

Editorial

New Letter Editor

Geneva, Utrecht, January 7th, 1998

Professor Stuart R. Pottasch has been an Editor-in-Chief of Astronomy and Astrophysics from 1969 to 1975 and Letter Editor from 1976 to 1998. After having served the Journal for 30 years Professor Pottasch has informed the Board of Directors that he wishes to resign from his position. The Board has taken note of his decision and expresses its deep gratitude to Professor Pottasch for all his work, his great dedication and wise judgment for the benefit of the Journal during such a long period. The European astronomical community is very indebted to Professor Pottasch and offers him its very best wishes for the future.

The Board of Directors has appointed Dr. Peter Schneider (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, Garching) to succeed Professor Pottasch. Dr. Schneider is a well known cosmologist and specialist of gravitational lenses, with great dedication and interest for scientific publication. The Board is very happy to welcome Dr. Schneider as a Letter Editor.

An electronic version, parallel to the printed version, of Astronomy and Astrophysics has been successfully implemented by "Les Editions de Physique" for the Supplements in 1996 and by "Springer-Verlag" for the Main Journal in 1997. Further developments are envisaged concerning electronic submission of the papers, a reduction of the time interval between submission of the papers and publication, a possible increase of the number of Editors, etc. The publication of 15'000 pages in 1997 has led to a reduction of the backlog to about 4 months which we hope to reduce even further to the satisfaction of authors and readers.

For the Board of Directors:

A. Maeder, Chairman

A.G. Hearn, Vice-Chairman