



William R. Sears

Dedication

THIS March 1983 issue of the *AIAA Journal* is dedicated to Professor William R. Sears in celebration of his 70th birthday, March 1, 1983.

We all honor von Kármán, Prandtl, and others as the fathers of fluid mechanics and aerodynamics. This month we celebrate the contributions of one of their "children." Bill Sears was a protégé of Theodore von Kármán and has made equally lasting contributions to both fluid mechanics and aerodynamics.

Bill was the editor of one of the predecessors of this journal, *The Journal of Aeronautical Sciences*, from 1956 through 1962, and helped launch the early issues of the present journal. He is an Honorary Fellow of the AIAA, and the recipient of its Pendray Aerospace Literature Award, the Reed Aeronautics Award, and many others.

As Professor Emeritus of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arizona, Bill remains active in research and, his colleagues report, flying, racquetball, and the University's Collegium Musicum.

Bill founded and served for 17 years as Director of the Graduate School of Aeronautical (and subsequently Aerospace) Engineering at Cornell University. He also founded and served as the first director of Cornell's Center for Applied Mathematics. He was honored by many awards at Cornell University, including the John L. Given Professorship. Prior to joining the Cornell faculty, Bill was the chief aerodynamicist of the Northrop Aircraft Corporation, which he joined in 1941. He did his graduate work under von Kármán at Cal Tech from 1934 to 1938, and he remained on the research staff and teaching faculty until

joining Northrop. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in his hometown of Minneapolis in 1934, using his many talents as a musician to finance his undergraduate studies.

Among Sears' most notable achievements are his pioneering work in wing theory, on unsteady flow about airfoils and in turbomachinery, the radiated noise of such flows, supersonic bodies of minimum wave drag, new phenomena in magnetofluidynamics, three-dimensional boundary layers, unsteady boundary-layer separation, and, most recently, adaptive-wall wind tunnels.

Bill has served his profession through membership and chairmanship of numerous boards and committees. Among his honors, besides the AIAA awards mentioned above, are the Prandtl Ring of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Luft- und Raumfahrt and the Vincent Bendix Award of the American Society for Engineering Education for outstanding research and research administration. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, and Mexico's Academia Nacional de Ingeniería.

Bill's influence on the aerospace engineering profession has been, and remains, immense. He continues to be active in research and consulting, traveling all over the country, and indeed, the world. His influence extends through that of his many students who have gone on to distinguished careers. The AIAA joins with these former students and his many colleagues and friends in wishing Bill many more healthy, happy, and productive years.