Not only computing – also art

JOHN LANSDOWN

This is the last issue of the present series of *Computer Bulletin* and, in February 1989, a new and redesigned series begins. The new series will be published much more frequently than the current one - in fact, ten issues a year are planned - and each issue will contain full colo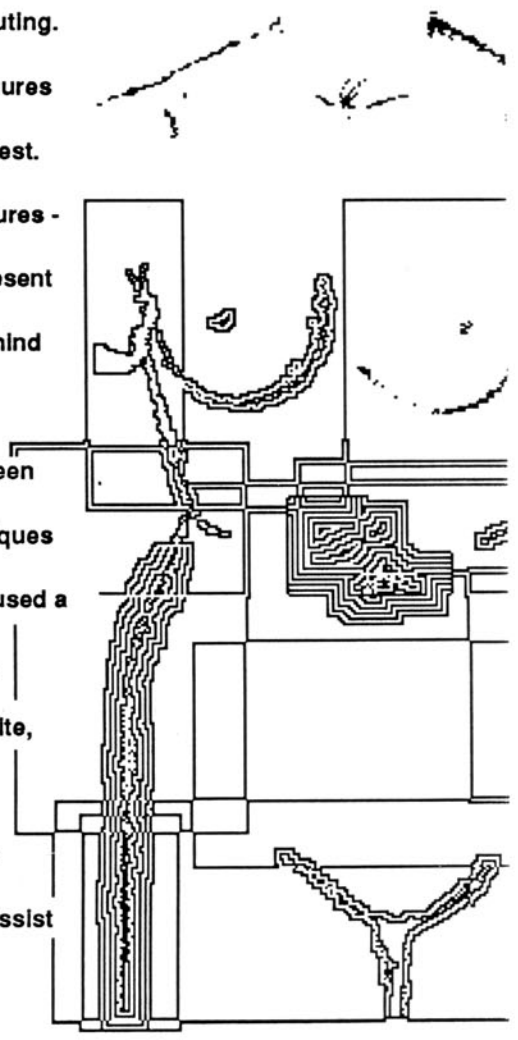ur pages which I hope this column will share. Although *Not Only Computing - Also Art* or its equivalent has been included in every issue of the Bulletin since Series 2 started in September 1974, in future the column will appear only in every other issue (after the second). Even so, this will mean at least one more column a year - so please keep sending me details of what you are doing and what interests you so that I've always something to write about.

Much has happened in the profession since I began writing the column almost fifteen years ago. The BCS has received its Royal Charter and become a fully-fledged professional society; its members are now able to apply for Chartered Engineer status; the number and influence of its Specialist Groups has grown signifi- cantly. New forms of computing and computers have arisen: neural networks have gone and come again; the transputer has arrived and flourished. Above all, the personal computer has become a reality and most of us would now find it hard to get along without one. New languages, too, are in the ascendency. Prolog, C, Modula-3, Ada have taken over where others have left off (the September 1974 *Bulletin* for example contained a book review of the Final Report on Algol 68, a language now - and to many of us even then - as inscrutable as Sanskrit!)

When it first started, the column was called *NOT QUITE COMPUT- ING - ALMOST ART*. Later, mainly due to representations from artists, I then changed the name to its current one.
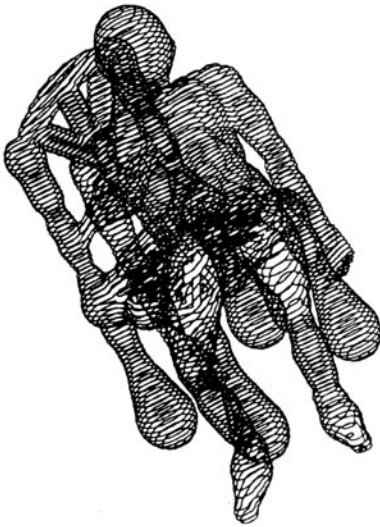
Over the years I've included in these pages thousands of words and hundreds of pictures on art and its relationship to computing. Some of the words and pictuures were only of ephemeral interest. Others - particularly the pictures - deserve a reshowing so I present them here in a collage to remind you.

The collage has mostly been made possible by the techniques of desk top publishing. I've used a Macintosh Plus, PageMaker, FreeHand, MacDraw, MacWrite, VersaScan, ThunderScan, a laserwiter as well as the odd scalpel and pot of paste to assist in the assemblage.
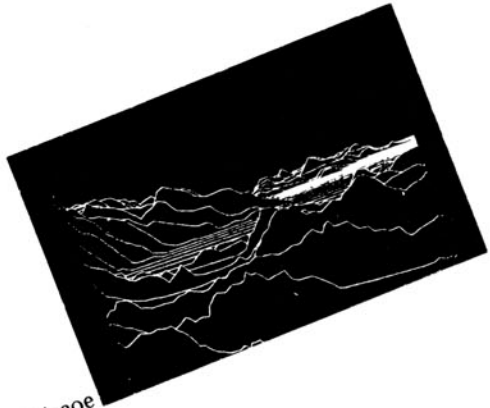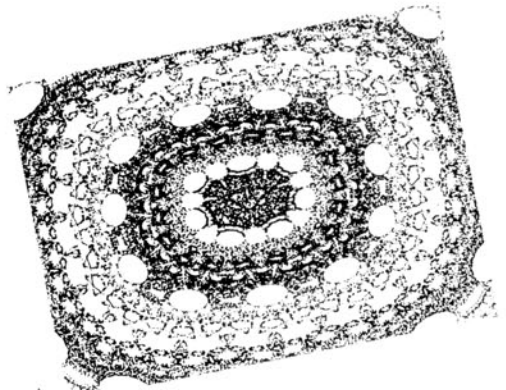
serendipity

Mike King

Paul Brown and Chris Briscoe

Karen Durant

Barry Martin

Alan Sutcliffe