JOURNAL OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS SECTION

Professional Papers

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

BACKGROUND OF THE FREEMAN MEMORIAL LECTURES

By Lee Marc G. Wolman

These lectures commemorating John R. Freeman were begun in 1966. They are one of the many activities of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section, ASCE and were stimulated by the inspiration and generosity of Freeman, who was president of both the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Freeman's 1925 bequest to BSCE is administered by the John R. Freeman Fund Committee of the BSCE Section, ASCE. (The members of the committee are Lee Marc G. Wolman, David R. Campbell, Harry L. Kinsel, Lawrence C. Neale and Donald R.F. Harleman.) As sponsor of the lectures, the committee invites authorities in hydraulic engineering to give public lectures on subjects in their special fields.

The first eight lectures were published in the *Journal of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers*, while the ninth — "Heat Disposal in Water Environment" by Donald R.F. Harleman — was published both in the *Journal of the BSCE Section, ASCE*, and in the *Proceedings of ASCE*: Proc. Paper 11585, September, 1975, pp. 1117-1138; and in the *Journal of the Hydraulics Division, ASCE*, Vol. 101, No. HY 9. The introduction to Harleman's lecture documents the earlier lectures and gives hightlights of Freeman's unique professional career. The most comprehensive single record of Freeman's career and influence appears in Hunter Rouse's *Hydraulics in the United States, 1776-1976* (jointly published by the Institute of Hydraulic Research, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, 1976 and the *Journal* of the BSCE Section, ASCE, Vol. 63, 1976). This book earned Rouse the first Freeman Hydraulics Prize awarded by BSCE's John R. Freeman Fund Committee.

Peter S. Eagleson, The Tenth Freeman Memorial Lecturer, is professor of civil engineering at MIT. He has been associated with MIT since 1952. He received the Sc. D. in 1956 and was head of the civil engineering department from 1970 into 1975. His earlier education was at Lehigh University.

Eagleson has pursued a joint career in hydraulics and hydrology. His published work embraces coastal processes and flow induced vibrations, in addition to rainfall and runoff as epitomized in this Freeman Lecture. He performed much of the work covered in the lecture while he was a visiting associate in the Environmental Quality Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, while on sabbatical leave from MIT.

He has received the Desmond Fitzgerald Medal of BSCE (1959), the Research Prize of ASCE (1963) and the Clemens Herschel Prize of BSCE (1965).

Eagleson is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and an active participant in the formulation and evaluation of both national and global hydrological and meteorological sensing and measuring programs.