

A short but necessary (and unavoidable) note about the HANDBOOK and JOURNAL of the IPA (International Phonetic Association)

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As already said at its appearance (in 1999, almost foreseeing its inevitable flop), the *Handbook* is far from being a reliable and advisable guide for transcribing and describing the pronunciation of languages.

Indeed, it is too superficial and unsatisfactory for presenting faithfully the vowels and consonants (to say nothing about intonation, which is completely ignored, as if it was not part of pronunciation itself).

The *Journal* is not at all different from the *Handbook*, both for its ‘illustrations’, which keep on illustrating nothing more than quite approximate, incomplete, and insufficient ‘presentations’, and with unacceptable sound files, which are decidedly inadequate, confused, and even unsuitable.

Lately, its contributions have become long-winded, yet still incomplete, and with disputable acoustic figures, falsely presuming to compensate for the lack of precision and completeness of the analysis.

This same shortcoming is typical of all other (more general and limited) ‘contributions’, which do not contribute anything really useful!

Frankly, its articles are becoming longer and longer (often with many authors, up to five), generally on a single,

simple, uninteresting and dubiously useful 'phenomenon', mainly 'documented' by some acoustic figures of very few speakers or even just one.

It also happens that JIPA life members are excluded from receiving their legitimate issues. Perhaps the publisher (CUP!) may be convinced that they are doing us a favor, by not sending ridiculous papers around the world...