

As I complete my first year as Technical Editor, one thing I have learned is that a very large number of people are involved in the production of this Journal. These range from the authors, through the reviewers and associate editors to the ASME publishing staff and the printers. At this time it seems particularly appropriate to recognize the associate editors, since two of them are retiring on December 31. Dr. Ashok Midha is completing a four-year term as Associate Editor for the Mechanisms area. During this year he has handled the review of one hundred and sixty-seven papers for this Journal. I think everybody will agree that this is a huge load for one individual to handle. Dr. S. S. Rao has resigned as Associate Editor in the Design Automation area. Rao set a very high standard for efficiency in processing the papers passing through his hands. It is also appropriate to recognize the service of Dr. Clark J. Radcliffe, who completed his term as Associate Editor in Design Automation on June 30, 1988.

The associate editor's position is, all too often, a thankless one. He, or she, is the first to feel the heat from authors who are dissatisfied with the time taken for review, or with the disposition of their manuscripts. All too often he is at the mercy of reviewers who take an inordinately long time to return their reviews, or who have to be cajoled into completing them at all. The associate editors are volunteers. They receive little in the way of tangible benefits for their services. Their qualifications are carefully scrutinized by the Publications Committee of the ASME Board on Communications before they are appointed. The associate editors play a major role in maintaining technical quality standards. Without them, it would be impossible to produce the Journal. It is the policy of this Journal to work with a relatively small number of associate editors. This means that the numbers of reviews handled by each of these people are necessarily large. However, I hope to increase the number of associate editors by at least two to ensure that nobody is asked to handle as many papers as Dr. Midha did this year.

I trust that the readers of this Journal will join me in thanking the people named above for their distinguished service to the Journal, and to the technical community.

Kenneth J. Waldron  
Technical Editor