

## 1997 in Review

We continue the tradition in this editorial of providing the reader with a statistical record of the publishing year 1997 and Volume 36 of *Optical Engineering*. 1997 was a year of consolidation for your journal and one of planning for a smooth transition to a new editor. This transition will lead to moving the journal to an even higher level of service and commitment to both authors and readers.

## Pages and Papers

Table 1 provides the major statistics for the year. Perhaps the most important statistic, which measures the health of *Optical Engineering*, is the number of regular papers submitted; at 466 we reached an all-time high that exceeded the previous record of 455 in 1996. By design, in 1997 the number of special section papers was reduced so that only 24.4% of the published papers were in special sections. The previous low was in 1996 at 30%.

Twenty-seven revised versions of proceedings papers were published, which represented 6.3% of the total number of papers published (6.8% in 1996 and 10.2% in 1995). The average length of papers was 7.8 pages, up from 7.3 pages in 1996.

In addition to regular and special section papers, 16 communication papers were published (13 in 1996).

## Authors

Table 2 shows the number of papers published in 1997 by the country of the first author. The truly international nature of *Optical Engineering* is exemplified in these statistics—66% of the published papers originated from outside the U.S. and represented 37 different countries.

**Table 1** Major statistics and percentage changes since last year.

Number of journal pages	3536	-4.5%	
Number of technical pages	3381	-1.7%	
Number of papers published	427	-9.1%	
Number of authors	1230	-11.8%	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1997 vs 1996</u>
Regular papers published	323	75.6%	-1.5%
Special papers published	104	24.4%	-26.8%
Regular papers received	466		+2.4%
Special papers received	139		+69.5%

**Table 2** Number of papers published by country of first author in 1997.

<u>No. of Papers</u>	<u>Country</u>
145	United States
26	China
23	Canada
19	Taiwan
17	Japan
15	Australia, Israel
14	France, Germany
12	India, Korea, Mexico, Poland
11	England, Russia
7	Greece, Spain, Sweden
6	Hong Kong
5	Italy, Scotland
4	Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland
3	Hungary
2	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, South Africa, Cyprus
1	Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Romania, Singapore, Yugoslavia, Kuwait, Slovenia
<u>427</u>	

**Table 3** Number of papers from the U.S. in 1997 by state of first author.

<u>Number of Papers</u>	<u>State</u>
22	California
11	Massachusetts
10	Pennsylvania
9	Alabama
8	Ohio, Utah
6	Maryland, Texas
5	Arizona, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Virginia
4	Michigan, Montana, New Mexico
3	D.C., Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire
2	Iowa, Kentucky, South Carolina
1	Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee
<u>145</u>	

**Table 4** Total number of authors by country in 1997.

Number	Country
415	United States
91	China
67	Germany
58	Canada, Japan
49	Taiwan
43	France
40	Korea
39	Israel
32	England
31	Mexico
29	Poland
28	India, Russia
27	Australia
24	Italy
23	Spain
19	Scotland
17	Sweden
15	Hong Kong
14	Switzerland
12	Netherlands
10	Hungary
8	Finland
7	Greece, South Africa, Cyprus
4	Brazil, Czech Republic, Singapore
3	Argentina, Slovenia
2	Belgium, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Kuwait
1	Austria, Belarus, Denmark, Romania, Moldova, Iran
1230	

**Table 5** Total number of authors by state in 1997.

Number of Authors	State
81	California
32	Massachusetts
27	Ohio
23	Maryland
21	Pennsylvania
20	New Jersey
19	Texas
18	Virginia
17	Alabama
14	Connecticut
12	New Mexico, Utah
11	Florida, New York
10	Arizona, D.C.
9	Louisiana
8	Michigan
6	Kentucky, Missouri
5	Indiana, Nebraska
4	Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Carolina
3	Colorado, Georgia
2	Illinois, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin
1	North Carolina, Mississippi
415	

**Table 6** Outcomes of papers acted on in 1997.

Accepted	315	65.35%
Rejected	107	22.20%
Closed	47	9.75%
Withdrawn	4	0.83%
Transferred	9	1.87%
Total	482	100%

**Table 7** Activity of the editorial office in 1997 (regular papers only).

		% change vs 1996
Reviewers selected	1186	+1.8%
Reviews received	759	+7.8%
Revised manuscripts received	279	+12.0%
Papers returned to authors for revision	313	+5.0%
Communication papers received	24	+50.0%

The U.S. contribution of 34% is shown by state in Table 3. Tables 4 and 5 show similar data for all authors listed in the published papers and raises the number of countries (including the U.S.) to 41. The authors include 235 members and 39 fellows of SPIE.

Authors from universities and colleges increased to 70.6% of all authors (66.3% in 1996); authors associated with the government were 15.6% of the total (down from 21.0%) and authors from industry were 13.8% of the total (up slightly from the 12.7% of 1996).

### Editorial Activity

Table 6 shows the outcomes of papers acted upon during 1997. Some 482 papers were processed to completion. In addition, 139 special section papers were processed during the year. The overall acceptance rate was 65.35%.

Finally, Table 7 reports on the activity level of the editorial office during 1997—a modest, but significantly higher, level of activity than in 1996.

And so forward to Volume 37, and 1998.

**Brian J. Thompson**