Books Received

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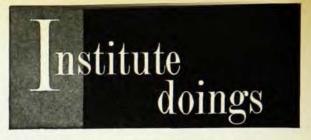
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THE NEW STYLE MANUAL

In the eyes of an author, the life cycle of a scientific article is essentially complete when the manuscript has been approved by the editor of the journal for which it has been submitted. All that remains to be done before final publication is some last-minute polishing when galley proofs arrive, and possibly the correction of a few errors which have crept into the article since the author last remembers having seen it. For the people in the publication office of the American Institute of Physics, where manuscripts are processed for publication in AIP journals, and for those at the Lancaster Press who set the type and print the journals, the life of an article begins when the manuscript is received.

The usual article on physics is complex to print. Errors, whether typographical or otherwise, are likely to be catastrophic since physics has an extremely precise language of highly compressed symbols and terminology. The problem would be simpler if those who processed an article had complete understanding of its contents, but then physicists quite rightly prefer to concern themselves with physics rather than with either proofreading or typesetting. Unfortunately, it is also the case that manuscripts entirely free from ambiguities are just about as rare as physicists in the publication office or in the Lancaster Press composing room.

Partly to help preserve the good tempers of those in one way or another involved with the life cycle of a scientific article, and partly in the interests of whatever conformity is reasonable and practical in publishing physics articles, the Institute has issued and is prepared to distribute a Style Manual for guidance in preparing manuscripts for AIP journals. In addition to giving a thumbnail sketch of an article's history, the manual contains sections on preparing and styling manuscripts, figures for illustration, and mathematical expressions. It also lists the special characters and signs which are available. Institute members who plan to write journal papers are urged to get in touch with the publication office (the American Institute of Physics, 57 East 55th Street, New York 22, New York) for copies of the manual.

The manual was originally planned by the Institute's committee on mathematical typography, of which J. H. Van Vleck was chairman. Other members were Margaret Griffin Dunbar, Philip M. Morse, Richard P. Rohrer, and Madeline Mitchell Tate. Final preparation was in the hands of an editing committee headed by George R. Harrison. It was aided by the Institute's publication board, which includes the editors of the various AIP technical journals. Other Institute members too numerous to mention specifically have contributed heavily, both in time and effort, to the project.