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# Editorial

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In apologising to readers for the delayed publication of the March, and now the July issue, those involved – and particularly the editor on whom the main responsibility rests – can only emphasize that strenuous efforts are being made to return to the high standard of time-keeping maintained by Butterworth-Heinemann.

Major changes have been associated with the new production system in which the WPSA has again become publishers of its journal. While printing and distribution are now undertaken by WATT Publishing of Mount Morris, Illinois, USA, many of the processes formerly handled by Butterworth-Heinemann have become the responsibility of the editor. There are some advantages, particularly in enabling the WPSA, through the editor, to exert more direct control and, particularly as we look to the future, in creating greater flexibility. There are also some disadvantages, as for example when trying to ensure contracted typesetting and compilation have been properly and promptly carried out. This was the weak link for the March issue and a new company has taken on this work.

There have been no changes to the procedure whereby submitted papers are sent by the editor to independent referees for scrutiny, and the stages where papers may be rejected, accepted, or accepted subject to modification. It is only following editing and subediting of finally accepted versions of papers that the process has now changed. Texts are keyed into a computer or, where authors have sent papers to the editor on computer disk, it has usually been possible to edit 'on screen' and then simply transfer in a form more or less ready for making up into pages of the journal. Proof copies of papers are produced and sent to authors for checking in the normal way. Once final corrections have been made a whole issue of the journal in 'camera-ready' form can be sent on a 'mega-disk' to WATT Publishing. There are obviously many other components in the production process, such as the special treatment required for photographs, some figures and the summaries prepared in camera-ready form by the translators.

New systems have had to be developed in the case of label production because it was obviously more sensible to send members' names and addresses to the USA on computer disk than as ready-printed labels. The speed of delivery of the July issue to members and subscribers should have been increased by improvements it has been possible to make to the distribution system.

**Chris Hann**