(*AI EDAM*) (1987) **1**(3), 143

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The first paper in this issue (Number 3 of Volume 1) represents something of a departure from the stated aims of (*AI EDAM*). Therefore, I thought it advisable to preface the work with a few words to provide a rationale and a context.

In the subject paper, Professor John R. Dixon lays out a methodology for research in engineering design. As such, and because to some extent it represents a personal—although still principled—view of research approaches in this area, the paper is not easily categorized as a typical archival journal article. Further, while there are clear influences from the field of artificial intelligence (AI), the article is broader in scope than a prescription for using AI to understand the design process. Thus, the decision to publish Professor Dixon's paper might seem to conflict with the stated editorial posture of (*AI EDAM*).

However, it seemed to me—and to several reviewers—that this paper is an important statement in the field of engineering design, and that AI can indeed play a major role in serious scientific research on design. Though not the only tools, to be sure, AI techniques do provide important leverage in modeling, understanding, communicating and propagating engineering design concepts. From the viewpoint of (*AI EDAM*), therefore, the publication of Professor Dixon's article should be seen as strongly encouraging those who would seriously apply AI to engineering design to continue their activities and to think of the Journal as a hospitable forum for communicating their results.

CLIVE L. DYM
Editor