

Style and the Journal

Style is a small but important aspect of editing this *Journal*. The staff is preparing a Style Manual for which suggestions are welcomed from contributors to, as well as readers of, the *Journal*.

The Style Manual will contain the usual specifications and advice for the physical arrangement, organization and presentation of Society papers, which are aspects currently being very well accomplished by most authors for the *Journal*.

This *Journal*, like all periodicals, is copy-edited in accordance with chosen rules of spelling, punctuation and abbreviation. These rules and lists of examples will make up a large portion of the Style Manual. The Editor would like to hear from any readers who have pet peeves or favorites in matters of style.

The *Journal's* style is being continually evolved on the basis of experience with the *Journal's* own subject matter. The style does, however, generally follow these standard reference works: the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the American Standards Association's "Abbreviations for Scientific and Engineering Terms, ASA Z10.1-1941," the American Institute of Physics' "Style Manual," the American Chemical Society's "List of Periodicals," "Subject Index," and its "Directions for Assistant Editors and Abstractors of Chemical Abstracts."

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* covers a surprisingly large number of points of style in motion picture and other technical terminology, a few examples of which are: by-pass, cutoff (as noun), disk, infrared, nonlinear, selsyn and theater. We cannot, however, always follow the dictionary because the dictionary is a reference of recorded usage and we must often lead in establishing usage. The Style Manual will list deviations such as the following: blackbody, overall, peephole, viewfinder and wavelength.

Abbreviations are used whenever it is believed they make reading easier and faster for the average reader. The abbreviations are almost always those in ASA Z10.1-1941, although that document is not always the last word since it is now ten

years old. For instance, ASA gives megacycle spelled out; we use mc. Not so readily resolved is the abbreviating of cycles per second. ASA shows "spell out or use c"; the American Institute of Physics says abbreviate as cps. Using c or cps would appear logical, but in the *Journal* we often have the term frames per second, which cannot become fps because that stands for feet per second; therefore the *Journal* now uses cycle/sec and frame/sec, although in simple references it is acceptable to say 60-cycle power rather than 60-cycle/sec power.

The *Journal* now uses the abbreviations 16-mm and 35-mm in text and 16-Mm and 35-Mm in display lines. There are many variations current and it seems time to adopt one which is especially suited to our field — 16mm and 35mm. This seems less appropriate for 8mm, 17½mm and 32mm, but for the sake of consistency they should also be used. It is felt that 16mm and 35mm are customary enough so that the extended usage will read easily and not obtrude on the reader.

The brief exposition above has been put as impersonally as possible because the parts of style dealt with are those few matters which must be consistent throughout the publication and cannot be left to the personal choice of *Journal* writers; however, particularly at this time, any expression of personal preferences and the reasons therefor, on any points of copy-editing style, will be welcomed. Also, please advise the Editor whether you would be willing to review parts of the Style Manual if it were mimeographed for circulation and comment.

While we are crystallizing these details, the editorial policy will continue to be that of adhering to as much of each author's individual style as will not seriously detract from the efficient reading and enjoyment of his paper. Indeed, there is now in process a paper which will probably be published with the pronoun "I" sprinkled throughout. We are not going to rewrite or revamp papers so that they all read alike in the *Journal*.