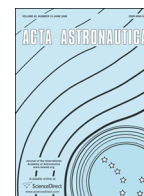


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Acta Astronautica

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/actaastroEntering the 60th year of *Acta Astronautica* [☆]Yi-Wei Chang ^{a,*}, Jeng-Shing Chern ^b, Jean-Pierre Marec ^c^a Department of Tourism and Hospitality, China University of Science and Technology, 200 Chunghua Street, Henshan Village, Hsinchu County 31241, Taiwan^b Department of Aviation Mechanical Engineering, China University of Science and Technology, 200 Chunghua Street, Henshan Village, Hsinchu County 31241, Taiwan^c Honorary Editor-in-Chief, *Acta Astronautica*, International Academy of Astronautics, PO Box 1268-16, 6 rue Galilée, 75766 Paris Cedex 16, France

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ABSTRACT

The *Acta Astronautica Journal* was firstly published in 1955 as the official *Journal* of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) with the title *Astronautica Acta*. It is entering its 60th year in 2014. In 1962, the *Astronautica Acta* became the official *Journal* of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) established in 1960. A total of 18 volumes had been published from 1955 to 1973 under the leadership of three Editor-in-Chiefs: F. Hecht, Theodore von Karman, and Martin Summerfield. In 1974, A.K. Oppenheim became the new Editor-in-Chief and several evolved changes were performed including change of the title to *Acta Astronautica* (for grammatical correctness), cover page change, and format change. From 1974 to 2010, another three Editor-in-Chiefs led the journal with 67 volumes published. They were A.K. Oppenheim, Jean-Pierre Marec, and Rupert Gerzer. The current Editor-in-Chief Jeng-Shing Chern (Rock) took over the job from 2011. Total pages and articles published in 2012 are 3586 and 356, respectively. Currently, the *Acta Astronautica* Editorial Board consists of one Editor-in-Chief, 15 Co-Editors, one Managing Editor and one Honorary Editor-in-Chief (Jean-Pierre Marec). After 59 years, the *Acta Astronautica* has become a well-known journal worldwide. Its current rank and impact factor are 7/63 and 0.701, respectively. This paper presents some of the details as well as new strategies and steps. In particular, supports from the IAA Academicians are mandatory and most welcome.

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1. Introduction

This is the 59th year of the *Acta Astronautica Journal*. Therefore, it is entering its 60th year in 2014. The purpose of this paper is to present the historical evolutions as well as changes of the *Journal* up to now. Firstly published in 1955 with the title *Astronautica Acta*, it was the official journal of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). Then the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) was established in 1960. After two years, the *Astronautica Acta* became the official journal of the IAA. A total of 18 volumes had been published from 1955 to 1973 under the leadership of three Editor-in-Chiefs: F. Hecht, Theodore von Karman, and Martin Summerfield.

In 1974, A.K. Oppenheim became the new Editor-in-Chief and several evolved changes were performed including change of the title to *Acta Astronautica* (for grammatical

Abbreviations: AATC, *Acta Astronautica* Trustees Committee; AE, Associate Editor; CSAA, Chinese Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics; EES, Elsevier Editorial System; IAA, International Academy of Astronautics; IAC, International Astronautical Congress; IAF, International Astronautical Federation; IF, impact factor; IISL, International Institute of Space Law; N/A, not applicable, or, not available; PCC, Publications & Communication Committee (of IAA)

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correctness), cover page change, and format change. From 1974 to 2010, another three Editor-in-Chiefs led the journal with 67 volumes published: 1974–1985 one volume/year, 12 total; 1986–1990 two volumes/year, 10 total; 1991–1995 three volumes/year, 15 total; and 1996–2010 two volumes/year, 30 total. The three Editor-in-Chiefs were A.K. Oppenheim, Jean-Pierre Marec, and Rupert Gerzer. The current Editor-in-Chief Jeng-Shing Chern (Rock) took over the job from 2011. After 59 years, the *Acta Astronautica* has become a well-known journal worldwide. Its rank has been improved from 14/42 in 2009 to 9/43 in 2010 to 8/45 in 2011 and to 7/63 in 2012. Also, its impact factor has been increased from 0.508 in 2009 to 0.609 in 2010 to 0.614 in 2011 and to 0.701 in 2012. Total pages and articles published in 2012 are 3586 and 356, respectively. For many years, IAA authorized the Elsevier Science Ltd. to handle publication affairs.

Currently, the *Acta Astronautica* Editorial Board consists of one Editor-in-Chief (Rock Jeng-Shing Chern), 15 Co-Editors (Nickolay N. Smirnov, Antonio Viviani, Rupert Gerzer, Martina Heer, Maria Antonietta Perino, Christophe Bonnal, Filippo Graziani, Vipparthi Adimurthy, Yu Lu, Arun K. Misra, A. Ingemar Skoog, Anna D. Guerman, Radhika Ramachandran, Jiawen Qiu and Jie Chen), one Managing Editor (Eva Yi-Wei Chang), and one Honorary Editor-in-Chief (Jean-Pierre Marec).

Further change occurred in 2012 with a new volume in every month for possible multiple issues in each individual month. This paper presents some of the details before entering the 60th year of *Acta Astronautica* [1–8]. After this introduction section, the *Astronautica Acta* era is presented in Section 2. Then Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of *Acta Astronautica* era, respectively. Finally, Section 7 gives the conclusions.

2. *Astronautica Acta* era (1955–1973)

When the journal first appeared in 1955 under the title *Astronautica Acta*, it was the official *Journal* of the IAF and the publisher was Springer-Verlag, Vienna. As shown in Table 1, the first Editor-in-Chief was F. Hecht. With a yellow cover (1955–59), the *Journal* was printed in single column and published four issues (1955–58), then six issues (1959–73) per year, with abstracts in English, German, French (and also Russian from 1965–73). Figs. 1 and 2 show the cover page and the page 1 of first paper of Volume 1, respectively. In 1960, Theodore von Karman became Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*, which then donned a blue cover (1960–65).

From 1962 on, *Astronautica Acta* became the *Journal* of the newly founded IAA. Fig. 3 shows the cover page of its

Vol. VIII/FASC. 1 published in 1962 after becoming the official *Journal* of IAA. After the death of von Karman in 1963, the *Journal* continued with the Co-Editors Frank J. Malina, Irene Sanger-Bredt, Leonid I. Sedov and Raymond I. Siestrunk [1–2]. In 1965, Martin Summerfield became the Editor-in-Chief of the large format, white cover, two-column new series with P. Germain and O. Lutz as Co-Editors.

When the contract of Springer-Verlag with the Academy expired in 1966, Pergamon Press in London was approached. New arrangements which included financial support for the IAA were accepted [3]. It was felt that Pergamon Press would promote *Astronautica Acta* more aggressively, hopefully increasing urgently needed circulation [4]. *Astronautica Acta* thus continued with Pergamon Press from 1967 onwards till the end of its era in 1973.

3. *Acta Astronautica* era

3.1. Part 1: 1974–October 1978

Table 2 shows the Editor-in-Chiefs in the *Acta Astronautica* era from 1974 to the present time. A.K. Oppenheim was the 4th Editor-in-Chief from January 1974 to October 1978. After him there was a transition for 1 year 3 months. Then came the J.-P. Marec era from 1980 to 2008. Actually, J.-P. Marec already took the editorship position during the transition period. Therefore, his era lasted almost 30 years. Currently, he is the Honorary Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*. Then it was Rupert Gerzer who took-over the job in 2008, and then Rock Jeng-Shing Chern in 2011. It is seen from Table 2 there are overlaps between two successive Editor-in-Chiefs. This is a necessary mechanism to ensure smooth transfer of editorial work as well as high quality of *Acta Astronautica* publications.

When A.K. Oppenheim took the Editor-in-Chief position of the new era, he introduced a number of changes [5], e.g.:

- (i) modified the title to *Acta Astronautica* for the sake of proper grammar [4],
- (ii) changed to blue cover and new format,
- (iii) went back to one-column text,
- (iv) published monthly issues (in fact, one yearly volume of six double issues),
- (v) published special issues on dedicated topics,
- (vi) added new sections “Communications” and “Comments” for which prompt publication was required,
- (vii) abandoned French and Russian versions of abstracts, and
- (viii) added French and Russian versions of the list of contents.

In particular, Communications were short articles presented in the manner of the “Comptes Rendus de l’Académie des Sciences” or “Doklady Akademii Nauk” by the members of IAA, but not necessarily authored by them. However, these contributions were subjected to a review procedure [5]. To complete his Editorial team, A.K. Oppenheim was looking for

Table 1
Editor-in-Chiefs in *Astronautica Acta* era.

Years	Name	Remark
1955–1959	F. Hecht	1st
1960–May 1963	Theodore von Karman	2nd
May 1963–1964	Editorial Board of 4 members	Transition
1965–1973	Martin Summerfield	3rd

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