

Change, Assessment, and Projection

THIS editorial marks the first anniversary of the return to bimonthly publication, the approach first used in the early years of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*. A year ago, I predicted that, as the new Space Transportation System neared its initial operation, we would experience a significant upswing in paper submittals to JSR. We have taken a modest step in that direction with a 20% increase in submittals over the level for 1977; I continue to be optimistic about the future. As we take the first steps with shuttle and prepare the technology necessary to capitalize on its capability, many new and challenging areas must be explored. Major efforts are under way to develop the ability to build large space systems for a broad variety of practical uses, to expand space applications for Earth resources and environmental observations, to assess the potential of space processing and manufacturing, and to continue the advancement of space communications and navigation. We now have a presidential mandate in these and other areas. The planetary exploration program has the Galileo project in full swing as the Venus Orbiter Imaging Radar (VOIR) and Mars Surface Sample Return are receiving serious consideration. With the shuttle, interest is already turning to increasing the STS performance and flexibility and to defining larger payload, shuttle-derivative launch systems. A quick reference to the inside front cover, where the scope of the JSR is delineated, will easily convince the reader that major, multiple advances are required in virtually every area of the science and technology of spaceflight to meet the goals of our space thrusts in the next decade. Again, as last year, I feel that the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* is the obvious choice as the journal to serve as the archives of many of these advances.

This annual editorial affords the opportunity to acknowledge all those who make our journal process function smoothly. As a reader, a contributor and, more recently, an Associate Editor, I felt I understood and appreciated all aspects of the journal publication cycle. A brief stint as Editor-in-Chief, however, is an excellent means of sharpening that perception. First, I would like to acknowledge all the technical reviewers whose names are printed in this issue. Upon them, our total publication structure is based; without them, this system would crumble and editors would be unemployed. The Associate Editor's job revolves around the reviewer. If an AE can find qualified, responsive reviewers, his job is straightforward. If he cannot, his job is exceedingly difficult. To all reviewers, past and future, the editors offer their sincere appreciation.

The burden of maintaining the quality of an archival journal rests predominately with the Associate Editors. They must find qualified reviewers, be prompt, and very often sit in judgment when conflicting review reports are received. We are very fortunate in having stability in our editorial staff for the coming year. I am happy to announce that Dr. R.H. Woodard Waesche has agreed to serve a second three-year term as Associate Editor in the field of propulsion. Woody has established himself as indispensable to our system and has earned the deepest respect of all those who work with him. He combines thoroughness and promptness to a degree that easily could serve as a standard for any archival journal. His workload this year has been exceptionally high. I must admit that I was apprehensive because of the workload (a 47% increase over 1977) when I approached Woody about a second term. His quick and gracious acceptance was a high point for the year! Drs. Walter B. Olstad, George A. Hazelrigg, and Charles E. Cheeseman Jr. have also struggled through a year of heavy workload and stand ready for the challenges of 1979.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with such dedicated and professional Associate Editors.

A brief moment of panic hit in mid-summer when JSR received many submittals from the Communications Satellites Conference. In previous years, many of the papers from these conferences were reviewed, edited, and published in volumes of the *Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics* series. This year, the Technical Advisory Committee on Communications Satellites decided against the books, which led to the submittal of many of the papers to JSR. The subject matter of these papers was in an area outside the specialties of the Associate Editors. After considering many options, it was decided to seek a guest Associate Editor for this group of papers. Dr. Pier Bargellini, Senior Scientist, Comsat Laboratories, was identified as an excellent candidate for the job. When contacted, Pier readily agreed to do anything he could to help. We express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Bargellini and note that his cooperation and willingness to help exemplifies the strong cornerstone of the AIAA.

On two occasions during the past year, I was unable to fill the role of Editor-in-Chief. Each time, I had to call on Don Fraser and ask that he take over while continuing his duties as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Guidance and Control*. As an example, Don handled all duties during February and March. With his help, JSR stayed on schedule. Again, the support I have received has been extraordinary.

A major change has occurred this year—one which will be difficult for many of us to accept. In August, Anne Huth retired from her job of Assistant Administrator, Scientific Publications. For years, Anne has been my primary interface with the AIAA journal structure. She has been consistently helpful, constructive, and decisive as required. This was an amazing achievement when you consider that she was constantly caught in the middle. On the one hand, she frequently was the target of criticisms from irate authors—shouldering the burden of barbs hurled at the editorial staff, especially when papers were rejected. On the other hand, she listened and consoled frustrated editors bending under an unreasonably large workload or faced with a disproportionate number of marginal papers. Through it all, she functioned smoothly and effectively, always with a smile in her voice and an offer to help. Anne and her husband, Don, left the rigors of New York in the early fall for the milder climate of San Diego. Both she and Don plan to pursue creative writing in a new, more relaxed atmosphere. We wish them well. We will miss her sorely.

Since Anne's departure, Lawrence Levy has picked up the workload from Anne's duties relating to JSR in addition to serving as our Managing Editor. We appreciate the expanded role Larry has assumed and are looking forward to working closely with him in the future.

Finally, I must acknowledge my Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Jean LaNeave. Since I assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief, Jean has carried much of the burden. My new job forces her to come in early and stay late in order to process all the many administrative tasks associated with the work. Her function has little visibility, and no rewards, but is, nonetheless, crucial to the publication of JSR.

All the above may be summarized very succinctly. No individual can be Editor-in-Chief. The process begins with the authors, flows through the Associate Editors and reviewers, and relies heavily on administrative support. Without every contributor, our system could not exist.

Paul F. Holloway
Editor-in-Chief