

EDITORIAL

Editing Actas in the 1970s

A. Ledo

The 4 years of my tenure as editor-in-chief of *Actas* began in June 1970, with Pepe Cabré as president of the Academy's board of governors. With the passage of time one always sees things in a more positive light, but then we were looking for a way out of a bad patch. Our colleagues, it seemed, preferred not to publish their articles in *Actas*.

Today our response would be more severe, but such phases reappear cyclically, and when they do an appeal to conscience is called for so that Spanish research will be published in *Actas*. This has happened several times in the life of the journal, and I imagine that the current editors of *Actas* will suffer the same vicissitudes.

We were facing a serious publication delay of nearly a year. Our first task was to encourage dermatologists to present papers to the Academy, and the second, which I remember as extremely arduous, was to prevail upon the authors to send us their manuscripts so they wouldn't end up published in other journals.

At that time the work of the editorial committee was the subject of some criticism. We tried to be selective, to screen manuscripts as carefully as possible for quality, style, and

above all for typographical errors, of which there were a great many. We should not forget that manual typewriters were in use then, and this made it a real struggle, considerably more difficult than it is now with computers, to produce an error-free manuscript.

Others, however, argued that if there were no manuscripts at all we would hardly be in a position to choose among them, much less send the journal to press in a timely fashion, not simply to keep up with the monthly deadlines, but to make up for accumulated publication delays.

But to our relief, we began to catch up little by little, until by the end of my tenure we were completely up to date. I honestly do not remember this work as especially laborious and wearisome, although evidently it was, but in my memory of that time, the taste of it remains sweet. I can assure the future editors of the journal that, although the size of the task may seem daunting, it will leave you with good memories. I am certain of it.

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