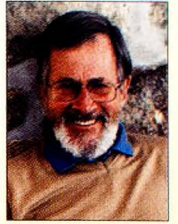


Editorial



There is something for everyone in this issue, except our usual offering of history. This issue includes both original articles and translated articles. The originals of the latter were kindly made available by the German Hydrographic Society and the Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine of France. The subject matter covered is very broad from GPS to sidescan sonar and from data management to tidal measurement. Although we regret the delay in getting some of the translated papers published, the reader will still find them timely and of value to the developments of the moment. The need for accurate tidal heights offshore and the use of GPS in delivering them is just one topic that has an important place in modern hydrography. The need to detect objects reliably is another that has application to both those whose aim it is to provide safe navigation and those with military interests. Although airborne LIDAR is now in general use by some countries, others still question its reliability and value and reports of practical experience, such as that describing the work in Qatar are of considerable importance. The major paper describing the workflow of the US Naval Oceanographic Office which may be criticised as being more descriptive of operations than research, shows the incredible complexity of modern hydrography. Perhaps above all, it shows that hydrography today is a continuous process with no firm demarcation between field surveys and cartographic processes.

So much for the upside of this publication. Today, it is hoped that readers will agree that it contains good papers and is presented in a pleasant and modern style. The downside is that its circulation is not nearly as good as it should be. Hydrography has a relatively small number of practitioners and the majority of these are out in the front line doing surveys or processing data. The number that has time to read the advanced literature is relatively small. However for the professional well being and recognition of hydrography it is important that 'scholarly' publications are available. There is always the difficulty of providing information that appeals to everyone and information that appeals to technical specialists. Through the pages of *Hydro INTERNATIONAL* and through those of this publication GIRC attempts to satisfy all.

We are very pleased that the German Hydrographic Society granted us permission to translate and publish the articles of Beyer, Schöne, Fiedler and Müller. These papers were originally presented at the German Society Conference in Potsdam in 2001.

The article of Debese was originally published in the *Annales Hydrographiques* and we also thank the Service Hydrographique et Oceanographiques (SHOM) for permitting us to translate and publish the paper.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor