

Editor-in-Chief Reappointed

WITH this issue Dr. Thomas M. Weeks begins a new term and his 13th year as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Aircraft*. His reappointment is an affirmation of our belief that he will continue to broaden the scope of the journal and to seek out worthwhile papers from a variety of sources.

His enthusiasm for his editorial work should help the journal to grow in physical size and to maintain a high level of quality, thus attaining a preeminent position as leader in the field of aircraft science and technology.

We wish Dr. Weeks a successful year as the *Journal of Aircraft* begins its 28th volume.

Billy M. McCormac
AIAA Vice President—Publications

Developing Papers

Capturing and Preserving the Time-Value of Important Original Contributions to the Aeronautical Technology Literature Base

ONCE again it is my pleasure to tell you about some exciting things going on in the *Journal of Aircraft*. First, we established a Papers Development Team. Their names appear below. The Team is made up of members of several of the Technical Committees and the Academic Affairs Committee. They have been asked to help with the development of papers for the Journal. This ranges from suggesting selected papers from current or recent meetings to working with authors and session chairs well ahead of the meeting. We feel that there is a double payoff: 1) papers will get started earlier into the review cycle, shortening the overall time to publication, and 2) the quality of the meeting paper itself will improve as a result of applying journal quality standards at the outset. Improved quality meeting papers is a goal of TAC this year. Do you find your Technical Committee (the one most closely related to your interest) represented on our Papers Development Team? If not and you feel that this omission should be corrected, contact me or your TC Chair. Other Committees of the AIAA may be interested in helping to develop journal material and are welcome to contact me as well.

You note from the above that the Academic Affairs Committee is represented on the Papers Development Team. This is a result of another initiative by this Journal, namely, to capture and publish material in the area of design education. Review and acceptance standards (much like we impose for technical papers) are being developed and potential authors contacted to announce this opportunity. This is based on comments by academic leaders that AIAA does not now provide an adequate medium to cover innovations in design education. We hope that aircraft design education advancements will be documented and published in this Journal in the near future. Please contact me or Dr. Gerald M. Vogel with questions or suggestions about developing design education papers.

AIAA has placed Institute-wide emphasis on international relationships. The *Journal of Aircraft* has featured an International Board of Editors for several years now. The names of the current Board appear on the inside front cover. Most nations representing important aircraft technology development are represented. In line with traditional AIAA Membership criteria, the International Board seeks members from any nation interested in the development of aircraft technology. Our newest nation to be represented on the Board is the Soviet Union. The purpose of the International Board of Editors is threefold: 1) seek and promote technical publication of important papers from each country, 2) act as a point of contact to assist authors as necessary, and 3) provide or sponsor an article or editorial on a subject of current interest to our readers. Our March issue last year contained an editorial on the outlook and development of general aviation sponsored by our International Editor from China. Additional editorials will appear this year. Because of the importance of our interna-

tional relations in this world of rapid, often unexpected change, I have appointed one of our Associate Editors, Dr. Bellur L. Nagabhushan, to serve primarily as Associate for International Editors.

Yet another initiative last year was to publish special issues on design optimization (see the December 1990 issue and this issue). This initiative was due to another of our Associate Editors, Dr. Inderjit Chopra.

Capturing, reviewing, assisting, and accepting these papers was a monumental effort, and we expect that these special issues will remain of great value for some years ahead.

The steps that my staff and I have undertaken should result in an even better journal in the coming decade than in the last. They were all based on response to comments and suggestions from readers like yourself who, after all, pay to receive this Journal. Please continue to contact me or the Associate Editors with your good suggestions for improvement.

I would like to turn your attention to the recognition of some special people who made the Journal possible in 1990. Dr. Billy McCormac, Vice-President—Publications, focused attention on the recognition that AIAA members divide their interests about equally between the astronautics and aeronautics sides of the house. Yet the journals have been somewhat unbalanced (from an overall page count) toward astronautical subject matter. He challenged the aeronautics editors to capture and develop more material in their journals to achieve more balanced coverage. He also pushed up the ceiling on the number of budgeted total pages and again challenged all editors to increase the size of our journals to relieve a backlog jam arising from the move of AIAA to Washington, D.C. Much of his concern inspired this Editor to "plus-up" the size of this journal beginning with our special December issue. The initiatives reported above were the tools used to flesh out Dr. McCormac's goals.

The Editorial Department in Washington, D.C. has faced (and continues to face) a vastly different environment from the one it left behind in New York. High turnover presents a constant management challenge. John Newbauer, Administrator of Technical publications, and Norma Brennan, Director of our Editorial Department, have again proven their mettle. Having moved themselves to Washington and hired practically all new staff, they are to be commended for getting the journals out with minimal delay and without compromise in quality. Our Managing Editor, Heather Brennan, and Production Manager, Richard Gaskin, have both done excellent jobs in spite of these turnovers. We have had three Production Editors this past year (my point is made)—Sheryl Krieger, Eric Sorensen, and now David Uffelman. These are the people my Associate Editors and I deal with almost daily, and there has been literally no problem in making the transitions, a tribute to their talents as well as those of their management. I'd like to