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Chairman's Preface

Seventh International Workshop on Railway Noise, 2001

The Seventh International Workshop on Railway Noise (7IWRN) was held in Portland, ME, USA, on 24–27 October 2001. Despite general concerns for travel after the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in New York City and Washington, DC, the 7IWRN was well-attended. Over 100 participants from 16 countries came to Portland to discuss the latest research and developments in railway noise and vibration. A full programme during two and half days covered topics that focused on implementation of research results, including: Criteria, Noise Sources, Tools/Models, Ground-borne Vibration, and Abatement Experience. Forty papers were presented in 7 sessions; lively discussion occurred during 6 breakout sessions; and personal communication centred around 14 posters. Session chairmen served as reviewers for papers to be published from each session. Most of the contributions are included in this special issue of the Journal of Sound and Vibration.

The goal of organizers of 7IWRN was to continue the tradition of the preceding six Workshops in providing an environment for informal and creative exchange of information on railway noise and vibration. As has been the practice for these Workshops in the past, an International Committee participated in the planning of 7IWRN. Organizing and hosting the Workshop was the responsibility of Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc., with additional support provided by the following United States companies who are generally active in the acoustical and railway engineering fields: Wilson, Ihrig and Associates, Acentech, LTK Engineering Services, and HDR Engineers.

Response from participants has been overwhelmingly positive regarding satisfaction with 7IWRN and the need for continuation of the series. Consequently, the International Committee has selected a site in UK for the 8th IWRN during September 2004. The organizers of 7IWRN wish to express appreciation to all who helped plan and support the Workshop, to all who participated, to all who helped prepare papers for publication, to John Walker who acted as Guest Editor, and especially to the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Sound and Vibration for continuing the practice of publishing the papers in a single issue of the Journal. This issue, together with those associated with the previous six IWRN's, provides a valuable compendium of international progress in understanding and controlling noise and vibration from railways and tracked transit systems.

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