EDITORIAL

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The Fibonacci Quarterly and the Fibonacci Association are now in their fifth year. In retrospect two things stand out strongly: one, the decision to start such a specialized magazine; two, the inclusion of two sections, advanced and elementary. The first was evidently a risk, both from the financial standpoint and, in the minds of some, from a consideration of the possibility of exhausting the field. Neither of these eventualities has proved substantial. Support in the form of subscriptions, memberships, sustaining memberships and more recently page charges has been sufficient to provide for continued publication and even a bit of expansion. As to the second danger, the flood of articles after the first initial steps has continued to grow until now it has become something of a problem.

The other risk, the establishment of two sections, was probably in the minds of some not desirable, since they may have thought that this would tend to lower the academic level of the magazine. Apparently, our readers, including the libraries of major colleges and universities, have not reacted adversely. However, in the course of time, with the pressure of articles demanding publication and the tendency to publish what was on hand, the elementary section has become more and more advanced. The result is that some of our readers have begun to lose heart.

With this situation in mind, action has been set afoot to revitalize the elementary portion of the Fibonacci Quarterly by the appointment of a special editor with the thought of promoting material of value to the readers of this section of our magazine. Already, it has been decided to have a Recreation Corner and another entitled "Let's Do Some Research." The purpose of the present editorial is to point out that while there is a superabundance of articles on hand, there are not sufficiently many articles of good quality suitable for the elementary section. More importantly, the type of article desired will be made explicit.

For the average reader of mathematical articles, I would presume that the major objection to what is available on the market is that it is NOT

READABLE. Usually, an article will start off with three, four or five refer-
ences, assume everything that is in them and then launch quickly into further
developments. Anybody who would want to follow the discussion intelligently
would have to go back and work through the articles listed before being able to
do anything with the most recent addition. Usually, none of the articles is
READABLE. They are compressed, cryptic, truncated in their manner of
presentation, so that in effect anyone who desires to find out what is being said
has to start with paper and pencil and work through everything step by step.
Given the general lack of time available, most people simply stop at the first
roadblock, get some idea of what the article is about and pass on.

In the elementary section, we need articles that can be READ. This
means that they should start with well-known ideas, should provide examples
of the basic patterns which lead to conjectures, should give the proofs of the
main theorems clearly, simply and completely, should go on to numerical illus-
trations of the theorems, and in general, should be sufficiently explicit so that
a very good high school student, a good college student, a high school teacher,
an interested amateur can READ the material without having to go through all
the development on paper while still possibly remaining in doubt as to whether
he has the idea or not.

Writers of articles for this section should be warned of the twin evils of
compression and impression: compression, to put the ideas in as small a com-
pass as possible; impression, to work up such a framework as to overawe the
uninitiated. On the contrary, there should be a definite attempt to keep the
number of definitions to a minimum, to use as little special notation as pos-
sible, to attempt to express ideas in simple direct English as well as in
formulas.

There is a great wealth of material in the past issues of the Fibonacci
Quarterly awaiting the deft touch of able expository writers. At present, this
valuable material is a closed book to all but a relatively small number of
specialists. Writers are also encouraged to consider the sub-title of the
Fibonacci Quarterly: "A Journal devoted to the study of integers with special
properties." While we certainly favor articles on Fibonacci numbers, a little
variety especially in the elementary section would be very welcome indeed.

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