



## REVIEWS IN PHYSICAL ACOUSTICS

### EDITOR'S PREFACE

Although the series of Physical Acoustics volumes will be discontinued, the need for regular reviews of contemporary developments in the rapidly advancing field of physical acoustics remains. It is recognized that scientists, engineers and students working in acoustics would all benefit from access to state-of-the-art summaries of topical issues such as, for example, acoustic thermometry, acoustical holography and sonoluminescence. To this end, Academic Press decided to publish a more or less regular series of review papers on physical acoustics in the *Journal of Sound and Vibration*. The Editorship for the *Reviews in Physical Acoustics*, carrying the responsibility for commissioning review articles in this area, was offered to me by the Editors of JSV in October 1997 and I was very pleased to accept.

One of my first concerns was the format that the newly established series of review papers should take. Traditionally, scientific reviews tend to be lengthy, in-depth surveys of a topic, usually containing an exhaustive bibliography. On performing my own mini-survey of potential review authors, it rapidly became evident that the prospect of writing a substantial article on their particular area of expertise was viewed with something less than enthusiasm. At the same time, several would-be readers, mostly post-graduate students, were of the opinion that reading a hundred-page review article was not their idea of time well-spent. The students did, however, like the idea of a comprehensive, up-to-date bibliography to lead them into the field.

With these thoughts in mind, and after discussions with Dr Gioia Gezzi, Senior Editor, Academic Press, and Professor P. E. Doak, Editor-in-Chief, JSV, it seemed important to seek an alternative to the traditional review-paper format, something that would be less demanding on the author and more readily digestible by the reader. The natural solution is the "brief review", containing a very focused account of a topic, but retaining a substantial bibliography, and running typically to about five published pages of text (although there is no hard and fast limit on length).

As with other papers appearing in JSV, the brief review articles will be refereed before being accepted for publication. Contributors in the physical acoustics community are invited to submit brief review papers to me, following the instructions in the Information for Authors section published regularly in JSV. It is hoped that the brief review articles will be an extremely effective way of disseminating topical information to the acoustics community at large. This can only be achieved, however, with the help of experts in the field and I strongly encourage would-be authors to consider writing brief reviews of their speciality in physical acoustics for JSV. I look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

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