

Editor's Farewell

J. Rose

It is with much regret that I've to resign from the editorship of *Robotica* after 23 years of service because of ill-health and advanced age. I hope the new editor Greg Chirikjian will make further progress in expanding the scope of the journal and responding to the challenges of our times.

My motives for founding the journal, then a quarterly and now a bimonthly, were my interests in cybernetics and systems extending over a period of five decades, my academic and industrial background and a belief that robotics and automation could be most influential in changing the nature of our society, as emphasized by the then Sir Henry (now Lord) Chilver, F.R.S., Vice-Chancellor of the Cranfield Institute of Technology (now Cranfield University) in his editorial in the first issue of the Journal.

Over the last 23 years of its existence *Robotica* has played host to many researchers from over 20 countries of the five continents. Over a thousand research papers, dealing with a vast array of topics, ranging from automation and artificial intelligence to robotic vision and telerobotics, have appeared in the journal, while economic and social aspects have also received some attention. Apart from that, the Reports

and Surveys section, edited by the Deputy-Editor Professor B.H. Rudall, has proved to be a mine of information about progress in robotics worldwide and allied topics. Conference Reports, Book Reviews and Announcements of forthcoming conferences, have also been of interest to our readers. Moreover, the special issues on various topics, prepared by guest editors of distinction have been of considerable interest in presenting up-to-date information.

Before concluding my address I'd like to express my thanks to the Publishers of the journal, Cambridge University Press who had accepted my initial proposal to publish *Robotica*, as well as to the C.U.P. staff, particularly the Production Department and Production Editor Phil Jones, and the Director of Journals, Dr. C. Guettler, for their goodwill and fruitful co-operation. Thanks are also due to the Deputy-Editors, members of the Editorial Board, past and present, and various referees of papers, whose dedication has made progress possible. It has been a great pleasure to edit the journal and I hope my successor will advance the cause of this international and multidisciplinary journal.