



Editorial

This is the first issue of the second year of publishing the new series of the International Hydrographic Review. This issue contains articles, notes and book reviews, covering a wide range of subjects that should interest hydrographers and their colleagues. As always, we have included an historic paper, this time on Mathew Flinders, which we hope will be the first of several papers on this hydrographic icon. This is the 200th anniversary of the commencement of his important voyage to Australia. It is as well the 200th anniversary of the French expedition under Baudin that also made major contributions to defining the geography of Australia and we plan to include an article on his work in a later issue. However this issue covers the whole temporal spectrum, with not just history, but papers dealing with the leading edge of hydrographic technology, including satellite navigation and the integration of radar and electronic charts. Other papers cover administrative matters and a possibly contentious paper on a Law of the Sea boundary proposal. Some philosophical writings on future developments, as well as a critical paper on the regulation of ECDIS and a description of new ships, can be found in the Notes. The book reviews should be interesting and hopefully encourage readers to obtain the original publications.

It is planned to produce three issues of the Review in 2001. Two of these will be original contributed papers and the third will include translations of papers that were originally published in French and Japanese hydrographic journals.

Another new initiative is to explore ways to develop a publication that will satisfy the needs of all the hydrographic community for a single scholarly journal. To this end the publishers have been exploring with the Hydrographic Society and the International Hydrographic Organisation how such a publication may be structured. It is planned to produce a trial copy during the year to test reader reaction. While, one must anticipate some opposition by those who prefer what they are used to, there should be considerable benefits in a larger pool from which to obtain material, with a greater subject width. In addition, the economics of a larger circulation could permit more frequent publication.

Internally within GITC, we are striving to clarify the differences between this Review and Hydro International. Clearly, the latter has a much greater commercial thrust and it will be noted that the Review includes very few advertisements. Readers will find that the articles in the Review have a more scholarly nature and are all peer reviewed. Those in Hydro International tend to be shorter and dealing with more direct applications. However, there are clearly some grey areas in between the articles published in the two publications and the editors maintain contact to see that contributions end up in the most suitable publication. Our aim is to provide information to the international hydrographic community in the most interesting, economic and best way possible.

Adam J. Kerr
Editor