



NEWS

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

CNTHA News

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www.cntha.ca

Preserving our Naval Technical Record

The CNTHA is very pleased to have had a close association with the *Maritime Engineering Journal* for the past 14 years. The *Journal* records today's naval technical accomplishments, along with the issues and problems of the day and how they were solved. To help preserve this historical record, the CNTHA is completing a scanning project (see below) so that the entire 30-year *Journal* collection can be accessed through our website www.cntha.ca.

Today's technical issues quickly become yesterday's news and tomorrow's historical events. Recording these events, and remaining cognizant of why they occurred and the lessons they offer, is an important aspect of avoiding similar challenges as we move our technology forward.

Canada has a rich history of innovative naval R&D. As early as 1948, the Royal Canadian Navy's electrical laboratories had originated the idea of DATAR, a digital system for acquiring, processing, transmitting and displaying naval battle space information. Later advancements included variable depth sonar, the RAST (Recovery Assist, Secure and Traverse) system to support shipborne helicopter operations, and a triad of shipboard integrated systems for processing and display, machinery control, and interior communications. Navies around the world continue to rely on some of these technologies to this day.

The CNTHA believes it is important that the naval technical support community, both serving and retired, safeguard and learn from this rich naval technical heritage. We sincerely hope that the close relationship between the *Maritime Engineering Journal* and the CNTHA will continue for many years to come.

– **Tony Thatcher, CNTHA Executive Director**



Photo by Brian McCullough

CNTHA webmaster Don Wilson has been scanning back issues to complete an online PDF archive of the *Maritime Engineering Journal's* full 30-year catalogue.

Journal Scanning Project

Since 1998, the *Maritime Engineering Journal* has been delivered in electronic PDF format from **d2k Marketing Communications**, the magazine's production services provider. Previous electronic files are unavailable, so in July the CNTHA's webmaster undertook the task of creating a PDF archive of all editions of the *Journal* going right back to issue no. 1 in 1982.

In a delightfully surprising twist we discovered that, due to an indexing error made many years ago, what had been identified as issue No. 3/1983 just did not exist. Rather than upset the now-established numbering sequence, we simply identify the phantom issue in the archive as 'not published.'

The scanning project should be complete by December. With a full online archive of the *Maritime Engineering Journal* now available via the Internet, the lessons of our navy's technical past can continue to serve interested researchers everywhere. We are pleased to have helped make this happen.

– **Don Wilson, CNTHA Webmaster**