

EDITORIAL

The seed for the idea of a stereological Conference in the U.K. was sown by H.E.Exner, the then newly elected President of ISS, when he approached C.V.Howard, the U.K. representative for the ISS, at the 5th international congress for stereology in Salzburg in 1979, to say that the large quantity of stereology being done in the U.K. was not reflected by the amount of ISS activity. By fortunate coincidence, N.T. James had been considering having a meeting in Sheffield and he wrote to Dr. Exner to suggest the same. Thereafter everything fell neatly into place and led to the organization of this, the first International Conference to be held in the U.K.

So it turned out that the Conference called Stereology 82 was held at the University of Sheffield from 5th to 7th July 1982 and the organizers were C.V.Howard, N.T.James and J.Woodhead. Without their hard work the meeting would not have taken place.

More than 100 items were presented, either as papers read before Society (and including 6 invited lectures) or as poster demonstrations. Specific sessions included the Wicksell Symposium on particle size distributions and sessions on anisotropic structures, spatial patterns and also biological variation and sampling problems. On the third day of the Conference a joint session was held with the British and Dutch Pathological Societies. The remainder of the papers related to various applications of stereology.

From the papers presented at this Conference about half of them have been submitted for publication in Acta Stereologica. Twenty one were ready in time to be included in this issue and the other will appear subsequently in the following issues. Some papers devoted predominantly to methodology will be presented elsewhere. The articles of this issue are organized in chapters with related topics, similar to the sessions at the Conference in Sheffield. So they represent a sample of this meeting.

Miscellaneous news and the annual index at the end of this issue conclude the second number and the first volume of our journal.

The Organizing and Scientific Committee of the Conference as well as the Editors of this journal would like to thank all those who gave so generously of their time, effort and integrity in support of the organization of Stereology 82 and of the preparation of this issue.