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When EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES (E/T) started, approximately ten years ago, it existed as a quarterly flyer containing three or four half-page, quick and dirty techniques. After reviewing the latest issue of E/T, it certainly goes without saying that "we've come a long way." However, the growth of E/T did not come about easily, as those who were involved at its inception will attest.

The basic concept of E/T was to provide our readers with a source of techniques. These techniques were aimed at those little tricks of the trade we have learned by trial and error, but have never documented or shared. Our concern was that many hours were wasted annually within our industries and institutions, trying to solve the same problem. Of course, one could always go to textbooks or journals for assistance, but often these were not thorough enough to solve the time consuming 'little problems.' As we are well aware, little problems become BIG problems when they remain unsolved.

E/T has grown through the hard work of many dedicated people, by readership acceptance and demand, and by author support, as so nicely stated by Bob Rinn in last month's 'Experimentally Speaking' column. In addition, the manner by which we handled the articles grew to a more professional scheme as the magazine developed. As a four-page flyer, E/T had one editor who received all the articles, wrote to the authors, reviewed (?) the articles, edited the articles, pasted up the quarterly issue and ensured that excessive white space did not exist. Today, E/T has three editors, an E/T Editorial Committee (an Advisory Committee which is a subcommittee of the Applications Committee), a large group of dedicated reviewers who are all prominent within their fields and a professional editorial staff at Headquarters.

Yes, E/T has changed, and we hope for the better. Articles have gotten longer, but we've tried to maintain our original intent to emphasize techniques, both short and longer ones. Articles are now thoroughly reviewed by at least two reviewers for technical accuracy and language and we've made a special effort to ensure that articles are comprehensible to our readers. In addition, we have always tried to make it a magazine for our readers, not to our readers.

The future of E/T looks very exciting. This year, not only will there again be a membership-directory issue, but also two special issues—one to feature a buyer's guide (related to the equipment we use) and one on modal analysis. Yes, E/T has come a long way because of its exceptional group of dedicated people—authors, reviewers, editors and professional staff—who together make EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES.

Susan K. Foss

Senior Technical Editor

Experimental Techniques