

## To Everything There Is a Season

**D**URING the 1982 Aerospace Sciences Meeting, a group of distinguished experts in airbreathing propulsion visited several committees with a concept for a new journal that was to cover the several disciplines related to this field, since none of the existing journals of the AIAA specifically addressed them at that time. As both the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* (which covered some propulsion-related areas at that time) and the coordinator for the propulsion Technical Committees (TCs), I was asked to become involved in the possible development of such a new journal. A committee, chaired by Paul Holloway, was named to establish the scope, recommend sources of manuscripts, etc. The scope of the new journal was expanded to include all varieties of propulsion; in addition, since the new structure of Technical Activities had grouped the energy TCs with those in the propulsion arena, the new journal was designated the *Journal of Propulsion and Power* as a means of keeping alive the initiative established by the *Journal of Energy*.

As liaison between Technical Activities and Publications, I was asked to take the output of Paul's committee through the several approval steps, including the Board of Directors. Approval for the journal was given, and Gordon Oates, already well known as an author in propulsion, was designated as the first Editor-in-Chief of *JPP*, which published its first issue in 1985. Following Gordon's untimely passing in 1986, Bill Heiser asked me to assume the position of Editor-in-Chief, and I have been privileged to serve in that role since.

Given my liaison role, it appeared appropriate to involve all of the Technical Committees of the Propulsion and Energy Group in *JPP* by attending each of their meetings, on a twice-yearly basis. This has allowed for direct communications in identifying Associate Editors, reviewers, survey papers, etc., and eventually led to groups of manuscripts on topics that the TCs felt to be of especial interest. It has also led to a continuing increase in the number of manuscripts submitted each year; a total of nearly 2700 were submitted in the 1990s, with 345 manuscripts submitted in 1998 alone. Manuscripts on several groups of topical interest were published in both propulsion- and energy-related fields; in the latter area, both the Terrestrial Energy and the Aerospace Energy TCs assembled material that drew numerous kudos. Special sections on solid propellants and on space propulsion, detailing the state of the art of the entire international community, were also published.

Such success did, however, result in one problem: the number of high-quality submittals, combined with the pages allocated for the publication of accepted manuscripts, has led to a continuing increase in the backlog of *JPP*. In fact, the September–October Issue had an average delay of 52 weeks from acceptance to publication, even after two groups of manuscripts were transferred to the Progress Series to produce landmark books. Authors considering submittal of their future manuscripts to *JPP* should be assured that there has been a substantial increase in the number of pages allocated for 2001 and beyond, so that this backlog will shrink rapidly.

Calendar year 2000 represented several personal milestones for me: 25 years as an Editor, my 20th year as an Editor-in-Chief, and my 70th birthday. In addition, I had four separate operations interspersed

among numerous business trips; four of these trips required flights across the Atlantic Ocean. These combined to remind me of many of the sentiments expressed in the *Book of Ecclesiastes* concerning Time and Man's place on Earth, and set to music with feeling by Johannes Brahms in his "Vier Ernste Gesänge," the last major group of songs that he composed. Taken with the backlog problems and the extent to which submittals to *JPP* were being affected, I felt these personal matters made it appropriate to tender my resignation as Editor-in-Chief.

Professor Vigor Yang was appointed as Interim Editor-in-Chief until a formal selection committee could process nominations for a permanent EIC. Vigor has been a long-time Associate Editor and has organized two outstanding special issues, in addition to a group of 39 manuscripts that became Volume 185 of the Progress Series. I know he will continue to perform in an exemplary manner, and I will work with Vigor to ensure a smooth transition of all those manuscripts currently in the archival review process.

After all of these years, there are many individuals to whom I wish to express my thanks for their role in the growth of *JPP*. First of all, of course, are those who have served as Associate Editors over the past 16 years, most of whom have put in more than one term. Although I cannot thank every one of them, I must mention Jim Youngmans, one of the original AEs, who served for 15 valuable years. Ashwani Gupta served as a valuable bridge to the Terrestrial Energy TC and the focal point for two groups of manuscripts. I have already mentioned Vigor Yang's service, and failure to acknowledge the contributions of other AEs by name does not diminish the appreciation that I have for their assistance and for their friendship. I also must thank the several TC Chairs who have supported *JPP* through their Publications Subcommittees and their allowing me to participate in their TC meetings, as well as the Directors of the Propulsion and Energy Group.

Through 25 years of service to AIAA as an Editor, I have also been able to work with numerous members of the AIAA staff. Norma Brennan has been the consummate professional in ensuring that everything was well coordinated and that the high standards required in the establishment and maintenance of a high-quality journal have always been met. The turnover in Managing Editors at AIAA Headquarters has made continuity difficult, but Aimée Munyan, the current Managing Editor, has gotten up to speed very rapidly and has interacted well with numerous authors already. I am confident that the combination of the AIAA Headquarters staff, the current Associate Editors, and the Technical Committees of the P&E Group will ensure that *JPP* will meet all of the goals by the original visionaries who presented their journal concept nearly 20 years ago.

Finally, I must publicly express my deep appreciation and thanks to my loving wife, Lucy, for all of her assistance and for her understanding of the necessity for me to spend evenings reading manuscripts for the review procedure with minimal delays. She has played a major role as a member of the *JPP* publication team.

R. H. Woodward Waesche  
*Retiring Editor-in-Chief*