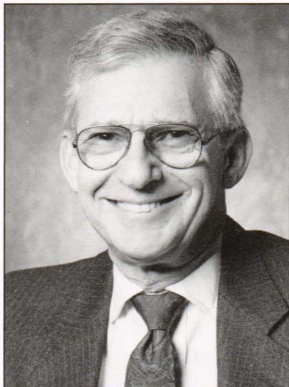


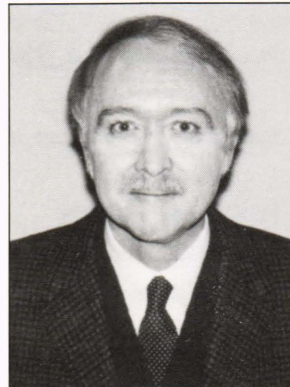
EDITORIAL

This issue of the *Technical Digest* represents the *opus ultimum* of its Managing Editor, M. B. "Mike" Gilbert. Mike has had hands-on responsibility for the production of the journal longer than any other member of the staff; his name first appeared on its masthead in the July-September 1975 issue, when its title and appearance were somewhat different than at present. A thorough professional (undergraduate English and mathematics at Cornell University and graduate meteorology at MIT) and an articulate and sophisticated man, he turned his interests toward literary matters early on, ultimately finding his way to APL and his present assignments. During the more than dozen years of his management, the *Digest* underwent a significant upgrading, a metamorphosis for which Mike deserves much credit. He is now retiring, planning among other things to read for pleasure rather than for purpose. We will all miss the quality



of his vision and his vigorous management, and we wish him well.

Replacing Mike both as Managing Editor and as supervisor of the Editorial Section is James Shambach. Jim recently came to APL from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. With degrees in metallurgical engineering and English, he brings a breadth of view and a range of experience that will help maintain the *Digest* as the chief public representation of the Applied Physics Laboratory. We welcome Jim aboard and look forward with pleasure to the association with him and his staff.



JOHN R. APEL
Editor-in-Chief