

Apologies to the Sun

YES, Virginia, there is a *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*. This paraphrase of the famous editorial in the *New York Sun* concerning the existence of Santa Claus is one way to remind readers that JSR still is a strong, viable journal and has a definite role in the AIAA journal structure. Even with the founding of, first, the *Journal of Propulsion and Power* (JPP) and, now, the *Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer* (JTHT), a significant portion of papers presented in sessions organized by the committees concerned with those disciplines still falls within the scope of JSR. For instance, of the papers from the Thermophysics sessions in the 1986 Aerospace Sciences Meeting, nearly one-half were in JSR's scope, as were about one-quarter of those in the 1986 Propulsion Conference. As agreed with the relevant technical committees, JSR will continue to publish systems-related papers and those manuscripts where applied fluid mechanics and aerodynamic aspects are the underlying consideration. These points were discussed in the July-August 1986 Thermophysics issue of JSR. Papers dealing strictly with the propulsion cycle will, of course, appear in JPP, and papers handling classical heat-transfer and thermophysics problems will appear in JTHT.

As a result of intensive efforts of their Editors-in-Chief, both JPP and JTHT are off to a fine start, and Al Crosbie has the support of the entire AIAA community in ensuring that JTHT is successful; the distinguished publication history of the Thermophysics TC represents a strongly positive note in support of this new journal. I personally lament the untimely death in November of JPP Editor-in-Chief Gordon Oates in more areas that I can express. As a friend and colleague, he was a valuable contributor and source of strength. We worked together for some time in the establishment of JPP, and the division of papers between JPP and JSR became a cooperative venture which was a model for future editors. I will miss him for a long, long time.

The development of these journals means, of course, that JSR must continue to grow in other areas. As I have indicated in recent editorials, a significant portion of this growth has been in the general areas of Space Systems and Space Science and Astronomy. The readers of JSR are fortunate to have Frank Redd as the Associate Editor for the former area and Al Vampola for the latter area. Special binders are owed to Dr. Michael Schulz, a co-worker of Al's at the Aerospace Corporation, who handled papers for him while Al was a visiting scientist in New Zealand—many thanks, Mike. I also must express my appreciation to the Technical Committees in these areas and their Group Directors, David Rohrbaugh and Mike Francis, for ensuring that sessions are organized for relevant topics and that papers presented at these sessions are submitted to the appropriate AIAA journal. Through their coopera-

tion, efforts are underway to have future issues dedicated to papers on tethers in space, space station, and exploration of the solar system. These will, hopefully, make up for those efforts delayed as a result of the Challenger tragedy.

The fundamental soundness of JSR continues in other areas. Clark Lewis has maintained the continuity of papers in the developing field of applied fluid mechanics, with its myriad approaches to computational techniques. He has been able to perform this task while ably conducting his own research, a truly commendable performance. David Allen has enhanced JSR's role in the field of structures and structural dynamics, also while continuing his own research and while writing an encyclopedia article on aerospace structures. Also continuing as an author and an associate editor (in the field of vehicle analysis) is Jim Martin, who has conducted the most comprehensive analyses of the effects of fuel type on lifting vehicle performance. Gene Menees remains with JSR to cover those papers in the field of thermophysics which are systems-related, as mentioned above; the readers of JSR join me in expressing thanks to Gene for his continuing service. Last but not least, the newest number of the staff, Mike Briggs, continues to work on overcoming technology-transfer obstacles and on obtaining papers on Missile Systems; in addition, he also handles many systems trade studies. It is a pleasure to have a fine, reliable staff of Associate Editors upon which I can rely.

The authors and readers of JSR also should be aware of the professional staff without whom the journal could not operate. The quiet competence of Bob Inman, Managing Editor, is a continuing strength which ensures the smooth operation of the publication process. Julie Hansen, Felipa Santiago, and Mary Blanchard perform the many duties of which those of us on the technical side are not aware, but which must be carried out if JSR is to be read in a timely manner. Of course, Norma Brennan's contributions are too numerous to be mentioned. Her duties in managing the Editorial Department are staggering, but she conducts them while assisting both authors and editors and providing personal support without which many of us would find it impossible to perform any editorial tasks. Many thanks, Norma.

As always, my personal thanks to those authors who have chosen JSR as the vehicle through which they can share their research with their peers. I also thank the reviewers who have contributed to the excellence of these papers and to the maintenance of the high standards of JSR. Merely listing their names below is barely an adequate means of appreciation for their efforts.

R.H. Woodward Waesche
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since the above editorial was prepared, Dr. Waesche has been appointed to succeed Professor Gordon C. Oates as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*. Dr. Frank J. Redd has been named as new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*.