

Technical and Economic Plight of the *Journal of Hydronautics*

In response to a relatively small (in percentage of AIAA membership) but insistent and fervent voice of the marine systems and technology disciplines, the *Journal of Hydronautics* (*JH*) was established in 1967. We believe that it has achieved the same international esteem in terms of quality that is enjoyed by the three larger journals published by the AIAA. However, the AIAA faces grave financial problems and is reassessing all priorities. Among our journals, *JH* is in the poorest position, both in technical support (qualified papers) and economic support (subscriptions and percentage of authors paying page charges). The Editor-in-Chief, Dr. John Breslin of the Stevens Institute of Technology, and the staff under Mrs. Anne Huth are now pressed each quarter to put together an issue of even 32 or 48 pages (it used to have 64 per quarter), and it is running in the red.

We are actively seeking ways to reduce costs on our journals, but any means short of author-prepared copy will not appreciably help so small a journal as *JH*, with its small print run. Meanwhile, because of competing demands for resources among the various sectors and activities of the AIAA, the need for the continued existence of *JH* is being questioned at the highest levels (the Publications Committee, the Technical Activities Committee, and the Board of Directors).

Is *JH* really wanted and needed by the marine systems and technology community? If it is, will you take positive action to increase the flow of papers, subscriptions, and the percentage of page charges paid? Unless the 8 to 10 good papers (only three a month average!) and a few Notes needed to make a 64-page issue each quarter that will attract more subscribers at the low \$4 member and \$12 nonmember rates, as well as more page charges, can be provided, justification of the continuance of *JH* will be very difficult. The page charges (\$75 per journal page) are voluntary, and the percentage paying for *JH* has been only 40% recently (less than 20% for this issue).

With respect to the type of material wanted by *JH*, please see Dr. Breslin's editorial in the January 1971 issue. With respect to latest news, see the following editorial.

Unless some considerably brighter prospects appear by August of this year, we will convert *JH* to a semiannual basis in 1972, and, if that results in no economic improvement, *JH* may perish. If you use *JH* and are proud of it as a high-quality record of your professional achievements, now is the time to act.

Gordon L. Dugger
Vice President-Publications

The Latest News on Our Publications Program

In response to many expressions of dissatisfaction received at the Aerospace Sciences Meeting in New York, the Publications Committee, on March 5, held a lively five-hour discussion on author-prepared copy for the journals (including all recent inputs in response to our editorials and announcements) and related technical and economic considerations in our publication activities. The result was a decision **not to go to author-prepared copy** at this time. This decision was approved by the Board of Directors at its March meeting.

A part of the Publications Committee's decision, recognizing the continuing need for economy, was to empower this writer, with appropriate assistance, to find a less expensive way of composing the journals without loss in quality. We have been gathering information on that area since January,

and we expect to implement a new system, beginning no later than the January 1972 issues, that will achieve an appreciable saving (~25% of composition costs or ~10% of the present total publication budget for the journals) in 1972.

This planned saving and the magnitude of the present year's effort on the SDD (Selective Dissemination of Documents) study are intimately tied to another pressing economic problem, about which as authors for our other journals have been greatly and rightly concerned: our backlogs. Both the *AIAA Journal* and the *Journal of Aircraft* have developed intolerable backlogs, with some accepted papers in the unpaid-page-charge category having been in that second bin for eight months or more. The backlog for the *Journal of*