

EDITORIAL

With the autumn issue of the *Johns Hopkins APL Technical Digest*, my three-year tenure as Editor-in-Chief of this, the Laboratory's very attractive house organ, is complete. The *Digest* is much more than—or rather is really not at all—what the name “house organ” implies. It is for us an important means of reporting on the unclassified work being done by the Laboratory staff and their associates. Its audience ranges from working scientists and engineers through program sponsors and on to the higher levels of the government. With such a mixture of readers, there is a temptation to reduce the level of discourse to the lowest common technical denominator, to make APL's efforts understandable to the widest possible audience. Some of this is clearly required. The *Digest*, however, is a *technical* publication, and technical material is often difficult stuff. To make all of it into sci-tech pabulum for the sake of the broadest understanding would be to dilute the intellectual contributions of the authors, most of whom are in their professions partly because of what Ralph E. Gibson, former director of APL, called “the challenge of hard thought.”

So we have solicited articles ranging in difficulty from technically entertaining to scientifically solid to theoretically esoteric, with the hope that the scope of APL's efforts would thereby be more fully understood. On a few

occasions, we have published theoretical papers of such abstruseness that only a small fraction of the audience is likely to read past the title; but we have done so in the belief that the material was important. I have also personally held firm for the use of units having S.I.—*Système Internationale*—imprimatur, and have banished angstroms and torrs and microns from between the covers of the journal. Because we are part of an educational institution, to do less would have been to slow the gradual diminution of anarchy in units.

Dr. Samuel Koslov replaces me as both Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Editorial Board. He also serves in those same capacities for the *Digest's* sister publication, the *Johns Hopkins APL Technical Review*, which reports classified work. Koslov brings to those jobs a wide-ranging intellect and extensive experience in the varied realms of the Laboratory and in its publications. We all wish him well. I shall continue to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Digest* and as editor of a forthcoming series of textbooks and monographs that will be produced in a joint venture between APL and a major publisher.

JOHN R. APEL