

Introduction: A Historical Celebration

WITH this issue and the next two, the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets (JSR)* is proud to have the opportunity to participate in the 2003 Centennial of Flight Celebration. In this issue, several papers highlight individuals who are and were major contributors to key technologies within the scope of the journal. I do not think that I can find the right adjectives to properly address the significance of the many contributions of these individuals. I will simply say that our first three papers are based on the contributions/careers of Fred Blottner, Antonio Ferri, and Lester Lees and let you, the *JSR* reader, enjoy. However, a few points need to be made. I would like to thank the authors who contributed to the papers on Antonio Ferri and Lester Lees. For Fred Blottner, the journal has the honor of presenting the paper given by Fred when he was made the AIAA recipient of the 2002 AIAA Thermophysics Award. Fred has provided and continues to provide fundamental studies that are

learning benchmarks for those in the aerothermodynamic technology area. The other papers in this issue relate to key technology areas within the *JSR* scope. Again, I want to thank the authors for taking the time to write these papers and share with us their rich historical knowledge. In our next two issues, the *JSR* will produce reprints of papers within the AIAA umbrella that relate to studies on experimental/computational aerothermodynamics, spacecraft structures and materials, and guidance, navigation, and control. One note should be made: Some papers that were selected by *JSR* had to be dropped because of publication in other AIAA journals; also, the wealth of information that resides in government, industry, and academic institutions and that relates to the *JSR* scope could not be reproduced.

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