

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management* marks the end of the 16th year that your editor's name has appeared on its masthead. It brings to a close a period of change reflected in the quantity, quality, and scope of the papers published, so it seems appropriate to look back to see how things have changed and to look forward to anticipate the future.

Since 1980 the journal has grown steadily to the point where there are about 55 papers published each year. This parallels the growth of construction engineering and management as a profession, as well as the growth of construction education programs in the United States.

Following World War II, the construction industry promoted construction education because of the realization that large quantities of management personnel would be needed to serve growing postwar construction markets. Further, new ideas and techniques had to be developed to achieve economical construction performance.

Educational institutions responded to this impetus by creating new, specific construction programs. Initially, teachers were recruited from the industry, but the new programs in the major universities soon began to grant advanced degrees to supply the need for construction faculty. Educational institutions were also changing their policies with regard to the hiring and advancement of teaching personnel, and it became important for new construction faculty to publish research papers.

Prior to about 1965, the journal published only a few papers in each issue. Most of these were solicited from leading construction authors and the subjects were most frequently reports on major construction projects. In some cases, whole issues were devoted to one significant project, such as a major bridge, lock, or tunnel. In the period from 1965 to about 1975, a number of other publications were founded that provided publication outlets for authors of papers covering many of these traditional subjects. Research papers from construction faculty and students began to appear by about 1970, and by 1980 the contents of the journal had changed until nearly all the papers were from academics. This status continues to exist today.

There has always been room in the journal for papers with an applied construction emphasis, but the journal has been criticized as not serving the industry because of its orientation to academics and research. This criticism can be accepted if it is directed toward the industry's present practice of construction, but it is not true if it is directed toward long-range service to the industry.

Significant papers have appeared in the journal during this editor's tenure that have covered advances in areas such as scheduling, cost controls, management techniques, productiv-

ity, safety, business practices, contract issues, and so forth. The construction industry has adopted many of the concepts and details from these papers and has used them in field applications. Hence, it may be asked whether these industrial developments would have happened had not there been academic researches and publications? Such conjecture is doubtful. Indeed, the journal has served the practicing profession and is expected to continue to do so.

Because the journal has kept pace with industrial and academic progress and led the profession with its construction papers, it has also experienced wide international recognition. More and more international researchers are choosing to make use of its pages, as evidenced by a noticeable increase in the number of international authors submitting papers for possible publication. In 1980 it would have been unusual to have received papers from any international source, but now it is common to receive papers from almost any part of the globe.

In the opinion of your editor, the quality of papers submitted, and consequently the quality of the journal, has increased significantly since 1980. While it may be pleasant for your editor to bask in success, the real growth in quality and prestige lies with the authors for submitting increasingly better manuscripts; manuscripts that are made even better by the excellent reviews given during the reviewing process. The combination of quality writing and quality reviewing is a highly prized attribute for a quality journal, and this editor takes this occasion to extend his appreciation to all the authors and reviewers that have been a part of this 16-year publication history.

Appreciation is also extended to those who have served on the Publications Committee and have supported your editor by giving advice, helping to make decisions, and serving on numerous subcommittees. The Subcommittee on Awards is to be especially recognized for its long, continuous service. Many authors have received ASCE awards due to the activities of this subcommittee.

Another subcommittee to be commended for its excellent work was the New Editor Search Committee. Its efforts resulted in the nomination and appointment of James E. Rowings to lead the journal into the future. The transition of editorship tasks has taken place and the next issue will have Jim's name listed as editor on the masthead. Your present editor is confident that growth of the journal will continue, that the quality will continue to increase, and that the profession of construction engineering and management will be abundantly served by the new publishing team led by James E. Rowings.

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