

Editor's Page

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Editor's Page

As we indicated in our last number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS we are devoting this number to reports only in order to present several additional research projects to you and also eliminate our backlog. Our next number will return with the regular sections of the magazine in the continuing effort to keep our readership informed of events that are of interest to the geological community served by this journal.

In this number we have a variety of sedimentological topics ranging from Pleistocene events to modern ocean dynamics. The papers by Professor R. H. MacNeill are the type that form the solid framework for wide regional studies in which considerable documentation is needed. Miss Tapley's report is an outstanding example of undergraduate research carried out as a sub-project under a principal researcher. It is a happy result of industry and fine guidance and is of the type that should be reported more in the literature. We look forward to receiving more of this copy. Two environmental studies are presented in this number; one by B. d'Anglejan deals with the water mass emphasizing the dynamics of suspended sediments, and the other is by I. G. MacIntyre and O. H. Pilkey and deals with material on the sea bottom. In the latter study, the role of diver-scientist is given some attention and a reference is made to the part played by submersibles.

In a recent marine sciences operation at the Bedford Institute, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, several navy divers were used to assist in sampling the bottom from a diver lock-out submersible. This will be reported on in another number, but at present we must give some notice that this highly successful program will be used more often in the future particularly in inner-shelf areas, bays and estuaries. This type operation is a natural extension of that reported by MacIntyre and Pilkey particularly as it provides high quality positional control.

D. J. P. Swift has submitted a fine research resume, and now that the academic year is again upon us we look forward to more of this type of copy as well. A good regional geology study on moraines has been sent to us from R. N. Harbison at the Environmental Science Services Administration, Miami, Florida. The report shows the similarity of the conclusions reached with those in the Scotian Shelf study of these features by L. H. King. Our knowledge of such features is extended considerably, and this is a good example of how geological history will be put together for the entire offshore area of eastern North America.

One paper in this number deserves special mention, not because of its quality or content which are certainly substantial, but because it may set a precedent for offshore reporting. The submission by G. A. Bartlett is based on a personal examination of drill cores obtained from the Pan Am - Imperial Oil Enterprises drill holes on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The material was examined under a confidential arrangement with company and government and was submitted for publication after the release date following the regular two-year period in which all material is held secret, or in strictest confidence. This was agreed by the company and the mutual advantages are obvious; a report by a worker who is independent of company is now available, and the taxpayers have a little more return from their investment. The companies themselves, as taxpayers, will generally agree to this. Because of the dearth of expertise in a given laboratory where interests are wide-ranging and varied, this consulting practise is expected to flourish. With more work being done everyone is bound to benefit. This practise is not altogether new but it does represent the first concrete result for the eastern Canadian offshore.

In our last number we mentioned the success of regional seminars to acquaint industry, university and various government agencies with pertinent aspects of common fields of interest. We received word from scientists in Ottawa that an eastern offshore seminar is being planned for the fall of 1970, and will include studies on the Bay of Fundy, Scotian Shelf, Grand Banks, Labrador Shelf and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is highly probable that the eastern Arctic will be included. Already interest is quite high and this one seems to be headed for success. We shall keep you informed by means of our regular announcements in later numbers of the magazine.

We are now entering our fifth year of publication and thanks to the response of our readers, we are in fairly healthy shape. Two of our local editors Paul Schenk and Laing Ferguson are on sabbatical leave until the fall of 1970 so that R. M. McMullen and B. R. Pelletier will carry on as managing editor and editor-in-chief respectively with the other associates as shown.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.