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It is the editorial policy of Series B to accept papers in any field of applied mathematics and related mathematical sciences. Novel applications of mathematics in real situations are especially welcomed. All papers should include some indication of applicability, and an introduction that is understandable by non-specialist readers from the whole applied mathematical community.

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SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL PAPERS

The first three papers in this issue are (much expanded) written versions of papers that were originally presented at the bicentennial Australian Mathematical Sciences Congress, Canberra, in May 1988, in which some published contributions by distinguished Australian mathematicians are critically assessed. In particular, one paper reviews the work of a very active group of mathematicians at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories in Melbourne, during the two decades 1940–1960. One important reason for the success of this group was that many of these mathematicians were graduates from the Mathematics Department at the University of Melbourne, where, over a period of fifty years, a high tradition of applied mathematics had been built up under the leadership of J. H. Michell and then T. M. Cherry. The impact of a single, but highly significant, contribution by each of these two mathematicians is discussed in the other papers of this set of three. It is hoped that these three papers will be of special interest to readers of this journal, both for their historical significance and because of their relevance to recent and on-going research in applied mathematics.

C. A. Hurst, Associate Editor