

The *Nautical Research Journal* continues to evolve

This issue marks the end of the first year of this Journal's venture into less certain waters. You will recall that in order to emphasize the connectivity between the Nautical Research Guild's traditional presence with *Nautical Research Journal* and its online presence in the form of Model Ship World, a new cover design was introduced. Simultaneously, the acquisition of the intellectual assets of *Ships in Scale* encouraged us to enlarge the Journal by twenty percent, from eighty to ninety-six pages per issue, and double the amount of color content. We also set up a membership option to receive the Journal electronically instead of in print form, though you should note that members may also opt to receive both if they wish.

These decisions have borne fruit. Membership in the Guild has increased appreciably and the updated Journal seems to have succeeded in attracting both experienced ship modelers and those seeking to enhance their skills. Through publishing articles on a wider range of topics, made possible by the Journal's enlargement, and inclusion of information about useful techniques both inside these pieces and through our existing Shop Notes feature, we have endeavored to respond to as many as possible of the requests received during the past twelve months.

If we are to maintain this positive momentum, it is obvious that we cannot rest on our laurels. We are making still further changes to the Journal's format, all in response to input from our membership. The first is an increase in the amount of color content in the printed Journal. Starting with this issue, we have

added twenty percent more pages in color, going from thirty-two pages to forty. Ultimately, we would like to publish the Journal in full color, but we need to make sure that this is financially viable before taking that step. It is worth noting that members who receive the electronic Journal already have access to it in full color, so, if that is important to you, you might want to consider taking up this option.

The second change is part of our efforts to address the needs of members with less seniority who want information on relatively basic techniques and practices that it is all too easy for more experienced modelers to assume everyone already knows. Starting with this issue of the Journal, we have introduced a new column entitled Tips & Techniques to accommodate this need. The column will feature short, very specific articles that introduce useful practices or techniques, often in response to members' requests for information. This column will not displace the long-standing Shop Notes feature, which will continue to present our members with new ideas and methods for building well-researched and accurate ship models.

As always, I encourage members to both request information and contribute their ideas for the benefit of all of us.

Editor—Paul E. Fontenoy