

Atlantic Geology

ATLANTIC GEOLOGY

Editor's Page

B. R. Pelletier

Volume 12, numéro 2, august 1976

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/ageo12_2ed01

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Maritime Sediments Editorial Board

ISSN

0843-5561 (imprimé)

1718-7885 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

Pelletier, B. R. (1976). Editor's Page. *Atlantic Geology*, 12(2), iii–iii.

Editor's Page

Two companion papers on Quaternary studies have been submitted independently by workers carrying out investigations in eastern Canada. The first paper is multi-authored by V.K. PREST, and his colleagues J.V. MATTHEWS and SIGRID LICHTI-FEDEROVICH of the Geological Survey of Canada. JAN TERASME, a former colleague is the second author on this Quaternary self-sufficient report. This study is akin to a microcosm; that is, a scaled-down version of a comprehensive work over a larger area. Each author has brought his specialty to bear on the problems at hand, and the result is a beautiful synthesis of data and ideas. The finished study represents a tidy and complete piece of work. For the area of Newfoundland, C.M. TUCKER has presented us with something better than just a mine-review. The paper is well organized from the standpoint of the presentation of ideas, problems and salient references. A third research paper has been submitted by NEYLES, who describes two unusual environmental indicators. Our final report, by F.S. MEDIOLI and D.B. SCOTT is on a useful piece of technology regarding the sampling of soil horizons.

Recently in the world literature an economic treatise appeared on the theme of "small is beautiful". The author indicated sorrowfully, if not factually, that a loss of human dignity was the price of efficiency where such processes related to bigness in business and industry. The same theme holds for many endeavours such as sports, government, university, publishing, science. Big science - commonly equated to big money - is needed in widespread synoptic surveys such as those carried out in the last International Geophysical Year. But small science, that is the work carried out by an individual researcher and a miniscule but independent and unhurried support staff still remains one of the main streams of thoughtful scientific enquiry. It is the interaction of many such pockets of science that produces many great and lasting advances. In geology we have seen this arise in instances from the formulation of the geological column to the latest concepts in global tectonics. GLOMAR CHALLENGER cruises represent big science, but their virtue is in their component workers who return to their small laboratory teams to do their science. Preceding these cruises was a smaller science exemplified in the cruises of the VEMA (Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory) which gave the world the first dawning light of comprehension on tectonic plates in the oceanic framework. This was preceded by an even smaller science: the philosophical concepts of continental drift envisaged by Alfred Wegener. Today an inexpensive trip along the roads of Newfoundland will lead the geologist to observe first hand the evidence of global tectonics. And so we see that the further we are removed from gigantic institutions and its few elite workers spread amongst hundreds of journeymen workers, the more we encounter individualism in effort, freedom of spirit and thought, personal respect and professional recognition, and innovative science and philosophy. These are the real elements in the growth and survival of human dignity within the framework of human effort. They do take funding but not necessarily big funding, all they espouse is the ideal to remain small and beautiful.

We would like to remind our readers that our special publication: "Benthonic Foraminifera of Continental Margins", is progressing well. Part A: Ecology and Biology is presently being distributed. It contains 313 pages, consisting of 7 photos, 46 tables, 10 plates and 142 figures (this includes approximately 300 line drawings). Thirty-three authors contributed to the production of 26 papers. Part B: "Biostratigraphy and Paleoecology" is just as voluminous, and we recommend that you make your order to MARITIME SEDIMENTS directly because the price of the volumes will rise on April 1, 1977. Remember, both parts must be purchased as a single volume so that the present cost of \$30, and the proposed cost of \$40, will cover both parts (A and B).

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor