Editorial: Golden Oldies criteria and procedures

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Abstract The GRG journal's Golden Oldies series has republished more than 80 important old papers in general relativity and gravitation. This announcement updates and replaces the one made in Gen. Relativ. Gravit. 39(7), 1043 (2007) as modified by the editorial announcement in Gen. Relativ. Gravit. 44(10), 2419 (2012).

1 Choice of Golden Oldies papers

1. The Golden Oldies series¹ will recall and highlight those valuable old papers which satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
 - (a) their meaning had not been properly appreciated in the past;
 - (b) they are famous, but were originally published in journals or books not widely accessible today (publications in languages other than English among them);

¹ For a detailed list, see <http://webwork.uct.ac.za/~cwh/goldies.html>.

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- (c) they had been circulated as preprints or other informal copies and had proved to be important, but have never been published.
- 2. Any such papers within the scientific scope of the journal (for which see the “Description” on the journal’s webpage at <http://link.springer.com/journal/10714>) may be considered, and it shall be the aim of the Golden Oldies series to appropriately cover all aspects of that scope.
- 3. Papers accepted for the series must be at least 30 years old when reprinted. (Such a time perspective is needed to properly evaluate the importance of any given paper.)
- 4. Proposals for papers to include in the series are very welcome. Each proposal will be evaluated by the Advisory Board of the Golden Oldies. Anyone may make a proposal by contacting any member of the Advisory Board. Such proposals should be accompanied by a brief statement of why the paper might be suitable. When considering proposals, the Advisory Board may consult referees.
 - (a) Texts that appeared in major scientific journals will not be further refereed. (Such papers are likely to meet the main criteria above only if originally published in languages other than English.)
 - (b) Texts to be reprinted from refereed conference proceedings, or major conference plenary or keynote talks, will be treated as already published – they also need not be sent to referees.
 - (c) Texts that have not previously been published, or published only as preprints or in some informal way, will, after preliminary acceptance by the Advisory Board, be evaluated by two referees. The referees will be asked to treat these texts as historical documents rather than research articles.
- 5. The Advisory Board may seek advice from experts before deciding whether a proposal meets the criteria above. Having reached a decision, the Advisory Board will through its Chair make a recommendation to one of the Editors in Chief, who will make the final decision.

At the time of writing, the Advisory Board consists of Professors Malcolm MacCallum (Golden Oldies Editor and Chair of the Board), Roy Maartens (an Editor in Chief of the journal), Pedro G. Ferreira, Gary W. Gibbons, John D. Norton, and Peter R. Saulson.

2 Publication procedures

The papers to be reprinted will be treated as historical documents. Thus they will be reproduced with maximal faithfulness (where possible, by photographic reproduction). The following principles will be followed:

1. For papers originally written in English, the original style and vocabulary will be preserved, even if they are considered incorrect by today’s standards.
2. Outdated notation will be preserved in the reprinted text, and explained in footnotes or in the Editorial Note. It should not be modernized.
3. The ‘house style’ of the GRG journal will not be applied to the old papers. This means that the original heading, numbering of sections and equations, bibliography style and the style of footnotes will all be preserved.

4. Errors in the original texts and equations will be corrected in the reprinted or translated versions, but all the corrections will be clearly marked (for example, as editorial footnotes).
5. Each text will be accompanied by an Editorial Note explaining the significance of the paper, clarifying arguments given therein if necessary, and commenting on subsequent developments that flowed out of it. There will also be some brief biographical notes concerning the author(s). The Golden Oldies Editor will, with advice from the Advisory Board, commission the notes and biographies and is responsible for submitting them along with the paper itself in a suitable form for publication.