



A Tribute to Walter G. Berl

After an association of nearly five decades, Walter G. Berl retired from the Laboratory on November 11, 1994. Walter's name has become synonymous with the *Johns Hopkins APL Technical Digest*, a periodical he served in many roles so well and for so long. He was a member of the founding editorial board of its predecessor, the *APL Technical Digest*, from September 1961 to August 1963. In July 1979, when the role of the *Digest* was broadened to reflect the increasing diversity of the Laboratory's tasks, Walter was entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing and implementing the changes. The first issue of the *Johns Hopkins APL Technical Digest* appeared at the beginning of 1980, and for the next seven years, the *Digest* was under Walter's expert stewardship. In those short seven years, Walter launched and nurtured the journal that weaves together reports on highly focused technical subjects and articles of much broader interest, both reflecting the diverse creativity of APL scientists and engineers.

Walter had an enormous curiosity about the work of APL staff members, holding the staff in high esteem and rejoicing in their successes and triumphs. It was, therefore, not difficult for him to solicit excellent articles. His keen historical sense and deep affection for the Johns Hopkins institutions led him to seek many articles on the making of APL, the evolution of technical management, the role of a major research university in an increasingly complex world, and much more. It was also through Walter's initiative and efforts that major abstracting services came to cover the contents of the *Digest*. In recognition of his significant contributions, I requested in 1987, and the then Laboratory Director, Dr. Carl O. Bostrom, readily agreed, to name the annual APL publication award for the outstanding paper published in the *Digest* as the Walter G. Berl award.

Walter made many other significant contributions to the Laboratory. He pioneered the investigation of high-energy fuels for ramjet propulsion, led programs in fire research, and enhanced APL's prestige through creative public-direction activities. All of us will miss his civilized presence and wish him well in his new ventures.

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