

P R E F A C E

THE Symposium on Applied Glaciology was organized by the International Glaciological Society and held in Cambridge, England, from 13 to 17 September 1976. This was the fourth symposium organized by the Society, following the Symposium on Remote Sensing in Glaciology that was published in Vol. 15 of the *Journal of Glaciology*.

The present symposium was organized through two committees. The Local Organizing Committee consisted of M. de Quervain (President of the International Glaciological Society), J. A. Heap, C. W. M. Swithinbank, H. Richardson (Secretary of the International Glaciological Society). This Committee planned the detailed running of the Symposium. The scientific content was the responsibility of the Papers Committee, consisting of M. de Quervain (President), J. W. Glen (representing the Editors of the *Journal of Glaciology*), L. W. Gold, W. Good, A. C. Palmer, W. F. Weeks, H. Richardson (Secretary). Papers were in three categories: invited papers, contributed papers, and recent work papers. Invited papers were requested by the Papers Committee and were chosen to provide a review of the present state of the art in various branches of applied glaciology. Contributed papers were selected by the Papers Committee from among those for which extended abstracts had been submitted by a deadline date in Spring 1976. Recent work papers were selected from among those submitted up to the date of the Symposium itself in order to allow very recent and topical work to be reported. The second circular of the Symposium giving full details of the arrangements was published in the Society's news bulletin, *Ice*, No. 48, 1975.

Papers in all three categories which were presented at the Symposium were considered for publication in the proceedings provided the full manuscript was received in time. The refereeing procedure was the same as for papers submitted in the usual way to the *Journal of Glaciology*, and this issue of the *Journal* contains these papers together with abstracts of the papers presented at the Symposium but not published (for whatever reason). For some recent work papers the editors have not received abstracts; in these cases there is no further record of the paper other than its title in the programme of meetings. Abstracts are also included for those contributed papers accepted for the meeting which, because of the absence of their authors, were not presented or discussed.

An edited version of the discussions which took place is also included. These discussions have been prepared by the Rapporteurs, whose names can be found in the programme of meetings. For Sessions A–K, these are based on written contributions to the discussion handed in by participants in the discussion at the end of the session. The final general discussion has been edited from a tape-recording of the proceedings. All participants have been sent the draft edited version and given an opportunity to correct or up-date it.

The papers were presented at the Symposium in Sessions each of which was devoted to a main topic, however the topics with many papers were not treated in adjacent sessions, thus snow engineering was the subject of Sessions A and F, ice engineering Sessions B and E, avalanches Sessions C and H. In this issue all the papers on a main topic are printed together, but otherwise the order is approximately that in which they were presented unless papers, particularly on recent work, were in a session to which they were not strictly appropriate. The invited papers have thus been dispersed through the volume and normally precede other papers on a similar subject. It is hoped that in this way they will provide background material which will enable the reader to be introduced to the various branches of applied glaciology, and therefore will enable him better to appreciate the papers on current work.