ANNOUNCEMENT: ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC EDITORS

Twenty-five years ago all parts of the Journal and Supplement Series were administered by one editor (S. Chandrasekhar), one assistant (Donna D. Elbert), one production manager (Jeanette R. Burnett), and one manuscript editor (Jeanne Hopkins). The comparable current numbers are three editors, eight assistants, a University of Chicago Press staff of 18, including a production staff of five and an editorial staff of 10. In addition, there are six Associate Editors, now called Scientific Editors, who, with their part-time assistants, oversee the reviewing of half the manuscripts submitted to the Journal. They are Anne P. Cowley (Arizona State University), Bernhard M. Haisch (Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratory), Yervant Terzian (Cornell University), John H. Thomas (University of Rochester), Virginia Trimble (University of California at Irvine and University of Maryland), and Edward L. Wright (University of California, Los Angeles). Now, however, because of the Journal's increasing size, overseeing the reviewing of the remaining half of the manuscripts plus oversight of the entire journal has become too much work for one person. Therefore the AAS Council, on the recommendation of the Publications Board, selected six more Scientific Editors, and they are now assisting with the reviewing.

The six new Scientific Editors are Gregory D. Bothun (University of Oregon), Geoffrey R. Burbidge (University of California, San Diego), Steven N. Shore (Indiana University, South Bend), Edward M. Sion (Villanova University), Christopher Sneden (University of Texas), and Steven P. Willner (Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory). The entire astronomical community will be grateful for their voluntary work and good judgment.

The reviewing of approximately 90% of the new papers will be delegated to the Scientific Editors. The Editor-in-Chief will handle a share equal to one of theirs, so that he does not lose contact with the problems involved and decisions needed. All new manuscripts should, as before, be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, who will then record them in the computerized system and distribute them to the appropriate Scientific Editor.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the operation of a journal through a team of scientific editors. One advantage is that detailed policies are more likely to represent the consensus of the scientific community, rather than the views of one individual. Another is that a scientist better qualified to judge each manuscript will oversee the reviewing. A disadvantage is that there will be some variation in handling of papers with regard to rigor and efficiency, in patience with manuscripts that pose problems, and in viewpoint on the boundaries of acceptable topics. Some journals permit authors to submit manuscripts directly to the editors of their choice, but then the editors who are more lenient or are faster are likely to be overwhelmed. Considering the rapid growth of this Journal, it is expected that additional Scientific Editors will be selected at nearly an annual rate.

HELMUT A. ABT
Editor-in-Chief