

**INTRODUCTION OF FREEMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE**

*By the John R. Freeman Fund Committee of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section of ASCE'*

This Eleventh Freeman Memorial Lecture is of special note because the lecturer, Gerhard Jirka, was awarded the Freeman Hydraulics Prize for the paper he is delivering. Professor Jirka is the second recipient of that prize, which was inaugurated when Hunter Rouse received it in 1975, for his book Hydraulics in the United States, 1776 - 1976.<sup>2/</sup>

Both the Memorial Lectures and the Hydraulics Prizes are spiritual and material offshoots of the Freeman legacy. During his exemplary career - documented in Rouse's book, cited above and elsewhere - John Ripley Freeman endowed traveling scholarships with ASCE, BSCE and ASME. The firm foundation which supports hydraulic engineering in the United States today is attributable, in large part, to the work of men who benefited from these scholarships. And it is the income from Freeman's gift to BSCE which supports these lectures and awards. The introduction of the Tenth Memorial Lecture, which was published in 1979 in both the BSCES Journal and the Proceedings of ASCE, makes reference to previous Memorial Lectures and Freeman's unique career.

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<sup>1/</sup> Lee Marc G. Wolman, F. ASCE, David R. Campbell, Harry L. Kinsel, F. ASCE, Lawrence C. Neale, F. ASCE, and Donald R. F. Harleman, M. ASCE.

<sup>2/</sup> Institute of Hydraulic Research, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, 1976; Journal of the BSCE Section ASCE, Vol. 63, 1976.

Gerhard H. Jirka, the Eleventh Freeman Memorial Lecturer, is an Associate Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. He has been at Cornell since 1977, following eight years at M.I.T., where he earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees and served on the research staff of the Ralph M. Parsons Laboratory of the Civil Engineering Department. A native of Austria, he received the Dipl. Ing. (with honors) from the Hochschule für Bodenkultur in Vienna in May 1969. His Fulbright Grant is a strong reminder of the Freeman Grants, whose recipients worked and learned in the pioneering model laboratories in Germany and later became major contributors to the development of hydraulic engineering in the United States.

Jirka's major professional interests today are in the fields of fluid mechanics and energy. In the former, he is pursuing investigations in stratified flow, turbulence, experimental techniques and transport phenomena in water quality; and in the latter, he is working on the fluid mechanical aspects of alternative energy systems, ocean thermal energy conversion, the environmental effects of energy facilities, and heat disposal - the subject of his Freeman Lecture.

He has been a major and prolific contributor to the technical literature in his fields. His Papers, mostly co-authored, cover both theoretical and physical model studies. He has authored or co-authored ten papers and four discussions in ASCE Journals and presently serves on four committees of the Society's Hydraulics Division.