



## Editorial

Hopefully the Review is gaining in quality and notoriety. At the recent Shallow Water Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA, all attendees were given a copy of the Review, so our word was well spread in that forum at least. That conference, incidentally, revealed some of the leading edge hydrography and we hope to see some of the participants' work being published in these pages before long.

This issue tends to contain more articles of a philosophical nature than normally but also covers a variety of technical interests from airborne hydrography to law of the sea. Once again, in our historical paper, we continue to follow the adventures of Mathew Flinders, with one more article to complete the series before we move to the history of another country's hydrographic work. The topic of ECDIS is inescapable and in this issue you will find the subject of Colours and Symbols for the display approached from different, if not contentious, points of view. A paper from Singapore outlines modern approaches to providing navigational aids for the heavy maritime traffic in the Singapore and Malacca Straits. This paper raises the subject of AIS and exactly how these identification beacons will present their information to both VTS and to other ships. There is some concern that as a result of the limited number of ECDIS and the ready availability of ECS (the electronic charts that do not meet IMO's Performance Standards for ECDIS), the AIS will be presented on the latter and consequently, by default, encourage the use of non authorised systems.

Work goes on to produce a special issue of translations from French and Japanese sources. Although the translation poses some difficult problems the final result should be of considerable interest to hydrographers by providing an insight into the work in other countries. Looking further ahead, we are still hopeful of producing a publication that will satisfy the interests of both the IHO and the Hydrographic Society. A dummy issue is to be produced to test the interest.

Returning to the daily business of producing the I.H.Review, discussions have been held with academic interests, concerning the acceptability of the publication by academic authorities. It is clearly essential that all articles published in the review must be subjected to a satisfactory peer review, ideally by two knowledgeable reviewers. This, it may be noted, does not include the Notes. Although peer review is already carried out, it is our intention to strengthen this process, although it has to be recognised that the process takes time and the number of people able to carry out these reviews, in our rather small hydrographic community, is small. However, it is our intention to produce the most respectable hydrographic journal possible and such a process is essential.

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Editor