

## Editorial – To Compute or Not Compute

There have been many attempts to cast Shakespeare's plays in 20th century format, some successful, others not. Recently, I have read various attempts at rewriting, in modern English, Hamlet's soliloquy "To be or not to be, that is the question.....". One such attempt (here somewhat modified) was: "To compute or not compute, that is the go/no-go decision".

The quotation is appropriate to *Quaestiones Entomologicae*, as the text for this, and I hope for other issues, was and will be produced using a computer textformatting program. Why change from our time-tested methods of production? Proofs and satisfactory copy for *Quaestiones Entomologicae* were previously produced on a special, highly sophisticated typewriter. This machine has been gradually wearing out and the cost of replacement has proved to be prohibitive. As textformatting programs were available through an existing computer facility at the University of Alberta, it seemed logical to make use of them, if we were to continue publication of *Quaestiones Entomologicae*.

The Michigan Terminal System is now used for typing manuscripts. Text is typed using the editor mode and proofs are run off on a computer line printer. When all corrections are made, the text is transferred to a magnetic tape and sent to the printers where a phototypesetter produces final copy for printing.

Use of textformatting programs offers certain advantages over the more traditional method of producing *Quaestiones Entomologicae*. One advantage is that indexing can be done at the same time as the text is being typed into the computer terminal. Producing the index is now easy and fast whereas it was a time consuming and onerous task.

The decision to switch to textformatting for production of *Quaestiones Entomologicae* was taken by the editor, George E. Ball, about one year ago. When George left on sabbatical leave last year, he persuaded me to be Acting Editor until his return later this year. I was horrified to discover that I would have to oversee production of the first issue of *Quaestiones Entomologicae* produced by the new method. Fortunately for me, all textformatting and associated problems have been handled by Twyla Gibson who has been Publication Assistant of *Quaestiones Entomologicae* for the past year. To her I owe a great deal of thanks. Her attention to detail has made my job as Acting Editor much easier. Also, a special tribute and thank you to D. Reinhart of Printing Services, University of Alberta, for designing the textformatting layout that we are using for *Quaestiones Entomologicae*.

The quality of an editor's life is further enhanced by those willing to review manuscripts and I thank the following for reviewing papers in Volume 14 and this issue of Volume 15: G.E. Ball, W.G. Evans, L.H. Herman, J. Kukalova-Peck, A.P. Nimmo and D.R. Whitehead. Thanks also to H. Goulet for translating the abstracts into French.

Unfortunately, I have to announce an increase in page charges. We have always held these charges as low as possible and they have been \$11.00 per page for the past five years. However, increases in production and printing costs now require a charge of \$15.00 per page. Costs of reprints will be \$3.00 per page per 100 copies.

Until George Ball resumes editorship, I intend to maintain the standards set by him. Some people no doubt are natural editors, others like me have the responsibility thrust upon them. I have much to learn. I certainly have a greater appreciation now of the steps involved in getting a manuscript published. In fact all who publish should serve time as an editor as it would improve the quality of their subsequently submitted manuscripts.

Douglas A. Craig



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