

Editor's Preface

By this time, we trust that you have received issues from Volume 18 of *Laser and Particle Beams* which used the new, large-page size, double-column format. As I indicated in an earlier preface, this format provides additional type-space, which will hopefully allow us to speed up publication of articles in *LPB*.

Unfortunately, during the turnover from the old format to the new one, due to major technical and staff problems, volume 18 became greatly delayed. These problems have now been overcome, so the printing should be back on schedule quite soon. Meanwhile, the editorial staff would welcome any comments that you might have about this new style or about any other editorial matters pertaining to *LPB*.

The present issue contains papers based on presentations at the ULIA-2 Conference (September 9–October 3, 2000 in Pisa, Italy). Not all papers from this conference are included, however. Those that are were recommended by the Guest Editor, Dr. Leonida A. Gizzi (of the Istituto Di Fisica Atomica e Molecolare in Pisa, Italy), and the conference committee. There are 35 papers in this collection, and the

present volume contains three quarters of them; the remaining are being scheduled for Volume 19:2.

In order to keep this collection “together” for publication, we were constrained to delay several contributed papers, which will appear at the end of 19:2. Because the thrust of these papers will be different from those of the ULIA, there will be a distinct divider between the two sections of that issue.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr. Gizzi and the conference staff for the effort they made in collecting and handling these papers for us. This continues a tradition which started in the first conference, the papers from which were published in Volume 18:3. Readers have indicated that they found the earlier papers quite valuable, and I am sure that these from the present conference will likewise be of great interest to our readers. We hope to continue this tradition for future meetings.

Prof. George H. Miley
Editor-in-Chief
Laser and Particle Beams