

Editorial

THIS NUMBER of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION THEORY is the final issue assembled by Dr. G. David Forney, Jr., who served as Editor from July 1, 1971 to December 31, 1974. It seems appropriate then to say a brief word of thanks to Dave for his faithful and effective service and to indicate how we intend to carry on in his stead.

Some of Dave's accomplishments as Editor are quite visible, such as his solicitation of outstanding invited papers to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Shannon's paper. These papers met a very favorable reception from G-IT members. However, not readily visible to the readership-at-large are other accomplishments of Dave's editorship that were of immense benefit to our journal. For instance, only a few of us know that Dave personally read and edited every manuscript accepted for publication. If the paper were not intelligible when it reached him after passing through the review and revision process, Dave would not hesitate to send it back for another rewriting. Moreover, his scrupulous reading of the manuscript more than once turned up errors that had gone unnoticed previously. It was through such painstaking scholarship that Dave as Editor maintained and enhanced the reputation for high standards that our journal enjoys while at the same time increasing readability.

During our editorship, we plan to continue the policy of printing invited tutorial papers on a regular basis. We shall also strive for the same high standards in the papers we publish and continue the rather successful war against reviewing delays that our journal has been waging for several years. The only new goal we have set before us is the modest one of obtaining more papers showing the *application* of information theory outside the traditional areas where it has been applied. Our thesis is that information theory is one of the basic sciences, the science of symbols, and as such has relevance to many types of scientific endeavor. Our mission as information-theorists should include not only the development of our science but also the communication of its applicability to those who can profitably make use of our results. We would be very grateful to hear from our readers about new applications of information theory that have come to their notice and to receive their suggestions as to who might contribute an interesting article on such applications.

JAMES L. MASSEY
Editor