

Editor's Page

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Volume 4, Number 2, August 1968

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/ageo04_2ed01

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Publisher(s)

Maritime Sediments Editorial Board

ISSN

0843-5561 (print)

1718-7885 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Pelletier, B. R. (1968). Editor's Page. *Atlantic Geology*, 4(2), iii-iii.

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Current research and information is the theme of MARITIME SEDIMENTS and in this issue we received two remarkably thorough documents, each from a different university, that appear in the report section. These reports indicate the depth to which a given program from a single organization can reach, and show, as well, the interesting diversity of the subject matter. In some cases the spectrum of studies are like the chapters in a textbook and as such they are invaluable to the student, but more important a cohesive program is demonstrated. The Minas Basin advanced science seminar on intertidal zone sedimentation was an exciting idea and some of us who visited the session felt the enthusiasm of its participants. We thought George de Vries Klein did a fine organizing job for the overall project which he directed.

The Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratory of the Bedford Institute, Dartmouth, N.S. has been carrying out a long term foraminiferal ecological study of the North Atlantic including the Canadian Arctic and the major embayments on the eastern seaboard of Canada and the United States. A part of this series of projects is the St. Lucia study reported in this issue by Charles Schafer and Barun Sen Gupta. In previous issues we have covered some of the inshore areas of the Atlantic Provinces and the Arctic and we intend to continue informing our readership of this interesting program. It is through such studies that a proper understanding of the environmental significance of the Foraminifera will be obtained, and consequently a proper interpretation of the sedimentary record containing these organisms can be made. Therefore, all environments are being investigated from the Arctic to the tropics, from shallow water to deep water, from near-shore to offshore and through a wide variety of watermasses with their various characteristics of physical, chemical, and organic factors.

Research and development on underwater exploration and research equipment continues to expand. The deep diving submersible is in this category and we expect to see a cadre of operators emerge in this field who will undertake a variety of tasks on a routine chartered basis. This includes the application of underwater sensors, probes and recorders, as well as a variety of conventional mechanical tasks such as drilling, surveying, sample collecting and visual monitoring of test or working equipment. Remotely controlled underwater drilling by means of submersible drills is feasible as shown in the submission by Charles Godden and Bernard Pelletier in the current research section. Such equipment will be developed further until portable drilling of any part of the continental shelf to subbottom depths of 150 feet is accomplished. The implication of this program carried out together with a continuous seismic reflection program is challenging, particularly in view of the limited bedrock information to date on the continental shelf. Meanwhile continued progress in unravelling geological history on land will contribute mightily to the solving of geological problems in the adjacent areas beneath the sea. The two programs should develop together but at present underwater exploration is still too young an art to carry out competitively with its land counterpart.

In previous issues of MARITIME SEDIMENTS we have introduced and discussed the growing partnership of industry, university and government. Such a program must be carried out at all levels of organization and though we have reported on the participation of the federal government a more fundamental liaison may be reached at the provincial or municipal level as this is the level of the community. In many areas the community relationship is that of neighbours, colleagues, and personal friends. A good example of such a co-operative program is shown in the report by John Jones on the Nova Scotia governments hydrogeology program. Local industries are in constant touch with this agency, as are the scientists in university and the federal government.

Again at the federal level we have various scientific agencies hosting workshops, symposia and conventions. The Bedford Institute recently received delegates of the Canadian Subcommittee on Exploration Geophysicists and plans to hold a special offshore information seminar for the Canadian petroleum industry operating on the eastern and arctic seaboards. This will be a service to the industry by outlining capabilities at the Bedford Institute for assisting offshore exploration. In Ottawa the Geological Survey will organize a symposium on recent crustal movements, which will be open to all interested scientists.

Not all liaison is directed by government. Recently the Panarctic consortium held a seminar for the purpose of informing government agencies how the government could offer services that would materially assist in exploration and development of petroleum resources in the Arctic. The seminar indicated the growing need for industry-government planning.