Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader, Dear Author,

welcome to volume 338, our 196th year of continuous appearance. The past and previous years were a bit furious for us and had brought a number of editorial changes. The first one is that Astronomische Nachrichten/Astronomical Notes (AN) appears now only electronically. Already with last year's volume we formally declared bye-bye glossy paper. We believe we are in good company with this decision. Note that print-on-demand is still possible and already being requested by several guest editors for special issues.

Then we had to say goodbye to our associate managing editor Professor Detlef Schönberner, former head of the stellar physics section at AIP, and now in real retirement. He had been our editorial hawk-eye, spotting any kind of typo by a single look. Many thanks for all the years with AN, and shall the force be with you.

Electronic publishing also opens a number of advantages, both for authors as well as readers. Firstly, because we switched the internal article layout to a more modern platform, we can now generate and post articles in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). It allows porting an article to cell phone and tablet screens and at the same time also providing better access for search engines. Secondly, an (individual) Early View platform was implemented so that our individual research articles go online as soon as they are accepted by the editor and typeset. Airing an article does not have to wait anymore until an issue is full. This should be useful for authors who, e.g., urgently need a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for a funding proposal. By the way, this will be true also for proceedings articles. Thirdly, a new interface for the Author-Editor-Referee interaction will be implemented in this year. While in the past most articles were simply submitted by e-mail and then inserted into a local managing system at AIP, we will provide the option of direct submission within the ScholarOne Manuscript system. Among its advantages is that an author can follow the status of the submission on the web, e.g., is it already at the referee and, if yes, for how long. Submission is still possible through the old system or through e-mail but the intention is to transfer to ScholarOne within 2017. So stay tuned.

Looking back to 2016, the content of volume number 337 was also an unusual one. Five special issues were our publishing record so far, albeit not intended because two issues slipped into this volume from the previous and the forthcoming year. It started with issue 1-2, which collected the contributions of the Fifth Workshop on "Compact Steep Spectrum and GHz-peaked Spectrum Radio Sources", held in Rimini, Italy. The workshop "The Extremes of Black Hole Accretion" was organized by the XMM-Newton Science Operations Centre and appeared in issue 4-5. The calendar year 2016 – sadly– also saw the last AN issue of the series of the fall meetings of the German Astronomische Gesellschaft (AG). Its volume Reviews in Modern Astronomy 28 covered the topic "From the First Quasars to Life-Bearing Planets – From Accretion Physics to Astrobiology" in issue 7. The mechanisms of the formation and evolution of the Milky Way was the central topic of the 592nd Heraeus Symposium "Reconstructing the Milky Way's history: spectroscopic surveys, asteroseismology, and chemodynamical models". It appeared as issue 8-9. Finally, the last issue in 337, issue 10, covered the 12th Potsdam Thinkshop on "The Dynamic Sun – Exploring the Many Facets of Solar Eruptive Events". Besides these special issues and their many individual articles, 24 independent research

articles appeared. We will see in the next years how well these were received and cited in the community.

As in the past, publication in AN continues to be free of charge. Also, all articles of the first issue of each year can be downloaded free of charge, as can all articles labelled "Editor's Choice", which often are additionally featured with a color image on the front cover. Naturally, AN is linked to all major net-based libraries and can be found in the SAO/NASA ADS library.

Sincerely yours,

Klaus G. Strassmeier, Editor-in-Chief
Nov. 2016