

at least one important error. The Commission on Journals has now decided that the burden of keypunching the atomic coordinates, lattice constants and crystal symmetry in order that bond lengths, bond angles and torsion angles may be computed and compared with the values quoted in the manuscripts may reasonably be reduced with the author's cooperation. In future, all crystal structure papers must be accompanied by the *connected* computer output of the author's program that lists all final input data together with the output bond lengths and angles. All numerical information on the computer output must be clearly labelled. In addition, the first sheet of the structure factor listing should be given as part of the continuous listing if possible.

The attention of authors is also drawn to notices concerning stereofigures [*Acta Cryst.* (1978), B34, 3846], dimensions of material for deposition [*Acta Cryst.* (1979), B35, 792] and estimated standard deviations, SI units and anisotropic thermal parameters [*Acta Cryst.* (1979), B35, 1302].

Acta Cryst. (1979). B35, 2285

Standard Crystallographic File Structure

At the Eleventh IUCr Congress held in Warsaw in August 1978 the Union's Commissions on Crystallographic Data and Crystallographic Computing set up a working party to propose a standard computer-readable file structure that would simplify the interchange of crystallographic data between laboratories. The working party has now produced an interim report, outlining the criteria to be met by such

a file structure and proposing a trial version containing formats for the more basic types of crystallographic data. A final report will be submitted to the parent Commissions at the Twelfth IUCr Congress in Ottawa in 1981. In the meantime anyone interested in the interim report should write to the Chairman of the working party, Dr I. D. Brown, Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4M1.

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Molecular Structures and Dimensions

The International Union of Crystallography and the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre announce the publication of the latest volume in this series: Volume 10, entitled *Bibliography 1977–78, Organic and Organometallic Crystal Structures*. It contains bibliographic information on 3018 structures published during 1977–1978. As in previous volumes the entries are arranged in 86 chemical classes and cover organic compounds, complexes and organometallic compounds. There are extensive indexes for authors, compound names and formulae.

The price of the new volume is 100 Netherlands guilders (about US \$50 at current rates of exchange). Personal copies may be purchased at a reduced price of 75 Netherlands guilders. Copies are available directly from Bohn, Scheltema & Holkema, PO Box 23, 7400 GA Deventer, The Netherlands. Alternatively, orders may be placed with Polycrystal Book Service, PO Box 11567, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, USA, or with any bookseller.

Book Review

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

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Scientific information transfer: the editor's role. Edited by MIRIAM BALABAN. Pp. xxxii + 686. Dordrecht: Reidel, 1978. Price Dfl 70.00, US \$34.50

It is impossible to write a review, in the ordinary sense of the word, of a book consisting of approximately 75 papers (with discussion), presented at what was described as the 'First International Conference of Scientific Editors', held in Jerusalem, 24–29 April 1977. The book is reproduced from typescript of varying quality and different typefaces, so that it presents a very uneven appearance. The inherent quality of the papers is also variable; some are the result of original research, and others are good reviews; some seem to have been prepared simply as a justification for attending the conference, and one or two can be regarded only as elaborate jokes.

Among the papers that caught my interest was that of Anthony Woodward, of ASLIB, on the economics of an idea that has been much canvassed both in the USA and the

United Kingdom: Editorial Processing Centres. The idea is that one office could serve the needs of the publications of a number of learned societies, providing secretarial services, processing and technical editing of typescripts, and photocomposition (probably computer-controlled). According to Woodward's analysis, under European conditions the claimed financial savings would arise almost entirely from the photocomposition stage, and this is something that can just as well be provided by the printer, without the additional complication and bureaucracy of an editorial processing centre. His figures were not challenged, possibly because no one else had bothered to do the calculations, and had simply assumed that the arrangement would be advantageous. However, Dorothy Mizoguchi, of the Japanese Cancer Association in Tokyo, describes two centres for scientific publications in Japan. One published 45 journals on behalf of scientific societies, some in Japanese and some in English. The other was a business centre, which undertook the collection of membership fees, mailing of notices and journals, preparing membership lists, and similar duties for about 80 societies. The special problems of publishing in English in Japan obviously provided a situation quite

different from that postulated by Woodward. Several papers discuss improvements in the refereeing system, either as their main subject or incidentally. The editor of *Current Anthropology* uses 20 to 50 referees for each paper, and the editor of the *Mental Health Journal* proposes to select them by computer. M. Gordon, of the Primary Communications Research Centre, University of Leicester, provides a thoughtful paper on unconscious referee bias; he concludes that the probability of a favourable report depends as much on the status of the author's institution as on the contents of his paper, and he confirms with a high degree of statistical significance that there are other human failings that an experienced editor could have predicted and would have allowed for. [The data are not entirely unambiguous; they could be rearranged to show that papers from high-status institutions are, on the average, of higher quality than those from low-status institutions – a proposition that seems not unlikely *a priori*.] Thirteen papers deal with 'Standards and Style'; they indicate that the journals of the Union are one jump ahead of the game for the moment.

Eight papers deal with the economics and organization of scientific publishing. Anders Kylin describes the study by the committee of the West European Science Research Councils of the possible rationalization of publication in his particular field (plant physiology). The interesting point is that he feels it necessary to postulate that the journal would contribute the appropriate fraction of the editor's full salary (one-quarter to three-quarters, depending on the amount of time involved) to the university or other institution to which the editor is attached, instead of expecting a large hidden subsidy from the institution in return for a token honorarium paid to the editor. E. H. Hare, of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, describes the progress of its finances since he took it over a few years ago. In the early 1970's the deficit reached alarming proportions and, amusingly, was found to result to a great extent from carrying advertisements. The cost of printing these, plus the extra postage on the weight that they added to the Journal, far outweighed the advertising revenue.

The conference generated considerable enthusiasm among the editors who participated in it, and an international association of scientific editors has since been formed; this organization is arranging a 'second' international conference. Was the publication of the proceedings of the first justified? The answer must be a qualified 'yes'. There is much in the book that would be useful to a new, or even to an experienced, editor, but there is also much that simply gets in the way. Some really tough pruning, or even rejection, on the part of the editor would have made a more useful publication, but obviously those whose papers were eliminated would have taken a poor view of the organization resulting from the conference.

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Books Received

The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.

Glass, 1977. Vols. I and II. Edited by J. GOTZ. Pp. 423 and 614. Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1977. Price: Vol. I, Dfl 160.00; Vol. II, Dfl. 240.00; Vols. I and II together, Dfl 330.00. A review of these books, by A. K. Chaudhuri, has been published in the August issue of *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, page 428.