

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Optica Applicata* opens the 25th year of its service to the optics community. Edited since 1971, initially as a nonperiodic publication and since 1973 as a quarterly, *Optica Applicata* has gradually gained considerable recognition among the research workers all over the world. The authors publishing in the journal come from over twenty countries (including USA, former Soviet Union, Germany, France, Japan, India, Spain, former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Norway, Romania, Egypt to name some of many), while the "geographic expansion" of our quarterly shows a steadily increasing tendency. It is either subscribed by or sent to (on the exchange basis) more than 170 foreign scientific institutions and to all Polish centres of optical research.

All papers published in *Optica Applicata* are reviewed by outstanding scientists in the respective fields. It is the right moment and place to express our deepest gratitude to all of them for their efforts to assure the proper level of our publications.

An important event in the recent years of our activity was the agreement between SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering and the Editor of *Optica Applicata* concerning the common editing of our quarterly.

We are very thankful to all the members of the Editorial Board for their cooperation and good advice in many difficult situations of our journal, whenever they were asked for.

Optica Applicata being a non-profit publication could not exist without generous sponsors. We take this opportunity to express our highest respect and gratitude to all of them and, in particular, to: the succeeding Rectors of the Technical University of Wrocław (who originally were the only sponsors of our journal), the Polish Ministry of Education, the Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) as well as its precursor — the Committee for Science and Technology, the Dean of the Faculty of Basic Problems of Technology and to the Director of the Institute of Physics, both from the Technical University of Wrocław. We do hope that our editorial activity in the future will meet the same friendliness and support of the above mentioned (and hopefully other) Institutions to enable the continuation of our free-of-charge service to the authors.

And, finally, we feel highly indebted to the community of our authors, the real creators of the journal, who entrusted us with the results of their both interesting and important scientific investigations. We invite heartily all of them to continue our cooperation.

As a result of the efforts of all these people and Institutions our quarterly attained a wide international renown. We are quoted in: *Sci. Search*^(R), *Research Abstracts*^(R), and *Current Contents/Engineering, Technology and Applied Sciences*^(R) and cited or/indexed by all the main citing/indexing journals in the field, such as: *SCI*^(R) *Journal Citation Reports*^(R), *Physics Briefs/Physikalische Berichte*, *Physics Abstracts*, *Referatyvnyi Zhurnal*, *Chem. Abs.*, *Sci. Abs.*, *Cadscan*, *Lead Abs.*, *Zinc Scan*.

The up-to-date review of matter covers the majority of important fields of both contemporary and traditional optics (see the *Review of Matter* on the back side cover). Now, we intend to widen the subject matter of our journal by including also some problems of didactic nature under a common title: *Teaching Optics*. This could contain both general information about the concepts and programs of optics study in its different specialized fields and solutions of some specific teaching problems aiming at improvement of the clarity of presentation of more difficult problems or introduction of new demonstrations, students labs or particular experimental set-ups. All optics teachers interested in developing new teaching concepts and methodologies are invited to share their experience with others in the form of communications, papers or other elaborations adequate to the problems discussed. We hope that such an exchange of information will meet the needs of many teachers, especially (though not exclusively) less experienced lecturers and organizers of student labs. We would consider it both an honour and a pleasure to have the opportunity of widening our activity by contributing to the development of didactics of optics.

Ireneusz Wilk