## Changes

THIS year has brought more changes to this journal than in many preceding years combined. For your interest, these perturbations were:

• A fifty percent increase in the number of Associate Editors. Generally, it is editorial policy to try to limit each Associate Editor to about one paper per week, but because of a surge in papers which started in late 1982, the editorial workload increased, which required enlarging the editorial board. The larger board should decrease the time for the paper acceptance by decreasing the workload on each Associate Editor. The major delay in disposition of papers is still the time to obtain reviews. If you become a reviewer, please be prompt; give the author the same courtesy you would expect if it were your paper under review.

• The AIAA headquarters move to 1633 Broadway in New York. This move was extremely disruptive to the journal composition and printing process, and has caused many issues to be thinner than usual. Hopefully, by this issue, the journal will be back to full strength.

• The change in procedure for paper submissions. This means that the preponderance of clerical work was shifted to both my office and to the Associate Editors. To mitigate the paperwork burden on Associate Editors, my personal computer is used to generate two kinds of sticky labels: one with the information concerning the paper, and the other with the author's name and address. These labels are to accompany the paper through the review process and substantially reduce the clerical repetition of these data. You may have already noticed these labels on the correspondence and review reports you receive.

•My changes of address. However, I believe that all papers sent to me at previous addresses have been both received and processed.

The third change above has permitted a substantial decrease in the time between the author's submission and my sending the paper to an Associate Editor: now generally two days, in comparison to the previous two weeks. However, I am less able to track a paper through the review process as compared to the previous arrangement in which the AIAA office in New York was a recipient of all correspondence. In order to substantially improve the ability to track the status of papers (and to correct delinquencies!), a central computer with terminals for each Associate Editor is needed. A successful experiment involving the technique was performed by Donald Fraser, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics. To extend this system to all of the AIAA journals would be an expensive but very worthwhile investment, particularly since it would facilitate leveling the utilization of reviewers, as well as identifying habitually deliquent ones.

The procedure now being used for your manuscripts is as follows: When I receive your paper, the unit count (length estimate) is prepared, and the appropriateness of the paper for the AIAA Journal is determined. If suitable for the AIAA Journal, the paper is logged in and the sticky labels and authors' file cards are prepared, and copies of your paper are mailed to the appropriate Associate Editor, except for one file copy that I retain. Each Associate Editor, in turn, sends your paper to two or three reviewers (except for Technical Notes and Technical Comments). The Associate Editor mails me copies of the review requests; that way I know that action has been taken on the paper. Each reviewer sends a copy of his review to the Associate Editor and a file copy to me, so that I know the review status of the paper. The Associate Editor then reaches his decision to accept, decline, or revise. For the first two decisions, he and I send our entire files to the New York office for notification to the author. For most revisions, the Associate Editor communicates directly with the author.

When I receive my copy of a review, the reviewer's name is also logged in to acknowledge his contribution (see listing below). In the past, file cards were also made for each reviewer, with a record of how often he was used (we do not wish to overburden reviewers) and a record of his promptness in reviewing manuscripts. The record is being maintained now by the *Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics* as part of the computerized system operated by its editors. But it makes sense to centralize this information for all journals: hence the need for a central AIAA data processor, with remote terminals and modems for each Associate Editor. A modern computer network is required to tie together our presently geographically dispersed operation. Until then, it will be impossible to assure authors of the three-month response time which we are mandated to achieve.

Other news of importance is that the *Journal of Energy* has been discontinued, and a new journal of propulsion and power is being planned. The latter will absorb some of the topics of the former. However, many of the propulsion papers which are now published in the *Journal of Aircraft* and the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* may be assigned to the new journal as well. Fundamental or research papers on combustion or propulsion processes, aerodynamics, structures, thermophysics, etc., should still be submitted to the *AIAA Journal*.

The AIAA journals have also had a decrease in the percentage of authors who are paying page charges, to approximately fifty percent. As a reminder, the subscription receipts are insufficient to cover publishing costs; page charges make up the difference. In the past, the Board of Directors has been exceedingly generous with the journals, for example, by granting extra pages to clear up backlog, with the result that the journals operated at a net deficit. However, if page charge receipts do not increase, this could be regarded as indicative of a decrease in the value of our journals, and the Board may not be as generous in the future. The net result is that there could be further delays in printing papers; or it may be necessary to decline a greater fraction of papers. By your paying your page charges, we can avoid a situation that another prestigious journal was forced into, namely, a ninemonth moratorium on receiving new papers for review. The cooperation of authors, contract monitors, and research group directors in payment of page charges is urged.

## The Future

What of the future directions of aerospace research? One reads that tens of billions may be spent on research to develop new or advanced concepts for intercepting and negating enemy strategic nuclear missiles. Some possible approaches involve further advancements in directed energy weapons; others involve impact negation, perhaps by guided projectiles or high-speed self-propelled missiles. All will require more accurate and faster sensors to direct these weapons and provide the promised shield.

To achieve these goals, it is essential that the research be fully distributed around the country. It is counterproductive to establish only "teams" placed in competition against each other, because this will severely limit the flow of technical requirements to others who possess helpful knowledge that overcomes particular problems or provides simpler approaches. The technical strength of the country comes from its fabric, not just isolated pinnacles. One hopes that the planners for this new program will have the foresight to kindle

the research program required for such an advanced technology, and not just settle for a crash approach.

## Acknowledgment

Our readers and authors owe a debt of thanks to Norma Brennan, Director of the Editorial Department, Elaine Camhi, Managing Editor, and Mildred Daniels, who so flawlessly performs the composition of the journal.

Special appreciation is due to our retiring Associate Editors: Professor Alfred Crosbie, Dr. Dewey Hodges, Mr.

Henry McDonald, Professor Robert MacCormack, and Dr. Charles Wang, who have helped to maintain the quality of this journal. Finally, many thanks to our reviewers for the throusands of hours they spent analyzing the technical manuscripts. Their names are listed below.

We also welcome our new Associate Editors appointed this year: Professor Satyan N. Atluri, Dr. Wen-Huei Jou, and Dr. Gary Settles. Also, Professor P. Sforza has undertaken a new service for us, namely, obtaining book reviews on relevant subjects.

George W. Sutton Editor-in-Chief

## Reviewers for the AIAA Journal—1983\*

Abarbanel, S. S.	Baumeister, K. J.	Borman, G.	Chang, C. C.	Culick, F. E. C.
Abbett, M. J.	Bayazitoglu, Y.	Bousman, W. G.	Chang, L.	Cummings, A.
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		Bowman, C. T.		
Acosta, A. J.	Beattie, R.	Bracco, F. V.	Chang, W. S. C.	Cunningham, A. M.
Acrivos, A.	Bechert, D. W.	Bradley, H. H.	Chaussee, D. S.	Cunningham, H. J.
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Agarwal, R.	Beer, J. M.	Britey, R. P.	Chen, Y. G.	Daniel, I.
Ahlstrom, H. G.	Behrens, W.	Brown, G.	Cheng, H. K.	Dash, S. M.
Ahuja, K. K.	Bejan, A.	Brown, R. S.	Cheng, W.	Davis, R. T.
Aidala, P.	Belegundu, A. D.	Brown, R. T.	Chevray, R.	Davis, S.
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Antani, D.	Berke, L.	Bush, R. H.	Chu, C. K.	Dennis, S. C. R.
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Arora, J.	Bernard, M.	Bywater, R. J.	Chung, T. J.	Derr, V. E.
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Back, L.	Birch, S.		Coles, D.	Dobyns, A.
Baer, M. R.	Bishop, A.	Carne, T.		Dolling, D. S.
Baganoff, D.	Bittkes, D.	Carpenter, R. T.	Compton, W. B.	Dong, S.
Bahr, D. W.		Carr, L.	Condit, W. C.	Dosanjh, D.
	Blair, M. F.	Carrier, G.	Condon, J. A.	Doss, E.
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Baldwin, B. S.	Bobco, R. P.	Cattolica, R.	Craig, R.	Dugundji, J.
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Bass, M.	Bopre, C.	Chakravarthy, S.	Crisp, J.	Dwyer, H. A.
Bathe, K. J.	Boray, R. S.	Champagne, F.	Crosley, D. R.	Dyer, M.
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Baum, J. D.	Borland, C. J.	Chan, Y.	•	Eckbreth, A. C.
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<sup>\*</sup>This list represents those names supplied by the Associate Editors and Editor-in-Chief.