

HISTORY OF CANADIAN ACOUSTICS

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Canadian Acoustics developed from a news letter called "Acoustics and Noise Control in Canada" (ANCC). ANCC was started in 1973 with Tony Embleton as the first Editor. This was a simple production with photocopied pages hand stapled together, but it did include technical papers as well as news material. Tony Embleton was replaced by Gary Faulkner in 1975 and by Daryl May in 1977. During the years up to 1982, ANCC developed as a useful way for Canadian acousticians to communicate and keep in touch with acoustical activities in Canada.

In 1981 Dee Benwell took over as Editor with plans for ANCC to become a real printed journal that was renamed Canadian Acoustics in 1982. Technical papers were encouraged and reviewed for acceptance for publication in Canadian Acoustics and the current schedule of 4 issues per year was set. Dee Benwell also initiated the format of the front page of Canadian Acoustics with the unique cover art by Simon Tuckett below the table of contents.

After 3 years of being editor she was followed by John Bradley for another 3 years (Jan 1984 to Jan 1987). He built on Dee Benwell's pioneering efforts and encouraged refereed technical publications, book reviews and news

about international acoustical events. Being employed at NRC he was able to 'encourage' colleagues to contribute papers to Canadian Acoustics. He also carried out a survey of Canadian acoustical consultants and their areas of expertise which was published in the July 1986 issue. He was followed by Raymond Héту who did much to continue efforts to strengthen the French content in Canadian Acoustics. He also introduced (1988) the blue title on white paper as the cover format that was used for many years.

In 1990, Héту was followed by Murray Hodgson, the second longest serving editor. He served for 9 years giving Canadian Acoustics a period of stable growth. He was followed by Ramani Ramakrishnan who has served as Editor for 15 years. During his long reign as editor, Canadian Acoustics has flourished, with improved printing quality, glossy covers, and coloured pictures. There have been special issues of conference papers, invited papers and many other new ventures.

Canadian acoustics is now in its 40th year and can look forward to continuing growth in its quality and the material that it publishes.

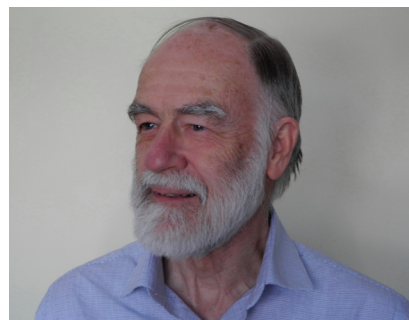
REMINISCENCES OF EDITORS



Dr. Tony Embleton, Editor-in-Chief - 1972-1975

The Canadian Committee on Acoustics (later changed to Canadian Acoustical Association in about 1975) started in 1962. It was literally a committee of about 20 members, almost everyone who was interested in acoustics in Canada at that time. We met once a year, Tom Northwood was chairman and Tony Embleton was the secretary, each for the first three years. The only records were the minutes of the committee. After ten years it was decided that more suitable records should be kept. I became the founding editor of "Acoustics and Noise Control in Canada" as it was first known, and served from 1972 to 1975. I tried to obtain some formal publishing support from the National Research Council, but

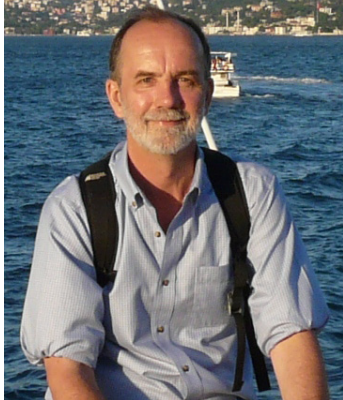
was turned down on the grounds that the publication was too small (hence likely to fail within two years). So in those early years I typed up somewhere between four and eight pages every three months, photocopied 20 to 40 copies, put a nice coloured cover on them and mailed them out myself. Each issue highlighted one of the acoustics labs in Canada, giving a description of current activities, personnel and list of publications. Usually there were one or two news items of general interest, new ASA Standards, reports of ICA meetings, etc. as well.



Dr. John Bradley, Editor-in-Chief - 1984-1987

My memories of being Editor of Canadian Acoustics (CA) are beginning to fade. I took over from Dee Benwell who

had given CA its new name and a serious journal look. I felt a lot of pressure to keep the results of her efforts moving forward. This was not always easy and there were times when colleagues' arms were twisted to contribute papers at the last minute. This was long before convenient desk top publishing and the original was literally cut and pasted together - often into the night of the eve of the monthly trip to the printer. However, the momentum was maintained and CA continued to grow with the efforts of many subsequent contributors to its current impressive status.



Prof. Murray Hodgson, Editor-in-Chief - 1990-1998

My most vivid recollection of my time as Editor-in-Chief relates to the publication of the article, "The Hearing Conservation Paradigm and the Experienced Effects of Occupational Noise Exposure" by Raymond Héту [Canadian Acoustics/Acoustique Canadienne 22(1) 3-19 (1994)]. On a number of occasions, he and I had discussed this important but controversial work and how to publish it, which I very much wanted to do in Canadian Acoustics. The paper, presenting Raymond's professional analysis of how the world of 'hearing conservation' (HC) deals (or doesn't deal) with the problem, was written as a philosophical treatise as it contained no scientific data. Raymond eventually submitted the paper and I had to have it reviewed...ideally by prominent figures in the field of North American HC. I asked Edgar Shaw at the NRC; he declined, considering that the paper presented an opinion, not scientific facts. I asked Larry and Julia Royster, prominent in American HC, who also declined (and probably later regretted it). I finally got one fairly innocuous but positive review from Margaret Roberts of the Workers' Compensation Board of BC. I published the paper and then did all I could to encourage discussion of it. I sent it to key Americans, including the Roysters; within days they were on the phone threatening to send lawyers after me! In the end I was able to publish a very interesting series of responses to the paper, replies to the responses and replies to the replies, which I now consider essential reading for anyone interested in occupational noise. The paper might have led to a paradigm shift in how we think about preventing occupational hearing loss, had it not been for Raymond's subsequent untimely death.



Prof. Ramani Ramakrishnan, Editor-in-Chief - 1998-2012

My main recollections, during my tenure, are the special issues on underwater acoustics, music acoustics and the vexing issues connected with wind turbine noise. The special issues provided an avenue for the expansion of journal and receive well deserved attention on the international stage. I was also very happy to follow up on Raymond Héту's efforts to bring more French articles and we were able to establish a dedicated issue focussing on articles from Francophones. With the assistance of Prof. Chantal Laroche, journal's Associate Editor, the June issue of the journal became the French issue.



Prof. Frank Russo, Current Editor-in-Chief

Only two issues into my tenure, reminiscence is not something that comes to mind when I think about the journal. There is lots of work to do to keep us moving forward in the current world of journal publishing! Nonetheless, I am humbled and inspired by the Herculean efforts of our past Editors. To help navigate new directions for the journal, I have established an advisory board consisting of Jérémie Voix (École de technologie supérieure), Bryan Gick (UBC), and Ramani Ramakrishnan (Ryerson). The advisory board is currently working on a number of exciting initiatives including the move to an electronic submission/review system and related efforts to increase journal exposure and impact. Jérémie Voix has been instrumental in the implementation of the online initiatives; he will also be serving as our next Editor, effective 2014.