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In introducing the “work for *Fundamental Optical Design*, I think it is helpful for the reader to understand the background of how the two books were made possible. In any way we ask all readers of this volume to read the earlier volume. It is rather simpler whatever we read, fiction or fiction, we have a better understanding if we start from the beginning.

At the time of the initial publishing discussions, we discussed just Michael’s book would fit the style and category of SPIE’s Tutorial Text Series, which is based on their short courses. The idea was to capture Michael’s very successful style of teaching and be reflective of his association with many of the internationally famous optical designers at Imperial College London, where he trained and taught and while when he was a consultant, revolutionizing optical design teaching, and of the optical design program later known as SIGMA. This group included Prof. P.H. Hopkins, Prof. Charles Wyman, Prof. W.D. Wright, and Prof. Walter Wellford.

Michael Kasper died four days after he signed the original publishing contract with SPIE Press. Following his death, hundreds of colleagues and former students wrote to me from all over the world expressing their admiration for Michael’s warmth/loving personality, and style of teaching. It was clear to me that the unquenchable and overwhelming expression that I should find a way to honor him, not only with practicing optical designers, but with future students of optical design, a continuity of this relationship between student and teacher. Posthumous publication of his book was the obvious choice.

To this end, I reviewed each and every set of course notes that Michael had given, sifting through the material to avoid duplication. Obviously, I had reviewed and sorted all the relevant source material. However, this material could not be Michael’s book per the original agreement.

This compiled source material included special courses given at specific optical design requirements for whichever group he was visiting. For example, the material included courses given at the Institute Galileo, Florence. It also contained a hands-on course by practical lens design given at the “Workshop in Optics,” held at The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. Michael gave courses in Australia, Singapore, and Europe, including ones in Germany and the UK. Also, a course was given at Imperial College London for 50 attendees from Samsung, Korea. The optical designers from Samsung came with their specific problems, and these were worked through individually with Michael’s assistance.