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EDITORIAL NOTE

It is to be afraid that the decreasing financial support may seriously influence the future of the Information Bulletin on Variable Stars, the official publication of the Commission 27 of the International Astronomical Union. The IBVS has been edited and published at Konkoly for almost thirty years without any complication. The costs of the publication (printing and mailing) have been covered by the yearly budget of Konkoly Observatory alloted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This budget has not been (and will not be) compensated for the inflation, and no additional support is available for the IBVS. Our aim is to continue publishing the Information Bulletin on Variable Stars but this cannot be accomplished without any restriction.

The most unfortunate fact is that the circulation of the IBVS has to be considerably reduced. The policy of the first decade, i.e. sending a personal copy to each member of the IAU Commission 27 had not been followed lately, and now we are constrained to cancel the individuals from our mailing list. The IBVS will be mailed to libraries of observatories, institutes and university departments, in exchange for their own publications, as we did it before. If somebody needs an extra copy of the Bulletin, herewith we declare that the IBVS can be duplicated (and distributed) without any prior consent from the publisher.

The other major constraint concerns the extent of the individual issues of the IBVS. Normally, the upper limit of the papers to be published in the IBVS is four pages (including tables and figures). In exceptional cases, however, longer papers are also accepted but a nominal fee of 10.- USD per page will be charged for any additional page, up to four more pages. Publication of papers longer than eight pages will be firmly avoided in the IBVS (the only exception is the name-list of the newly designated variable stars).

Owing to the world-wide spreading of the text editors the majority of the manuscripts submitted for publication to the IBVS is camera-ready now. The two typical problems we are still facing are:

1. poor quality figures (usually generated by computers) that cannot be reproduced directly for the IBVS;

2. inconsistent use of references.

Any correspondence in connection with such problems causes an extra delay in the publication process. This delay is not inevitable, if the manuscript is prepared almost as carefully as if it were submitted for publication to any journal that had very strict rules concerning the submission.

The four-page limit sometimes does not allow to publish the list of the observational data. If this is the case, the authors are requested to indicate explicitly how the users of the IBVS can access to the data (e.g. give the file number in the Archives of Unpublished Observations, make a statement if the data are available upon request from the authors, etc.)

Furthermore, the conventional request (expected from any editor) is to use SI units in the manuscripts, whenever possible.

We do hope that this period so unfavourable for astronomers will be as short as most of the IBVS manuscripts, and no further restrictions will be necessary. At the same time we apologize for any inconvenience caused by the steps we are forced to make, announced here.

Editors