

45 Lakeview Ave.  
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July 1, 1992

Dear Donald:

I started a letter to you in April on your IBM System Journal article before receiving your letter on a workshop on J after Toronto on September 28 and have held off hoping to find an interested group. I have tried various SIGAPL groups and IBM locations without, I am sorry to say, any success. I have not tried any of the universities such as Stanford or Princeton interested in new languages.

Your Sys Jnl article is a gem and deserves exposure to a wider public than even the 100,000 readers of the Journal. Is there some way your vision of mathematics for the computer age be presented to every one as Lancelot Hogben's "Mathematics of the Million" was? It was my mathematical handbook in the 30's and is still selling with more than 1,300,000 copies sold!

I have read your article word for word and am most grateful to you for allowing us to print it and for what I count on for it to do in renewing and extending the interest in APL's usefulness for computing. By now I hope you are in St. Petersburg for APL92. I had planned to go and renewed my passport but gave up the idea at the last moment. I did get to the IBM meeting in Boulder and to Kingston for Jon McGrew's 25 Year Club occasion.

Apropos of your comments on John Napier's invention of logarithms, you might be interested that I wrote a paper in 1947 on "New Ways of Multiplying" on punched card machines (before electronics), which THINK wouldn't publish.

Hope to see you in the fall.

Best regards,



John C. McPherson

*and thank you for the autographed  
reprint of the paper 9*