

Editor's Annual Report—June 2000

Covering the period from June 1999 through May 2000

Manuscript Flow

We received 378 manuscripts during the reporting period (table 1). This compares with 342 during the previous 12 months. Our acceptance rate is 47% compared with 56% during the previous reporting period. We published 201 articles, which occupied 1,920 pages.

Associate Editors

During the year Chip Aquadro, Stan Sawyer and Caro-Beth Stewart ceased to be Associate Editors. They had all done an excellent job and I was sorry to lose their services. Six new Associate Editors joined MBE: Keith Crandall, Eddie Holmes, Toby Kellogg, Jeff Long, Deithard Tautz and Fumio Tajima. It is worth reporting every year that SMBE owes a great deal to the Associate Editors. The high standing that our journal continues to enjoy is largely due to the excellent job that they do.

Subscribers and Members

At the end of May we had 499 subscribers and 901 members. In both cases this is an increase over 1999 (table 2). In the case of institutional subscriptions this is part of an ongoing trend; it is a very healthy sign in an environment where many libraries are cutting subscriptions. The increase in memberships reverses a

steady decline over the past few years. Hopefully the increase will be sustained.

Online Publishing

A little behind schedule and with a few teething problems, MBE went online earlier this year. MBE is the first established journal, as far as we are aware, to go online with all back issues available. The back issue availability was achieved through a collaboration with the University of Arizona Library. We have been very pleased with the service provided by High Wire Press who are hosting the online journal. The response from readers has been overwhelmingly positive. The free trial period for the journal is due to end and access control is about to be implemented. In October 1999 I attended a High Wire publishers meeting in Washington, DC, which was extremely informative. A report was submitted to Council. Stan Sawyer has been appointed Deputy Editor, online publishing, to assist with the workload associated with the online transition. At this stage it is impossible to assess the impact of online publishing on our subscriptions and/or membership. We are currently dealing with several issues including online manuscript handling, online data supplements, and online subscription/membership application/renewal.

Simon Easta
Editor