

Editorial

One of the good things that could come out of the hard times of the past few years is the coalescence of several of the smaller technical societies, to form larger groups that can more effectively serve the interests of related fields. Such associations can benefit a field in several ways.

The most important benefit to be realized is that a single large organization is inherently stronger than several smaller ones. The large organization has the financial strength to better serve the needs of its members, and also has a membership base that gives it strength in dealing with other groups.

A further advantage of a large society is its flexibility. A large society can organize itself as an association of special-interest groups that can function with a

high degree of autonomy, thus maintaining the flexibility of a small society, while at the same time obtaining the solidarity of the larger group. In such a society, members are free to move about from group to group, as their interests change. It is comparatively easy to begin active groups in new areas, because there is a large membership to draw upon. At the same time, the members of the society can retain contact with their former colleagues when they change their interests; they needn't drop out of one society to join another, just because their job requires them to work in a somewhat different area.

Nowhere is the opportunity for constructive association better than in the field of optics. Optics, because it is applied to so many different types of problems, has become a major concern of several scientific and engineering societies, and a minor concern of dozens more.

There are groups that specialize in photo-optics, electro-optics, optoelectronics, quantum optics, infrared optics,

visual optics, you name it. While it is gratifying to see such great interest in the field, everyone would be better off if there were more interaction between different groups. To cover the literature of the field has become an impossible task.

Yet all of these groups are concerned with the study and application of the same type of radiation!

We have been particularly encouraged by the cooperation between SPIE and the Optical Society of America, resulting in the sending of two issues of Optical Engineering to the entire membership of OSA. We earnestly hope that it is the signal of further interaction between the two societies, that will result in the strengthening of both.

And perhaps, if such interaction should turn out to be mutually advantageous, it could serve to establish a means by which additional societies concerned with the field of optics could work together.

Douglas C. Sinclair

Forum

Optical Glass Standardization

The cost of optical glass in this country would be favorably affected if designers would agree to work from a certain base set of glasses whenever possible, thereby building volume in these glasses. The attached table is offered for this purpose. The glasses in this table are standard with both Schott and Corning, with the possible exception of the 523-586, which is the ophthalmic white crown. However, Schott is also in the ophthalmic business now, and their white crown is likely just like our 8361, but not listed in the optical catalog.

I would be happy to act as the coordinator for any comments or contributions that anyone cares to make.

William C. Lewis
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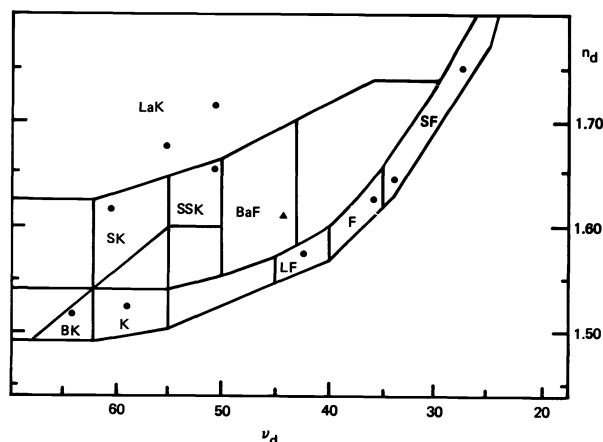
Erratum

In the tables accompanying the "Radiometric Nomenclature Revisited" article in last month's Forum, the units of photon flux were inadvertently specified as "quanta," instead of "quanta per second." The correction should be made in all three tables.

Editor

Preferred Optical Glasses

Type	Schott	Corning	Similar Ophthalmic
517-642	BK-7	8260	
523-586	(K-5=522-595)	8361	
573-426	LF-1	8341	8030=576-423
613-443	KZFS-N4	8280	
626-357	F-1	8439	8034=626-362
620-603	SK-16	8286	
648-339	SF-2	8275	8324=653-340
658-509	SSK-N5	8343	
678-552	LAK-N12	8442	
720-504	LAK-10	8293	
755-276	SF-4	8276	



Glass map showing location of preferred optical glasses.