

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND COORDINATION
American Institute of Electrical Engineers

April 24, 1956

PUBLICATION POLICY
AIEE vs IRE

Prof. W. G. Dow, Member
Science & Electronics Division Committee

Dear Bill:

Re your letter of 4/11/56, attaching a memo entitled "The Procurement of First-Class Electronic Papers":

After studying this memo, and re-reading your letter of 3/16/56 and mine of 3/28/56, I am unable to discover wherein I have missed your point.

Essentially, you propose that Transactions Papers (Reviewed and Accepted) be published in the appropriate Bimonthly publication without presentation, and hence, without discussion.

All I have tried to point out is that this is a very considerable departure from the 72-year Publication Policy which is based upon:

- 1) The right of any member to submit written discussion on any paper.
- 2) The publication of his discussion with the paper.

Preprints and presentation are merely mechanics for obtaining discussion:

- a) Preprints provide copies of the paper for study and preparation.
- b) Presentation (i.e., placing the paper on the program of a General or District Meeting or an STC) serves as notice to the membership that the paper is available for discussion. It also establishes a deadline for the author and discussers.

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Obviously, if there is to be no published discussion, there is no need for preprints nor presentation.

I have stated how important we consider discussion in our field. Frequently, the discussions are of as much, if not more, value than the paper itself. I am not competent to judge the value of discussion of papers on electronics. I am quite willing to leave judgment on this matter to the leaders in that field.

I do feel that the right of a member to discuss any paper, and to have his discussion published with the paper, is a valuable heritage. He should not be deprived of this privilege without very careful and deliberate consideration by the appropriate Committees of the Institute.

Personally, I have never subscribed to the philosophy that the way to meet competition is to lower your own quality or standards.

In your Memo, page 2, last paragraph, you state:

An essential point here is that the time interval, between the announcement of the holding of a special-subject conference and its occurrence, is nearly always so short as to make it completely unrealistic to expect the author to process a manuscript on A.I.E.E. format through the A.I.E.E. reproduction machinery in time to get preprints out before presentation.

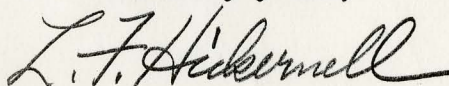
I was not aware that the interval between the announcement and holding of a STC was so short that an author did not have time to submit his paper in time for preprinting. I was under the impression that STCs are scheduled at least a year in advance.. If not, they should be.

Most human beings are procrastinators; especially authors, including myself. I don't think it is any easier to meet a deadline of the day before than 65 or 90 days before the Meeting. In either case, the author probably will write the paper a few days (and nights) just before the established deadline, no matter when it is.

I will look forward with interest to your second memo.

Since you have indicated you have sent out a number of copies of your letter of 4/11/56, I am sending you a supply of copies of this letter for your distribution.

Sincerely yours,



L. F. Hickernell, Chairman
Planning & Coordination Committee

cc: Mr. M. D. Hooven, Pres.
Mr. N. S. Hibshman, Secty.
Dr. J. D. Tebo, Ch, CTO
Dr. W. R. Clark, VCh, CTO
Mr. S. R. Warren, Ch, S&EDC