

A Personal Note

When Prof. Sevgi first proposed the idea of a special issue of ELEKTRIK, a Turkish journal, for which he would be guest editor, with invited contributions solicited from my former and present colleagues and collaborators, and which would be dedicated to me, I was both pleased and touched by the recognition implied thereby. For several decades, I have had "a Turkish Connection" through close contact with academic and other research establishments in the greater Istanbul and Ankara areas, arranged through invited visits as well as participation in international locally-hosted conferences.

On these occasions, I have always been the beneficiary of generous hospitality, including exposure to Turkey's long cultural heritage, its ethnic diversities, the rugged beauty of its outlying districts, and its culinary specialties. In turn, I have had the opportunity to work with doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers and visiting scientists who temporarily joined my research group at Brooklyn Polytechnic (now Polytechnic University), Brooklyn, New York, where I was located until 1994, and at my present location at Boston University. A long list of joint technical publications has emerged from these mutually beneficial collaborations, which have also been accompanied by developing warm personal relations.

Keeping my long involvement with Turkey in mind, and with sincere appreciation, I accepted Prof. Sevgi's proposal of the special issue not only for my own sake but also for the opportunity to bring ELEKTRIK to the attention of invitees who might otherwise not have been aware of its scope and its role outside the Western technical "circuit". Turkey has many on-going high-tech EM engineering research and development programs which find first exposure in ELEKTRIK.

I am indebted to my friend, colleague and collaborator Levent Sevgi for the enthusiasm with which he pursued the idea of the special issue, and for his efforts in making it a reality. I also express my appreciation to those among my friends and colleagues who have responded to the invitation by actually contributing a manuscript.

On a strictly personal retrospective note, I value most of all the human bonds that have been forged during my career with collaborators and colleagues in many lands. These colleagues have generously extended to me the kind of help without which I could not have pursued my profession on an international scale in view of a variety of physical disabilities. Those collegial personal relations that evolved into deep and enduring friendships are counted among my most profound life experiences. To sum up:

I have witnessed much
Throughout my life,
Been through joy and pain,
Harmony and strife.

I have seen many countries,
Have experienced success,
Now enjoy my profession
Without early-career stress.

Yet I value most deeply
The care and helping hand
That my friends and colleagues
In my times of need extend.

With those who joined with me
To explore "How things work",
There were heated debates
That could drive one berserk.

Yet, these vigorous
Scientific altercations
Have led to enduring
Personal relations.

My own best reward
In these life cycle trends
Is when those whom I mentor
Become lifelong friends.

Leopold B. Felsen