

## PREFACE

A few years ago, the MAA Committee on Publications recognized the need for a comprehensive writer's manual addressed to authors of articles for MAA journals. This booklet is the result. Most of the suggestions apply to books as well; but if you are planning a book, be sure to consult Halmos [2], particularly Sections 4, 6, and 7.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the helpful counsel of a large number of individuals. In the embryonic stages, Alan C. Tucker, who chaired the Committee, and P. R. Halmos and Doris W. Schattschneider, journal editors, supplied ample doses of advice, encouragement, and prodding. As the manuscript progressed, Paul T. Bateman, Richard K. Guy, Meyer Jerison, Robert H. McDowell, and Ivan Niven, as well as Tucker, Halmos, and Schattschneider, read various drafts and provided comments ranging from simple recommendations to stern admonitions, incisive observations, and detailed and substantial suggestions; several of these colleagues will recognize excerpts from their own prose.

I enjoyed working with Peter L. Renz, who as editor contributed his own comprehensive list of insightful suggestions.

I have accepted ideas from several published sources, particularly Halmos [2] and the AMS manual [4]. Here, too, I have incorporated several passages verbatim; I am grateful to the American Mathematical Society for permission to do this.

Throughout, my wife, Reba, provided good-humored, perceptive help in the fine tuning. (Which word do I want here, *may* or *might*?) To all, my appreciative thanks.

Leonard Gillman

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