

Golden Oldies – a reactivation

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The flow of the Golden Oldies through the pages of the GRG Journal has slowed down in recent years, but the series is still alive and the new Editorial Board is going to continue running it. We decided to formalise the rules by which the Oldies are managed. The Editor of the series will now be assisted by the Advisory Board whose decisions will be binding for him/her and for the Editor in chief. Currently, the Editor of the series is the undersigned, and the Advisory Board consists of:

Jürgen Ehlers (anne.lampe@aei.mpg.de)
George Ellis (ellis@maths.uct.ac.za)
Malcolm MacCallum (m.a.h.maccallum@qmul.ac.uk)

The rules for managing the Oldies, approved by the Advisory Board, are printed below. The list of the Oldies printed so far, with links to the texts, can be found in the web page <http://www.mth.uct.ac.za/~cwh/goldies.html>.

Andrzej Krasieński, Editor of the series

1 Rules for the “Golden Oldies”

1.1 Acceptance of papers

1. The Golden Oldies series will recall and highlight those valuable old papers

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- (a) whose meaning had not been properly appreciated in the past;
 - (b) that are famous, but were originally published in journals or books not widely accessible today (publications in languages other than English among them);
 - (c) that had been circulated as preprints or other informal copies, had proved to be important, but have never been published.
2. Papers accepted for the series must be at least 30 years old when reprinted. Time perspective is needed to properly evaluate the importance of any given paper.
 3. All readers are welcome to recommend papers for the series. A recommendation can be sent to any member of the advisory board or to the editor of the Golden Oldies.
 4. Each recommendation will be evaluated by the advisory board of the Golden Oldies. The decision of the board will be binding for the editor in chief and for the editor of the Golden Oldies.
 5. Texts that have never been published 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 The referees will be asked to treat these texts as historical documents rather than research reports.
 6. Texts to be reprinted from refereed conference proceedings, or major conference plenary or keynote talks, will be treated as already published – they need not be sent to referees.
 7. The texts will be accompanied by supplementary notes that explain the significance of the paper and comment on subsequent developments that flowed out of it. There will also be some brief biographical notes concerning the author.

1.2 The advisory board

1. The advisory board will consist of the Editor of the Golden Oldies, plus at least three other physicists with interest or expertise in the field of history of physics.
2. There is no fixed term for membership in the board.
3. New members may be elected to the board to replace those who resigned or to increase the area of expertise of the board.
4. New members are elected by the acting members.
5. The editor in chief may be invited to join the board provided he/she fulfils the criteria of point 1. The editor in chief is not automatically included in the board.
6. In case of unsatisfactory performance, each member of the advisory board may be dismissed, or the whole board disbanded, at any time, by the decision of the International Committee on General Relativity and Gravitation or of the Editorial Board of the GRG Journal. This applies also to the Editor of GO.

1.3 Publication rules

The papers to be reprinted will be treated as historical documents. Thus, they will be reproduced with maximal faithfulness. The following principles will be obeyed:

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 modernised.
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 of 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).