

INTRODUCTION

Started in 1961, and jointly edited by I.B.B.C. (Institute T.N.O. for Building Materials and Building Structures) and Stevin-Laboratory (Department of Civil Engineering of the Technological University Delft), HERON is aimed at the publication of articles reflecting the scientific research in the domain of structural engineering being carried out in both institutes.

It was considered useful to make available, beside this Netherlands periodical, an English edition of the same kind, containing contributions selected from those having been published in Dutch, as a means to make more generally known the activities carried on by those Netherlands institutes, and so to contribute to the international exchange of technical knowledge.

HERON of Alexandria, after whom this publication is named, was a Greek technician, physicist and geometer who lived in the first century A.D. His many-sided knowledge has come to us by a number of his writings dealing with mechanics, ordnance, presses, and mechanical transmissions. Besides, HERON was a past master of constructing intriguing automatons, in which he ingeniously made use of the physical laws governing the flow of fluids and gases.

The kind of combination of knowledge and practical ingenuity, which this ancient "engineer" proved to have at his command, is still an essential condition for performing present-day research.

THE EDITOR