

A Resignation and an Introduction

With this issue of the *AIAA Journal* the undersigned turn over the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief to Dr. Leo Steg.

We do this with a great deal of satisfaction, knowing as we do that the new Editor has the experience, judgment, ability, and character necessary to insure the high quality of this Journal.

The undersigned were editors of this Journal's predecessors, the *Journal of Aerospace Sciences* and the *ARS Journal*. Our services were enlisted by the AIAA to establish the new journal and to guide it through the period of transition from the old order to the new. Fortunately, there have been no differences of opinion between us regarding the purposes of the Journal or the editorial policies to carry out these purposes. We have concurred enthusiastically in the selection of a panel of distinguished Associate Editors. Both of us feel that our tenures as editors have been long and that one Editor-in-Chief is better than two. We therefore have looked forward to resigning in favor of a new Editor as soon as a qualified candidate became available.

As we turn over our responsibilities to Dr. Steg, we look forward with the highest expectations to future issues and volumes of the Journal. It will be his responsibility to establish and maintain its standards of excellence. This is not easy to do, for the *AIAA Journal* must meet the needs of

a broad spectrum of members having a wide variety of interests. The Journal will continue as a journal of applied research, but this research should be of the kind that interests and stimulates imaginative engineers. We think that its papers must explore the frontiers of knowledge in aeronautics and astronautics, but it should leave to other periodicals papers concerned with pure science or mathematics for their own sake. Papers must be complete enough to be understandable, but not so long as to waste precious pages or repeat what is known already. They should be written in good style, yet style is surely less important than content and clarity.

It is with conflicting requirements like these that Dr. Steg will now be concerned. We are confident of his success and of the faithful cooperation he will receive (as we have) from the Associate Editors and from the Managing Editor and her staff. We both will continue to be concerned with the progress of the AIAA publications program as a whole, one of us as a Board member and as a member of the Publications Committee, and the other as the Vice President-Publications, but the direct responsibility for *AIAA Journal* now belongs to Dr. Steg.

William R. Sears
Martin Summerfield

Editors' Credo

Two great Editors, instrumental in guiding two great journals for many years and then merging them (as well as the societies they serve), have decided that "it is time for a change." The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the *AIAA Journal* owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

The primary mission of a learned society like the AIAA is to provide for the exchange of ideas. It is timely to restate the role of the Journal as we, the Editors, see it.

- a) We consider the Journal to be devoted to the advancement of Aeronautics, Astronautics, and Propulsion through the presentation of original and review papers of relevant, significant, useful, and reasonably permanent impact.
- b) We view the Journal, the senior publication of the Society, as a journal of applied research.

- c) We believe the purpose of the Journal is to serve a Society of engineers and scientists, literate in the broad range of their profession, and bound together by a common interest, the problems of flight.
- d) We believe the Journal can serve best by presenting a balanced fare of experiment and theory, synthesis and analysis, completed work, and preliminary results or short notes.

Rarely is a group of editors given the opportunity and challenge to serve at the time of creation of a new Journal; we approach this task with humility and enthusiasm.

Leo Steg
Editor-in-Chief



Leo Steg

Dr. Leo Steg was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1922. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the College of the City of New York in 1947, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Missouri in 1948, and a Ph.D. in Mechanics, Mathematics, and Physics from Cornell University in 1951.

From 1951 to 1955 he was Assistant Professor of Mechanics and Materials at Cornell University. During this period he also contributed to the defense effort as a consultant to a number of groups including the Lincoln Laboratories at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation.

Upon joining General Electric in 1955, he contributed significantly to the solution of the re-entry problem. He now directs the GE Space Sciences Laboratory, the company's center for basic research and exploratory development in the space-related sciences.

Dr. Steg is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a member of the American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi.