Message from the Editor

The American Institute of Steel Construction was based in New York City in 1963. AISC’s chief engineer at the time was Robert O. Disque, a graduate of Northwestern University and Drexel University who had joined AISC in 1959.

Now, you may not know Bob—as he is known to his friends—but you are probably familiar with his work: he supervised the production of the 9th (green) edition ASD Manual and the 1st (blue) and 2nd (silver) editions of the LRFD Manual. Bob is a member of the Research Council on Structural Connections and was instrumental in the introduction of the “snug-tight” bolt concept. You may also have run across him via one of his textbooks or papers, by taking one of his classes at the University of Maine in the 1980s, or through his consulting at GNCE Engineers in Connecticut. Bob retired from AISC in 1991 and in 2000 received AISC’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding service to AISC and the structural steel design, construction and education community.

One little known fact is that it was Bob and his colleagues who developed the idea for Engineering Journal. He was kind enough to share the memory, below. Many thanks, Bob!

Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.
Editor

In 1963 the only periodical AISC published was “Steel Construction Digest,” a thin quarterly magazine consisting mainly of articles reproduced—with permission—from other periodicals, such as Engineering News Record.

There were several of us on the AISC headquarters staff who thought we needed something additional—and more technical. There was a lot of discussion among us and with interested engineers from member companies. Finally, it was agreed that there should be a quarterly publication. Interestingly, there was quite a debate on what it should be named.

Most of the staff thought the title should contain the word “steel.” However, I differed and modestly offered the title “Engineering Journal,” which prevailed. We started publication in 1964.

At first, most of the papers were written by staff or solicited from the steel community. There were no reviewers and only the staff decided what would be printed. We did a lot of editing and rewriting. After several years, and not without some internal controversy, we decided to use outside reviewers. Engineering Journal continued to grow to become the great publication that it is today.

Robert O. Disque