

PREFACE

This volume has been prepared as a tribute to George Batchelor, Founder-Editor of the *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, who – much to the surprise of those familiar with his youthful step and spirit – celebrates his 70th birthday on Thursday 8 March, 1990. The Associate Editors of the *Journal* agreed unanimously and enthusiastically that volume 212 should be identified as the *GKB Festschrift* and devoted to papers by people who have been closely associated with George either directly through research in fluid mechanics, or through his wider involvement over more than four decades in the development of Fluid Mechanics as a distinctive and vital branch of the Physical Sciences. Needless to say, the editing of this volume has been taken entirely out of George's hands, making it unique in at least one way.

George Batchelor's great influence in establishing exceptionally high standards in the subject will be recognized by all readers of this *Journal*, and not least by authors who have had personal experience of the extraordinary qualities of painstaking and perceptive attention to detail, coupled with the most helpful advice and encouragement, that have always characterized his Editorship. The *Journal* and its contributors owe him a great debt of gratitude; his 70th birthday gives us the opportunity to say this, and to thank George openly for his selfless service to the *Journal* since its foundation 34 years ago.

The range of papers in this volume, many by George's former research students and their associates and containing both new results and survey material, provides an indication of the great breadth of George's own interests, and of the many branches of the subject on which he has left his mark: low Reynolds number flow, flow in thin films and layers, waves and instabilities, suspension mechanics and sedimentation, and many aspects of turbulent flow. The volume also contains papers on biofluidmechanics and geophysical fluid dynamics, fields that George has actively promoted and encouraged during their emerging years.

Also included are two informal papers, one by Alan Townsend about what it was really like to be at the heart of turbulence research in the Cambridge of G. I. Taylor in the decade 1945–1955; and one by David Crighton who describes GKB's outstanding role as founding Chairman of Euromech during the years 1964–1987.

We feel confident that fluid dynamicists around the world will want to join us in wishing George and Wilma and their family every happiness in the future, and in wishing George many further years of productive involvement in the subject that he has done so much to nurture.

October 1989

H. K. MOFFATT
Guest Editor for Vol. 212