

Sources of Papers

SEVERAL questions have been received from potential authors regarding what types of papers may be published in this journal. At the root of these questions is the issue of what constitutes prior publication and the procedures needed for specific papers such as AGARD papers. To address the first issue, prior publication, the question is addressed in two parts:

- a. Has the material been widely disseminated?
- b. Has the material undergone formal, external peer review?

If the answer to both is yes, I consider this to be prior publication. If the answer to either or both is no, then this is not prior publication. A few examples, specifically answering the questions received, will serve to clarify my position. Typical technical meeting preprints are not widely disseminated nor have they been reviewed formally by the author's peers (other than within the author's organization); thus such preprints are not considered prior publication. Bound proceedings which are simply a collection of preprints stapled together are also not considered prior publication. If the meeting organizers have taken an additional step to "normalize the nomenclature" or "standardize the figures," etc., this does not constitute external peer review and, therefore, still does not constitute prior publication. Authors having any doubt or simply wishing to explore this issue are encouraged to contact me for clarification. I would hope that no important material is languishing in authors' files simply because of misunderstandings about prior publication.

The second type of question relates to the procedures for publishing material from other sources, such as AGARD papers. This brings to the surface the issue of release and permission. There is a perception that AGARD papers cannot appear in AIAA journals. This is not the case. Although AGARD papers may be widely disseminated in many countries, they are not in the U.S. Furthermore, they have not received formal, external peer review. However, there is a need to observe two requirements for the release of AGARD papers. First, the author's permission must be obtained. This would seem a simple matter, since most papers submitted to this journal come directly from the author. Second, credit to AGARD must be given in a formal statement to appear in the journal article (in the acknowledgment section). I recommend the following, as suggested by the AGARD Fluid Dynamics Panel:

The original version of this material appeared in the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (AGARD/NATO) in Conference Proceedings CP _____, "title" in (date).

Authors should contact the particular AGARD Panel for any special additional release requirements. At the same time, I encourage AGARD meeting session organizers to encourage authors to seek journal publication of their papers.

With the notable relaxation in world tension and the likely expansion of international trade and technology exchange agreements, more sources of papers will surely appear. I encourage organizers of international meetings to indicate to me what special considerations may apply to the release of papers. You may do so through our Board of International Editors (see inside front cover) so that they may better advise prospective authors early in the paper development cycle to save valuable time to publication.

Looking ahead to 1992, we anticipate several Special Sections coming out of recent meetings. One will cover aircraft anti/de-icing procedure. Another will address survivability, while a third, just getting underway, will address adaptive flexible wings. I feel these Special Sections, developed by our

Papers Development Team (see names below) and Associate Editors, are timely and useful. They always include an editorial by someone who is a prominent leader in the field. I invite your requests for future Special Sections, since this is your journal.

The past year saw some drastic changes in AIAA publications, not all of which are completed yet. Paul Holloway, newly appointed director of NASA Langley Research Center (one of our largest contributors of technical papers), is our new VP Publications. We all appreciate Paul's willingness and determination to guide us through the rough time ahead. Billy McCormac, former VP Publications and long-time stabilizing influence on the Publications Committee, saw us through much of the move to Washington and inspired a rebalancing of the journals to capture more aeronautics subjects, in keeping with the membership requirements. The Headquarters publications area underwent a complete reorganization. Several journals, including this one, are now being sent to a commercial source for production. We have a new in-house Production Editor, Tom Nissley, and I welcome him to his new position. Tom served for us previously as an Editorial Assistant and is, therefore, no stranger.

This issue marks the beginning of bimonthly publication for the *Journal of Aircraft*. Subscribers benefit with reduced subscription rates, made possible through reduced printing and mailing costs. Authors are encouraged to support this new format by paying the requested publication charges.

Through all last year's turmoil brought about by numerous staff changes, we were able finally to get back on schedule. This was largely due to the decisive and demanding leadership of John Newbauer, now retired, former Administrator of Technical Publications, and of Norma Brennan, now Director, Journals. David Uffelman, our former Production Editor, recently left AIAA for greener pastures. New to the job last year, he didn't miss a beat and helped get us back on schedule. He was able to put out our Special Section on Optimization without delay. Special thanks also go to our Managing Editor, Heather Brennan, Editorial Assistants Christine Kalmin and Ken Berlack, and our in-house Production Manager, Richard Gaskin, ably assisted by Simki Michael. I also thank Sara Bluestone, Art Director, and Reginald Clay Sr. and Jacquelin Razavi in Graphic Design.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of preparing this annual Editorial is in recognizing my staff of 12 Associate Editors. They select the Reviewers, generate important quality improvement revision instructions, and make the tough decisions about acceptability for publication. Only the best are published, but, fortunately, this represents the majority since trivial submittals are the exception. I, of course, review all decisions to decline publication, and the door remains open to authors for rebuttal. Now that we're back on schedule, my objective is to drive down the time to publication. Associate Editors will appreciate prompt attention by authors to revision instructions. Checking and adhering to format requirements (see back inside cover) will reduce the overall time to publication. My Associate Editor Staff for 1992 appears in these pages. Please look them up at technical meetings. Several of them serve on Technical Committees as well.

Reviewers for 1991 also are listed in these pages. A scan of the list reveals that we select the technical leaders. Their valuable suggestions add quality to our publication and provide valuable suggestions for future work.

Thomas M. Weeks
Editor-in-Chief