

International Union of Crystallography

Transfer of Copyright

Recent changes in copyright laws in various countries make necessary a more formal handling of copyright transfer, from author to publisher, than has been the case in the past. Until now the act of submission of a manuscript has generally been understood to convey the author's copyright interests to the publisher, to the extent that national laws permit. Usually the only existing copyright was that which the publisher had obtained. Under the new laws (in some countries) copyright exists from the moment of creation of the work, whether or not formal application for copyright is made. It is held by the author except in the case of 'works for hire', in which case copyright is held by the person or organization for whom the 'work for hire' was produced.

This copyright must now be specifically transferred *in writing* in order for the publisher to obtain the usual copyright privileges and accompanying responsibilities, such as the right to allow the reprinting of the abstract, the authority to give permission to others to use a figure or diagram in scholarly works, the legal power to take steps to prevent unauthorized copying for commercial profit, *etc.* If this kind of copyright is not held by the publisher, all future requests for reproduction of all or part of an article, or even for the making of multiple copies by some libraries, will have to be approved by the author (or, in the case of 'works for hire', his employer). In some cases this will be impossible because the author is deceased or has left the field and cannot be located. In all cases it would be cumbersome and an impediment to the free flow and dissemination of scientific information. This impediment can easily be avoided by having the copyright vested in the publisher who is then able to give blanket permission in advance, with no further formality required, for one-time scholarly use. This is what the IUCr has been doing and, with the co-operation of the authors, will continue to do, as is made clear on the inside front cover of each issue of each IUCr journal where the following statement appears:

'Individual readers of this journal, and non-profit libraries acting for them, are permitted to make "fair use" of the material in it, such as to copy an article for use in teaching or research. Permission is granted to quote short passages and illustrations from this journal in scientific works with no further formality than the customary acknowledgement of the source. Republication or systematic or multiple reproduction of any material in this journal (including abstracts) is permitted only under licence from the International Union of Crystallography; in addition, the Union may require that permission also be obtained from one of the authors. Enquiries and requests should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England.'

For these reasons, the Executive Committee of the IUCr has determined that, henceforth, a Transfer of Copyright Agreement must be executed by the author (or other copyright holder) for each contribution, including invited papers, before it can be considered for publication in either *Acta Crystallographica* or *Journal of Applied Crystallography*.^{*} The transfer will become effective only if and when the contribution is accepted for publication. In drawing up this document, the Editors and the Executive Committee have tried to maintain sensitivity to the fact that the copyright situation may differ from country to country, although most countries do subscribe to international copyright conventions. Further, it is particularly desired that the present rights of the authors should not be restricted in any way. For that reason, the Transfer Agreement retains certain important parts of the copyright with the author.

Anyone wishing further information should contact the Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England.

^{*} The Transfer of Copyright Agreement may be photocopied from page 157 of *Notes for Authors* in the January 1978 issue of *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A or copies may be obtained from any of the editors or the Executive Secretary.

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Acta Crystallographica: Change in Editorship

Professor A. J. C. Wilson recently asked to be released from his task as Editor of *Acta Crystallographica* as from 31 December 1977. Dr S. C. Abrahams (Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974, USA) has been appointed by the Executive Committee of the Union to succeed Professor Wilson as Editor. Professor J. Wyart and Professor H. Lipson also retired as Co-editors of the journal at the end of 1977. Professor M. M. Woolfson, of the University of York, has been appointed a British Co-editor. Dr Abrahams's initial appointment will be until the Twelfth General Assembly of the Union, to be held in 1981, and is subject to confirmation by the Eleventh General Assembly in Warsaw in August 1978.

Professor Wilson, who was then Professor of Physics at University College, Cardiff, succeeded Professor P. P. Ewald as Editor of and Chairman of the Commission on *Acta Crystallographica* at the beginning of 1960. Prior to that he had been Editor of *Structure Reports* since its creation in 1948. In 1963 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1965 he moved to the University of Birmingham as Professor of Crystallography.

In 1960 *Acta Crystallographica* consisted of 1056 pages. The size of the journal continued to grow steadily until it was necessary to divide it into its present two parts in 1968: Section A, on crystal physics, diffraction, theoretical and general physics and Section B, on structural crystallography and crystal chemistry. At the same time *Journal of Applied*