

From the Editor

Arthur N. Popper



Acoustics Today Collections

I am pleased to announce a new web-based initiative that provides access to past articles from *Acoustics Today* (AT) on specific topics. This initiative, “AT Collections” (available at bit.ly/AT-Collections), is for anyone who wants to learn about various topics in acoustics.

Although we envision “AT Collections” as particularly useful for supplemental reading for classes in college or graduate school, we anticipate that “AT Collections” will also be invaluable for anyone else wanting to learn about a particular topic. Indeed, for those of my generation, the “model” we have in mind are the course packets of offprints from articles in *Scientific American* that we used in various college and graduate school classes.

The inception for “AT Collections” was the realization that the magazine has almost 300 scholarly articles (plus numerous essays) covering a wide range of topics. However, if someone wants to find all the articles and/or essays on a particular topic, they have to go through 17 years of back issues. A formidable task! (Though browsing back issues is fun since you may find something interesting to read that you never saw before.)

So, to help potential users of back articles in AT find all the material on a particular topic, we have set up “AT Collections” pages so that they have links to all the past articles on a specific topic. Thus, as I write this, collections include musical instruments, animal hearing, and concert hall design. By the time you read this, we hope to have additional pages. Moreover, we are asking your help to add many additional pages on topics that members may find useful for their teaching or work.

In addition, we are using “AT Collections” to bring together information about the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) such as pages featuring all past essays about Technical Committees, ASA Administrative Committees, and Standards.

Suggest Topics for “AT Collections”

In order to add pages to “AT Collections,” we ask readers to suggest new ideas for pages, perhaps based on the kind of material that would serve a particular course you have taken or are teaching or a work-related issue (e.g., anthropogenic sound and marine animals for regulators). Send your suggestions and a rough idea of the topic you would like to cover to me at apopper@umd.edu. If we decide to use the suggested page, we will ask you to put together a full list of articles and, if you like, to write a short paragraph about the topic that will be featured (over your name!) describing the page.

Finally, we do not limit the number of articles in a collection but suggest no more than 10-15. But the topic should be relatively specific.

Now for the Fall Issue

The first article in this issue is by Andrea Alù, Chiara Daraio, Pierre A. Deymier, and Massimo Ruzzene on topological acoustics. The authors discuss a new field of research that manipulates sound using topological concepts.

This is followed by an article by Steven L. Garrett who shares the history of textbooks on acoustics. I think that every reader, no matter their discipline, will find the story of the evolution of acoustics texts from the first by Lord Rayleigh to the new open-source text by Steven (an ASA Press book) quite interesting.

AT has had a number of articles on the acoustics of built spaces, but this has never included a discussion of the unique acoustics of worship spaces. So, in his article, David W. Kahn shares insights into the very fascinating differences in the acoustics design of a concert hall to that of churches and synagogues. I don’t think I’ll ever walk into a worship space again without renewed interest in its acoustics, and I suspect that other readers will find they come away from this article feeling the same way.

In the fourth article, Robert (Bob) Ruben writes about the origin and history of ways to determine hearing loss. Bob not only talks about the design of instruments to

measure hearing loss but also considers broader issues of hearing loss over centuries. The origin of this article is that Bob has been a practicing otolaryngologist (and active hearing researcher) for many years and also has a long-held passion for the history of hearing studies. Talking with Bob as this article evolved was immense fun and allowed me to renew a friendship of many years.

The fifth article is about former ASA president and Gold Medal recipient David M. (Dave) Green. Dave's former colleagues William A. (Bill) Yost, Roy D. Patterson, and Lawrence L. (Larry) Feth share Dave's history as a pioneer in the study of psychoacoustics and signal detection theory. They also give insights into some of Dave's most critical contributions to our understanding of hearing.

The last article by Zhaoyan Zhang is on vocal health. Zhaoyan gives great insight into the mechanisms by which humans make sounds. Although I was familiar with some of the mechanics, what I find particularly fascinating are the insights into the health of the human vocal system and some of the clinical mechanisms used to maintain health.

This issue of *AT* also includes, as we do in every Spring and Fall issue, a list of recent ASA award winners and new Fellows. I congratulate these colleagues on their achievements.

As usual, our first "Sound Perspectives" essay is "Ask an Acoustician" as coauthored by *AT* Associate Editor Micheal Dent. This essay is about Kathleen J. (Kathy) Vigness-Raposa. Kathy's work focuses on underwater acoustics, with a particular interest in anthropogenic sound. In addition, Kathy is one of the leads on the "Discovery of Sound in the Sea" web page (see www.dosits.org) and, through that, makes major contributions to the understanding of acoustics by millions of people around the world each year.

Each year, the ASA participates in the International Science and Engineering Fair that encourages the interest of precollege students from around the world in science and engineering. The ASA presents a number of awards in the area of acoustics. These are shared in a "Sound Perspectives" essay by ASA Committee Chair Laurie Heller.

The next "Sound Perspectives" essay is by two neuroscience graduate students, Ira Kraemer and Elizabeth Kolberg. Ira and Elizabeth write about supporting people

with disabilities in academia and other professions. I decided to invite this article after I read a piece about the disability issues by one of the authors, and it struck me that the ASA interest in diversity extends to people who have various disabilities. Although Ira and Elizabeth focus on academia, many of the basic issues they raise, and even some of the solutions, apply in most work environments.

The next essay, by Brenda L. Lonsbury-Martin, is about the ASA Medals and Awards Committee. It is part of the series of essays in *AT* about various ASA committees (all listed on our "AT Collections" page). In the essay, Brenda talks about how to apply or nominate someone for various ASA awards.

This is followed by another administrative essay by James H. Miller. In his essay, Jim provides his annual update on the status of the ASA Foundation Fund, the very important group that provides critical funding for so many ASA members and activities.

The last essay is by Neil A. Shaw. Readers may remember that we held a mini contest in the Spring 2021 issue of *AT* to translate an advertisement that Neil placed. He wanted to give away his very extensive library of books on acoustics. Neil tells me that the library has found a home. But I got so curious about the library that I asked Neil to write an essay to give a taste of what he amassed over the years. If you read this essay and the article by Steve Garrett, you will find names of people and books in common.

I have to mention the cover of this issue, of Lord Rayleigh. The picture was inspired by Rayleigh being discussed in both an article and an essay in this issue of *AT*. Although Lord Rayleigh's work was not all in acoustics, he certainly had an immense influence on our field (as you will read). The cover is by my friend Mark Weinberg, the artist who has done several other covers for *AT*. You can view all of Mark's work, including his paintings of other famous historical figures, at edgieart.squarespace.com.

I will end by again inviting members to suggest topics for "AT Collections." It is easy to look back at past issues of *AT* because they all are online on our web page. We particularly look forward to suggestions from students about collections that might have served them or will serve them in their education.