Introduction

Over the years, the Journal of Forth Application and Research has provided a forum in which those of us active in using Forth could keep each other informed of new developments and techniques and share visions. This issue is particularly exciting because in addition to the continued presence of research contributions, we have reports, proceedings, and abstracts that speak of the importance of Forth in places all around the world.

Haskell's paper, *On Finding the Global Maximum of an Univariate Function*, demonstrated techniques in problem solving using Forth in an effective and concrete arena. The approach is extensible to other mathematical situations and the implementation presented lends itself to generalization.

Tevet's paper, *Symbolic Stack Processing*, represents a fresh approach to a topic often discussed in the Forth community, alternatives to parameter passing directly on the stack and its accompanying ROTs, SWAPs, OVERs, PICKs, and ROLLs. Tevet has taken pain to tackle the problem in a way that provides concise and readable Forth code while keeping overhead relatively low. The benchmarks provided suggest that these methods might indeed be useful in situations in which more readability is desired and some additional overhead could be accommodated.

We are most pleased to be able to provide in this issue a glimpse of how Forth is being used in the Soviet Union. We have three papers submitted by Sergei Baranoff, one of the leading proponents of Forth in the Soviet Union. Because of the unusual circumstances, we have elected to publish these papers intact as submitted with only editorial changes. We hope that they will provide you with some insight into the importance of Forth in Soviet computing.

Also appearing in this issue are papers presented at a Knowledge Engineering Symposium hosted by Long Island University in January, 1987. These papers, by Dress and Feucht, further detail how Forth can be utilized in the quest for realistic real-time expert systems. In addition, we have included in this section a technical note later provided by Feucht explaining how a Prolog interpreter can be implemented in Forth.

Continuing the policy we began in Volume 5, Number 2, we again are providing minutes of the X3J14 Technical Meetings available to date. We sincerely hope that keeping you informed of the standardization process will help to allay any fears regarding the process as well as spur on interested parties to speak their mind. The more interest we take in the process, the more the standard will reflect the experience and needs of the Forth community at large.

On a final note, in addition to the abstracts of the 1988 Rochester Forth Conference, we also are pleased to be able to provide the abstracts from the 1988 Australian Forth Conference, the first one of its kind held on that continent. We can see from these abstracts that Forth is alive and growing in "The Land Down Under." Good day, mates.

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James D. Basile
Editor-in-Chief

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