
Editorial

The present issue completes Volume 2 of EP-odd, and on this occasion the Editorial bears only one name. The reason for this is that the end of Volume 2 marks the point at which our US co-editor, Richard Beach, is handing over the US Editorship of EP-odd to Richard Furuta, one of our Editorial Board members. Devotees of the 'Monty Python' series would be justified in concluding that just as everybody in Australia is called 'Bruce' so also is it *de rigueur* for US Editors of EP-odd to be called 'Rick'. Whatever the truth may be, I shall have to distinguish them as 'Rick B.' and 'Rick F.' from this point on.

This solo Editorial enables me to thank Rick B. for all he has done in helping to set up EP-odd and in making it such a success. Shortly after the first issue of Volume 1 appeared he was promoted to the position of manager of the Electronic Documents Laboratory at Xerox PARC. It would be flattering, if rather unrealistic, to believe that the two were connected, but in any event the increasing administrative load associated with his new post, coupled with existing commitments to SIGGRAPH, have led Rick B. to the reluctant conclusion that he cannot devote the requisite editorial time to EP-odd, now that we have entered full-scale production. However, I am glad to report that he will be staying on as a member of the Editorial Board.

The next pleasant duty is to welcome Rick F. as our new US Editor. Many of you will already know of his work in areas such as structured documents and hypertext. It was particularly brave of him to take on new responsibilities at a time when he is embroiled in the myriad details of being Program Chairman of the EP90 conference (to be held at Gaithersburg, Maryland in September 1990). Rick F. comes to the job with the excellent pedigree of having two papers already published in EP-odd (one of them in this issue) and bearing a second name which is an anagram of a classic sans-serif typeface. What more could one ask? (Joking apart, I note that a certain font supplier, anxious no doubt to avoid trademark litigation, is distributing a PostScript version of a popular sans-serif typeface under the name 'Futaru'. This prompts the following conundrum: When designing the exhibition poster for EP90 will Richard Furuta use Futura or Futaru?)

Electronic Publishing is a strange business, and despite all the new technology available to us it is remarkably difficult to do it well. Perhaps there is something, after all, in the cynical observation that 'new technology rarely saves you money—it just helps you to do more and to stay competitive'. Certainly, EP-odd's policy of allowing editors and authors to participate in the production process adds quite a few headaches and, looking back over the six issues that have now appeared, we still see the classic symptoms that the first 95% of producing an issue of EP-odd is utterly straightforward—the last 5% drives the editorial and production staff to distraction. On the other hand it is true that the freedoms afforded, for example, by having PostScript as a common final form, allow us to publish 'difficult copy' with relative ease (the *triroff* paper, in the previous issue, was a good instance of this). In the end, what makes it all worthwhile is the occasional unsolicited testimonial, such as the following (from a member of our Editorial Board)

“A measure of the quality of a publication is the length of time that it stays on one’s shelves before being ‘borrowed’ (never to return). You will be pleased to know that every copy of EP-odd has now disappeared from my shelves”

It is a stern responsibility to ensure that EP-odd remains so compulsively readable but we shall certainly try. The next issue of EP-odd will see Rick F’s name on the cover and we also hope to publish the first of our Book Reviews.

DAVID F. BRAILSFORD