General submission guidelines for
Automata Magazine

If you have any questions about any of what's below, please drop us an e-mail at *automatamag@comcast.net* We look forward to hearing from you.

These notes are for those of you who would like to write an article for *Automata Magazine*. People often feel they are not qualified to write, don't know how to write, or don't have enough experience. This is too bad because their reluctance deprives other automatists of their special knowledge.

Automata Magazine is not a literary magazine. If you are unsure of spelling and syntax, as many of us are, don't worry. It is the editor's job to straighten out the kinks. Moral: Don't be shy. If you have something to say, say it.

Query letters

It is always a good idea to drop us a note to make sure that an article you have in mind is something we can use or does not duplicate something we already have on hand. You can send it to *automatamag@comcast.net*

Language

As *Automata Magazine* is published in English, we prefer that articles be submitted in English. However, if English is not your native language, you may submit your story in whatever language you are most comfortable. We will have to trust to the wisdom of Google Translate to get things right.

Putting an article together

Are you wondering how to put an article together? You might appreciate a tip that was helpful to us. "Tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em, then tell 'em, then tell 'em what you told 'em." In other words, briefly introduce your subject by telling the reader the topic of your article in general terms. Then continue with the body, or meat, of the article. Finally, finish up with a short summary or concluding statement.

Don't be too wordy. Write as you speak (pretend you're chatting with a neighbor). When you have finished, give your article to someone to read. Pay close attention to the parts they don't understand. You might have to rephrase these sections to make them more clear. Chances are, if your reader understands something, so will everyone else.

No one's work will be rejected because of style. The goal is to disseminate information on our favorite topic. We believe that everyone has something to contribute, regardless of his or her level of experience; even sharing a bad experience can help others.

If your article contains photos that are specifically referred to in the text, the pictures should be numbered and those numbers included in the text.

If you have your own website, make sure you include the URL so readers can visit you there.

Acceptable submission formats

We prefer articles to be submitted digitally, either via e-mail or Dropbox. If you're not familiar with Dropbox, send us a note and we'll tell you how to use it. It's free and you can use it to transfer large files. We can also accept CD-ROMs and USB flash drives sent via post (write to us for our address). We can accept manuscripts in the following formats: Word, text only/rich text file, or the text can simply be pasted into the body of an e-mail letter sent to *automatamag@ comcast.net*

Photos

High-resolution photos are best. We can always make them smaller but we can't make them bigger. JPEG, TIFF, or RAW files are preferred. The subjects

should be well lit and in focus. Every photo should have a caption. If you didn't take the photo, please provide the photographer's name. We cannot use photos grabbed off the Internet or someone else's website without written permission, due to copyright issue. Photos taken with your phone are perfectly acceptable. Always include one or more "beauty shots" that can be used as lead photos for your story.

Drawings

Drawings can be submitted in just about any readable format. They may or may not be redrawn here. Hand-drawn sketches are fine. If they are nicely drawn and lettered, we may publish them as is. Otherwise, they may be redrawn. What's important is that they be understandable.

Things to send with each article

Please send the following with your article:

• Your complete postal address and e-mail address (for our records only—will not be published unless you request it)

• A photo of yourself that we can run small with your story. We'll publish it along with your city and country. It's nice to know who's writing

• Your website URL, if you have one

Payment

At this time, we are unable to pay for submissions, as the publication is being offered free. We hope that may change in time.