



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PREFACE

There are three changes in the JSV editorial structure taking place with effect from 1 January 1999.

First, Professor Yuri I. Bobrovnikskii, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has recently been appointed as the JSV WWW Home Page Editor. Many readers will be aware that JSV is already available electronically on the WWW for subscribers to the Academic Press IDEAL library. Professor Bobrovnikskii is setting up a Home Page Repository of information, initially in three categories: namely, up-to-date “Conference Announcements”, “Supplementary Material” (i.e., supplementary to printed papers), and “Discussions”, complementing but not replacing the traditional printed “Letters to the Editor”. His “Call for Material” is to be published regularly in printed issues of JSV, as well as being available on the Home Page. The Repository information will remain available for at least three years. Establishment of the Repository is seen as a step towards the development of full “electronic journal” publication, providing the fastest possible dissemination and discussion of new scientific information.

Second, four distinguished and long-serving senior members of the Editorial Board are retiring. Their successors are four members of a younger generation. The four retirees are Professors B. L. Clarkson, D. J. Johns, A. Powell and R. G. White. Together they have provided nearly 80 years of invaluable support for the development of the publishing services JSV provides to its authors and readers. We are all deeply indebted to them.

Their younger successors are Professors Ann Dowling, S. A. L. Glegg, J.-L. Guyader and R. S. Langley. I trust that their accession is as warmly welcomed by JSV authors and readers as it is by me. The subject interests of the successors, in comparison with those of the retirees, are similar on balance overall, but are somewhat more “sound” orientated, rather than “vibration” orientated. This is deliberate as over the years the originally desired balance between “sound” and “vibration” papers in JSV has tipped rather in favour of “vibration”. The concept on which JSV was founded was that sound and vibration are fundamentally two aspects of what is scientifically the same subject: waves and vibrations in mechanical continua – fluids, solids, structures, The scope of JSV was thus, and continues to be, defined as inclusive of any aspect of sound and/or vibration. With “sound” implicitly including “hearing”, it is evident that these aspects include such things as audiological and sociological phenomena (e.g., noise in the environment).

So, JSV continues to welcome all “vibration” papers and of course “vibroacoustic” papers, but also rather more “sound” papers would be welcomed. In respect to the subject balance implied in the latest changes in the Editorial Board membership, one can note also several other changes in recent years. Dr Maria Heckl has succeeded her late father Manfred, who also was an all-round vibroacoustician. Professor N. H. Fletcher has succeeded Dr A. Cabelli, giving us

representation of not only engineering acoustics which Dr Cabelli had provided but also high level representation of musical acoustics. Professor P. R. Stepanishen has been added to the Board membership to strengthen representation of underwater acoustics and vibration. Professor B. A. T. Petersson has become a Board member, with interests in structural vibration and vibroacoustics. Also, Professor M. J. Buckingham has become Editor for Reviews in Physical Acoustics.

The net results of the present changes and those recently preceding them constitute a substantial readjustment of editorial representation of the various aspects of the JSV scope, particularly its more “acoustic” aspects, and also of the age profile of the editorial membership.

This is timely. Now that there are 50 issues of JSV per annum, each of which need not be a standard number of pages, and now that JSV is becoming more and more widely available on the Internet (see <http://www.idealibrary.com/>, or <http://www.europe.idealibrary.com/> for information on this availability), a modest growth in the total number of JSV pages published per annum can be envisaged. Thus, achieving a better balance between “sound” and “vibration” papers can be accomplished without detriment to the “vibrationists”. At the same time the present efforts to minimize publication delay times can be maintained, to the benefit of all.

The third change is that, from 1 January 1999, the Editor-in-Chief, while remaining Editor-in-Chief, is no longer the “European” Editor dealing with submissions from authors in the geographical regions outside those for which the Americas Editor, Professor Werner Soedel, and the Australasian Editor, Professor Y. K. Cheung, are responsible. Professor Maurice Petyt is taking on the full duties of European Editor. Although “Europe” in this context includes Africa, the Middle East, and all parts of Asia except those for which the Australasian Editor, is responsible, European Editor seems to be an appropriate enough title for Professor Petyt, instead of an acronymic title like “EAMERA Editor”! (No prizes are offered for deciphering the meaning of RA in this!) After all, his Editorial Office, and that of the Editor-in-Chief, continue to be at ISVR of the University of Southampton, in Europe.

These changes in the editorial structure have been made with the aim of improving the publishing services that JSV can provide, as an independent international journal, well into the first decade of the 21st century. On behalf of all Editors and Editorial Board members, I wish to thank authors and readers for their past support, and remind them that all of us will continue to welcome suggestions for further improvements in the publishing services JSV provides.

Finally, I would like to point out to all authors and readers, and especially those who are asked, from time to time, to assume the guise of a referee for a paper, that the advent of both electronic printing and publication of papers can make publication in refereed journals like JSV much more prompt *if* and *only if* referees provide prompt comments to the editors. JSV policy at present is to ask referees to provide comments within six weeks, but JSV Editors know well from bitter experience that they may well receive a referee’s comments only within 12 weeks, or even 18 weeks. We also know well from our own recent experiences as researchers ourselves why this is the case. Especially in academia, senior researchers these days have to spend so much time trying to obtain contracts to fund their junior

researchers that they have little time left to do any research themselves, let alone referee papers by other researchers. So refereeing papers too often ends up near the bottom of their lists of priorities. The days when professors had nothing else to do but give a few lectures a week and do a bit of research themselves are far in the past. Nevertheless, I would like to suggest that, in the interests of the advancement of scientific knowledge, lecturing, doing one's own research, and evaluating papers on new research by others are all of comparable importance, because scientific knowledge is intrinsically collective knowledge. It follows that scientific knowledge will increase more rapidly, to the benefit of all, if new scientific knowledge is published more rapidly.

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