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Editors' note

Journal of Geophysics will cease to exist after Vol. 62; the present issue is the last one. So a long and good tradition comes to an end, and it certainly is adequate to comment briefly on this development from the part of the editors.

Journal of Geophysics was founded as *Zeitschrift für Geophysik* in 1924 by the Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft. It has formed since then, with a few years' interruption after the Second World War, the scientific forum of this society. Internationalisation of science in general and geophysics in particular in the 1960s turned the journal into an international journal, reflected best by the change in title to *Journal of Geophysics* in 1974. The new publisher, Springer-Verlag, contributed considerably to this positive development. Since then, on average, at least as many foreign authors contributed to the journal as German authors. Over the years since 1974 the manuscript situation was good, but never overwhelming; being international, the journal also experienced the competition between international journals. Therefore, one had to be open to new developments, in particular in the field of amalgamation of journals. In the summer of 1986 serious contact began between three societies in Europe – Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft, European Geophysical Society and Royal Astronomical Society – about merging their journals *Journal of Geophysics*, *Annales Geophysicae* (series B) and *Geophysical*

Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. After fair and cooperative negotiations, the results of which were strongly supported by the societies, in particular by the members of Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft, an agreement was reached in July 1987 to publish the joint journal from January 1988 onwards under the title *Geophysical Journal*.

Probably, there are only a few members of Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft who will not view the end of *Journal of Geophysics* with some regret, because of its long tradition, continuity and high scientific level. However, we think that our society has made the right step at the right moment and that it gains more than it loses. Those members who subscribe to *Geophysical Journal* will obtain a considerably broadened spectrum of solid-earth geophysics (and note: at about the same price as before). Editorial influence on *Geophysical Journal* is guaranteed through adequate representation on the editorial board. Hopefully, many authors from our society will make use of the new possibilities that the wider circulation of *Geophysical Journal* offers.

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