

## EDITORIAL

# Farewell Message

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CLIVE L. DYM

A long time ago, in November 1985, I received a series of phone calls from an editor in Holland who wanted to talk with me about the future of journals in computing, especially in the area of artificial intelligence (AI). It was some time before I found out that these calls were inspired by Dr. Conrad Guettler, then Editorial Director at Academic Press (London) and now Journals Director of Cambridge University Press. I was also slow to understand that a new journal at the intersection of AI and engineering was being explored, along with the proposal that I become the editor. When I finally realized what game was afoot, I had become the founding Editor of *AIEDAM*. The pages you hold before you are the result of those beginnings.

The first seven volumes of the journal were published by Academic Press (London), from 1987 through 1993. Cambridge University Press has been the publisher since, starting in 1994 with Volume 8. I have been privileged to be the Editor since 1986, and as a result of the decisions made during our editorial processes, I bear the responsibility for much of what will appear in Volume 11 (1997). However, *AIEDAM* is now at a point where it can profit from a new hand at the helm. As in the American sports cliché, it is time to go to the next level. The point of this editorial is for me to hand over the helm and introduce the captain for the next phase of *AIEDAM*'s voyage.

Needless to say, there were others involved, so some further acknowledgements will appear below. First, however, let me say a few words about the journal itself. From the beginning we intended that *AIEDAM* be “an *archival research journal* that is intended to reach two audiences: *engineers and designers* who see AI technologies as powerful means for solving difficult engineering problems; and *researchers in AI and computer science* who are interested in applications of AI and in the theoretical issues that arise from such applications.” This is a goal that I think we have achieved—and if not optimally, we certainly have “satisfied.”

We also wanted to publish articles about the use of AI in a wide variety of engineering tasks, as indicated in part by our very title. The contents for our first decade bears witness to our success here, with applications in construction and product planning, ship design, structural engineering, manufacturing processes, finite element modeling, and many more. In the early days, papers focused more on describing knowledge-based (expert) systems that *performed* such tasks. Now there are more papers that address the issues of *representing* tasks, artifacts, and design processes, including fuzzy logic, neural networks, solid modeling and CAD-based representations, machine-based learning, and concurrent engineering. In addition, *AIEDAM* has also had a strong and consistent thread of papers about design, the chore that Herb Simon has characterized as the central activity of engineering, and there seems little doubt that the design thread will remain taut and strong.

Another interesting note is that papers now come from more geographically dispersed areas. Ten years ago *AIEDAM* did not expect to get submissions from the People's Republic of China, but now papers are submitted from there with increasing regularity. And recently, I received a paper from Bosnia, right from the midst of all that turmoil—a remarkable event.

Having reached a respectable level of maturity, credibility, and visibility, *AIEDAM* will no doubt find more remarkable events to note in its future. One such occasion is the following announcement. Effective 1 January 1997, Professor William P. Birmingham of the University of Michigan became the Editor of *AIEDAM*. Speaking both personally and professionally, I must say that I am very, very pleased that Bill Birmingham will devote his substantial intellect and energy to *AIEDAM*, and I am sure we will all be proud of the results.

Now for some thanks and goodbyes. I have already described Conrad Guettler's role in initiating *AIEDAM*. He has not only been a staunch supporter of the journal with two different publishers, he has become a good and valued friend. Additionally, the members of the editorial board have provided leadership and insight to *AIEDAM* that has been greatly appreciated. Some of the board were “present at the creation”—to borrow Dean Acheson's phrase—and I personally am very grateful for their long-time interest in and contributions to *AIEDAM*'s welfare.

Finally, it is often all too easy to forget that a journal such as *AIEDAM* requires more than authors to write papers, reviewers to read papers, and editors to select papers. The heart of the crew is the publisher's production editor. I have been the beneficiary of two supremely competent, dedicated, and warm-hearted editors over the years. So, my deepest thanks to

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