. Beyer
Chair, AIP Publication Board