

Editorial Note

This issue of *JIPA* is the first for which the responsibility lies with your new Editor. I am very appreciative of the confidence placed in me by the Council of the Association and am eager to do what I can to ensure that the *Journal* is widely read and respected, and is responsive to the needs of the membership. I see the *Journal* as having two main functions; it serves as the official organ of the International Phonetic Association, providing news and discussion of the Association's activities and interests, and it also serves as a medium of scientific communication for the wider community of phoneticians and others interested in phonetic issues in language and linguistics. Throughout the Association's history, the promotion of standards for phonetic transcription has been a central issue, with concern for both the adequacy and the consistency of transcriptions being stressed. The *Journal*, through circulation of discussion documents before the Kiel convention on revision of the International Phonetic Alphabet, and through publication of reports and discussion after the convention, has recently done much to keep these issues in the limelight. The Association has also historically been associated with questions of education in phonetics, and with the practical contributions that phonetics can make to other language sciences and to the learning and teaching of languages. As Editor, I will continue to welcome contributions to the discussion of these issues.

The other objective of the *Journal* is to serve as a general outlet for scientific research in phonetics. There are a number of general phonetic journals, and a larger number of journals whose interest in phonetics is of a more specialized nature or is tangential to other concerns. The *Journal* aims to publish scientific work of the same caliber as the best of these sister journals, but there are some areas which are more naturally central to the interests of the Association's members and congruent with the Association's history. These include research which contributes to our understanding of the range of different sounds and sound patterns used in human languages; descriptive and contrastive studies on both familiar and exotic languages are particularly welcome. The Association's historic 1949 *Principles* also formed a concise statement of a theory of phonetics. It is firmly segment-based, and tied to a phonemic conception of phonology. There is little discussion of prosodic phenomena or other matters that do not fit well into segmental analyses. But there is no IPA doctrine on these matters. Theoretical ideas on phonetics in the 1990's are not subject to such limitations, and the *Journal* welcomes contributions from all perspectives on theoretical issues, on the relationships between the phonetic sciences, and on the application of phonetic knowledge to technological and practical problems.

Future issues of the *Journal* will be organized into sections headed Articles, Research Notes, Education, Phonetic Representation, Reviews, and IPA News (not all will necessarily be present in any one issue). To simplify the editorial process, the practice of having separate section editors is being discontinued, and at the same time a new Editorial Board is being created to assist the Editor in setting and maintaining high standards. The former section editors have graciously agreed to be the first appointees on this board; additional members will be appointed in the near future.

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