

Adjusting to Success

RECENTLY, several authors have expressed concern about the delay between the time that a manuscript is accepted for publication and the appearance of the document in the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*. As a result of their concerns, I checked the statistics of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* (my former responsibility) and of *JPP* over the past decade. The results of the survey indicated that, indeed, there had been a considerable lengthening of the publication delay. The *JSR* delay grew from 6 months in 1982 to 12 months in 1985; likewise, *JPP*'s delay grew from approximately 6 months in its first two years of operation to a year or more over the past three years. A reasonable goal for scheduling and efficient operation of the archival journals is a six-month delay. One obvious portion for achieving this goal is an increase in the number of pages published during a calendar year. Once again, *JSR* went from 608 to 680 pages between 1982 and 1985 to achieve better control of the publication delay. In a similar manner, *JPP* initially went from 512 to 800 pages in 1990; a further increase is anticipated for 1991. It should be noted that the *Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics* went from 608 pages in 1987 and 1988 to 960 pages in 1989 and 1184 in 1990; obviously, the option is being considered by the Publications Department. However, limitations on both the budget and the staff must be considered before such an increase is implemented for another journal.

The staff portion of this growth is being ably handled by a new team at AIAA Headquarters. Heather Brennan has been promoted to Managing Editor, and is handling her new responsibilities well. Likewise, Susanne Payne has moved in as the new Production Editor for *JPP* and is on top of everything already, assisting me in the scheduling of issues in a manner which gives me confidence that more manuscripts can, indeed, be processed from the personnel standpoint. The continuing presence of Norma Brennan means more than can be expressed in words; she provides continuity, guidance, and advice in a warm, friendly manner through all the problems.

Contributing authors can assist in the financial aspect of the needed expansion of *JPP*. A significant portion of the expenses of journal publication must come from publication charges. With the current economic picture, many program managers find it easy to say that publication charges are an unnecessary luxury that cannot be afforded by the program funding. However, this is not the case! Sharing the results of programs is an integral part of the research process; archival journals form the most significant outlet for these results from the standpoint of communications, but require the economic involvement of authors. Accordingly, every author should be willing to plan to support *JPP* and the other AIAA journals by paying these publication charges.

The continued growth of *JPP* is based upon the willingness of authors to view it as the proper outlet for their work. The number of submittals has grown from just under 200 in 1986 to nearly 300 in the past two years. This has led to an increasing load on the tireless Associate Editors whom we are fortunate to have as the *JPP* team. The field of electric propul-

sion has grown beyond that which could be handled by one person; Peter Turchi has moved in to share papers in the field with Graeme Aston, and is already processing papers expeditiously. In the air-breathing area, I'm especially glad that Jim Younghans agreed to help for another three years. This is a real contribution for Jim and his wife, Marg, especially since he has typically been the busiest AE in this field and continued despite the need for surgery. As a personal note, Walt O'Brien also worked on through surgery and new responsibilities as a Dean.

Unfortunately, we are losing three AEs. Dwayne McCay is stepping down after three years of handling papers in the field of liquid rockets, even after his field of specialization changed; thanks from all of us, Dwayne. Fortunately, Chuck Merkle, head of the NASA Center at Penn State, has volunteered to take this slot. Professor Merkle is a friend since the 1960s and has a record of accomplishments in many fields of propulsion. In addition, Bob Delaney has found that he could not continue because of increased job responsibilities; this has been a real loss, because he has handled papers dealing with CFD aspects of air-breathing in an exemplary manner. Fortunately, David Hobbs, from Pratt & Whitney, has agreed to join the AE staff. I've known David for over a decade and am sure that he will be a valuable addition. The third AE to step down represents a real personal loss, since Herman Krier and I have been friends since 1964, when he took over my experimental equipment at Princeton. Herman is a Charter Member of the *JPP* staff and will be sorely missed. Thanks to Herman and his invaluable aide, "P.J.," for their six years of service to *JPP*. His role is being filled by individuals with distinguished careers, Steve Heister of Purdue and Joe Shepherd of RPI; both have excellent reputations as authors and reviewers in the propulsion field, and have worked in industry prior to entering academe. In addition, the field of propulsion-related combustion continues to grow. Vigor Yang of Penn State, with a remarkable publication record over the past decade, has been added to the *JPP* staff and is already well into his role as an AE.

I would like to acknowledge the AEs who are continuing: Henry Brandhorst for power-related papers, the above-mentioned Graeme Aston, Mickey King for solids, Gabriel Roy for MHD and ramjets, Walt O'Brien and Alan Epstein for air-breathing propulsion, Ed Mularz for reacting flows and scramjets, and Rolf Reitz for sprays and combustors. These gentlemen have helped establish *JPP* as a high-quality archival journal.

In addition, I wish to thank the authors who have created the necessity for expanding *JPP* by submitting the results of their work. As well, the efforts of the reviewers who make the archival refereeing system work must be acknowledged. Merely listing their names is only part of the gratitude we must all express for their efforts.

R. H. Woodward Waesche
Editor-in-Chief