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## The "New" Proceedings

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## The "New" Proceedings

With the appearance of this issue, the publication program of the Iowa Academy of Science enters a new era. This is such a serious and significant moment in Academy history that I am breaking a long precedent and introducing this page of editorial comment.

We think it fitting and proper that the state of Iowa should have so long subsidized science in the state, in part, by defraying the costs of printing the *Proceedings*. It has never paid the whole cost of publication; most of the costs other than printing have been held to a minimum by a great deal of unpaid work by Academy members but the Academy has always been financially involved in the costs of publication. In any case, state support has not entailed a great expenditure when compared to money spent to aid business, agriculture, or some of the other activities of state citizens. Nevertheless, the subsidy has permitted the Iowa Academy of Science to maintain an unusually strong publication program for a state academy. The Academy has appreciated this support in the past, and continues to hope that it will be renewed in the future.

It is a well-established principle that the costs of publication represent a valid part of the costs of research. The use of the pages of the *Proceedings* by so many scientists employed by the state in its various agencies and universities provides a strong argument in favor of the state defraying at least a part of the costs of printing the *Proceedings*. It is my personal opinion that it is unfair to ask a very small part of the citizens of the state—the Academy members—to pay the costs of printing the results of research funded by state agencies. To attempt to do so puts the Academy in at least a temporarily difficult financial position, but it is essential, I think, that the Academy continue its publication program until state support can be renewed, and improve it as much as possible in the interim.

In any case, with this issue, the *Proceedings* appears as a quarterly in a new format. We hope that you will like the new format and the quarterly issues. In addition to being relatively inexpensive, the new format will permit a better display of some kinds of illustrations, and, we hope, will be more attractive. We hope that the quarterly issues will permit quick and consistent appearance of timely material. But the new format and issue dates are really minor matters. The contents and the policies are far more important.

An important change in policy is the decision to accept manuscripts that do not grow directly out of work reported at the preceding annual meeting. We have several reasons for this change in policy, and I think it important that the membership be aware of them.

In recent years, an increasing part of the annual meetings have centered around symposia, invited speakers, and other discussions that have vied with the delivery of research papers for meeting time. No doubt some part of our annual meeting will always be devoted to reports of recent research, but it seems clear that if the *Proceedings* is to continue its important role of publishing regional data, we must accept appropriate research papers even though they have not been delivered at the last meeting. Two other advantages should be mentioned. It is unlikely that the *Proceedings* will develop such a backlog of material that it cannot provide a relatively

immediate publication of timely data, at least in the foreseeable future. We hope that members will submit some of their papers before they deliver their talks at the next meeting. As a rule, it seems improbable that these will actually appear before the meeting date, even though no backlog of manuscripts exists. We also hope that the shift to a quarterly issue will permit those who report on very recent work at the meetings to have a little more time to prepare their manuscripts.

Above all, it is important that the *Proceedings* serve all of the Academy members. In those disciplines in which a great deal of regional data are gathered, it has always been important. In others, there is little or no truly regional material. With past policies, the *Proceedings* has tended to serve members of these sections less well. We would not want to see only regional data in the *Proceedings*; indeed, if it is to be the voice of the Academy membership, it must include all of the kinds of scientific material that are of interest to the Iowa scientific community. We hope to see more manuscripts from members of sections that have tended to emphasize material other than research papers at the annual meeting.

The Academy is an unusual organization. Most of the scientific societies to which we belong center about some specific specialty, one so narrow that the majority of research papers that are given are of more or less direct interest to us. Discussions also center about these narrow fields. An academy of science, however, is by its very nature multidisciplinary. Its meetings and its publications provide unique opportunities for a variety of specialists to meet together to discuss common problems, and to foster the development of multidisciplinary approaches to the kinds of problems that face the society and its educational system. The *Proceedings* is open to manuscripts addressing themselves to material of general interest to scientists. We hope to see useful and stimulating material that will tend to bridge the gap between the behavioral, biological, and physical sciences and between the various specialties within them.

We hope that the new policies will help the *Proceedings* to become what it should be—the authoritative voice of the Academy membership. As a serious, professional publication, it should not undertake the role of a newsletter, nor should its pages be dominated by ill-considered or preliminary articles. It should be the agency through which members share all of the kinds of definitive and substantial material that are of interest to the Iowa scientific community as a whole.

But editorial policies are no more than potentialities. As always in the past, the *Proceedings* will be what the Academy membership makes it. It is up to the members to create the journal they want, by the simple expedient of submitting the type of material they believe to be important, needed, and appropriate for its pages. Perhaps more than at any time in the history of the *Proceedings*, the tone of our journal, the role it plays in scientific publication, the quality of its contents, and its usefulness to each of us is, in part, in each of our hands. I know the Academy membership can make it an outstanding publication if they will do so. It is my fervent hope that they will.

Paul A. Meglitsch, *Editor*