

Editor's Comment

Since I have assumed the responsibilities of the Senior Editorship, I have been trying to write personal letters to many authors whose manuscripts are being rejected for publication in order to provide them with feedback and hope for the future publication possibilities for their work. This is an extremely difficult and emotional task, and it is not one of the aspects of the position that I relish. I have therefore searched for many months for a framework within which I could provide specific feedback and at the same time assuage the injured feelings of these authors.

Happily, my problem has been solved by our Oriental friends. *Forbes* (September 12, 1983, p. 22) reports that a "Chinese economic journal" sent the following rejection letter to an American author:

We have read your manuscript with boundless delight. If we were to publish your paper, it would be impossible for us to publish any work of a lower standard. And as it is unthinkable that, in the next 1,000 years, we shall see its equal, we are, to our regret, compelled to return your divine composition and beg you a thousand times to overlook our short sight and timidity.

As soon as I have identified the originator of the letter and obtained permission, I shall begin to use this as the standard reject letter for the *MIS Quarterly*.

The terms of two Consulting Editors — Henry C. Lucas, Jr. and Arnold M. Kneitel — and two Associate Editors — A. Milton Jenkins and Ralph H. Sprague, Jr. — end with this issue. Each of these individuals is an acknowledged leader in the MIS field and each has provided high-quality and conscientious service to the MIS community through their work on the *MIS Quarterly* over the years. Only one who has been called on to serve in such positions can know the cost that is paid by such people in choosing to serve the overall community in lieu of the numerous other opportunities on which they might expend their time and talent.

It is with sincere regret that I bid these four marvelous people adieu with thanks for a job well done. I know that I speak for the entire MIS community in doing so.

The special thanks of the MIS community is also due to Catherine A. Ross, who has served as Managing Editor of the *MIS Quarterly* for the past two years subsequent to four years in other positions with the journal. In that time she has not only done an excellent job, but has represented the *MIS Quarterly* and the field well in numerous external contacts. As well, she managed the process of transition to a new Senior Editor with admiral efficiency and toleration for which I shall be forever grateful. She will be greatly missed by those of us who have worked closely with her as she moves on to bigger responsibility and greater opportunity.

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