

Atlantic Geology

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Editor's Page

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Editor's Page

The opening issue for 1981 of *'Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology'* incorporates many changes in philosophy, policy and format from its predecessor *'Maritime Sediments'*. As new editors of the journal, we feel that these changes were both timely and necessary and anticipate that the content and quality of articles in this and subsequent issues of the journal will reflect some of the adopted changes.

When *'Maritime Sediments'* was first conceived back in the late summer of 1964, it was intended to become an information journal for workers involved in Recent or ancient sediments of the Maritime Provinces. Indeed, the first two issues in 1965 and 1966, under the editorships of D.J. Stanley and D.J.C. Laming respectively, were directed specifically, and may we add quite successfully towards this goal. In 1967, the now retiring editor, B. Pelletier assumed responsibility for the journal and through his foresight, both the content and quality of the journal began to assume a different complexion. Bernie not only retained the information aspect, but also encouraged submission and eventual publication of both ongoing and, more importantly, completed research. Furthermore, he encouraged the scope of published material to include aspects of geology not solely devoted to modern and ancient sedimentology but also to include other aspects of geological research such as in the fields of geophysics, paleontology, geochemistry, etc. For this foresight we are indebted to Bernie in more than one way — not only has the scope and variety of published material increased over the last several years, but also the changeover to a new title under new management will perhaps prove to be far less traumatic than originally anticipated. For the services of Bernie in his capacity of editor of *Maritime Sediments* for the previous thirteen years, we are all greatly indebted. There is little need to labour the point that editorial work is a thankless vocation, particularly to those of us who have been engaged at some time or other in such an activity. Suffice it to say that had it not been for Bernie, we would probably not be writing and you in turn not be reading this volume! We trust that Bernie will continue to enjoy his input into the new journal as enthusiastically as on previous occasions, but now in the role of an associate editor.

Yet all things must come to pass and times must change, and we feel the time is exactly ripe for that change. Indeed, as previously outlined, not only has this change been one of editorial managementship but also has resulted in philosophy, policy and format revisions. The immediately noticeable change, of course, is the new journal title *'Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology'*. Why the necessity of a new title? We felt that *'Maritime Sediments'* still, perhaps inadvertently, conjured up the belief that the journal was specifically designed for publication in the field of sedimentology, as, in part, it had originally been intended. To remove this stigma and to encourage submission of research material

in other sub-disciplines of geology, we felt a title change necessary. Furthermore, with the addition of 'Atlantic Geology' not only do we anticipate publication of research in non-sedimentological fields, but also we hope that eventually, submitted material will come from both sides of the Atlantic and not just eastern Canada and the United States. Nevertheless, the journal will still continue to publish abstracts, notices, current research items, etc. with a purely northern Appalachian flavour.

The second major and immediately noticeable change is that the journal has now become refereed, the adopted system being akin to that employed by 'Geolog'. Hopefully this system will enable more rapid publication of submitted articles than would be possible with other systems. By introducing the refereeing system we hope to encourage submission of quality papers, irrespective of their nature. There is no need to emphasize the difficulties the geoscience community now faces regarding scientific publication of their endeavours and pursuits. Rejection rates of international journals are continually rising and it is becoming increasingly difficult to publish research material, *particularly if the research leans toward a regional* rather than international significance. We envisage the role of *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology* as partially bridging the gap, so that although material of international significance will be by no means downplayed, neither too will material of a more regional significance. Hopefully we can encourage submission of manuscripts that fulfill either or indeed both of these extremes.

The transition from *Maritime Sediments* to *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology* has by no means been an easy one. The transfer delay factor, in particular, has meant that we have had to call on authors close to home to submit papers for publication in this first issue. For this reason this issue contains three papers of widely differing aspect from authors at the University of New Brunswick. We emphasize, however, that these papers have undergone the normal reviewing process as outlined in the author instruction section. We hope that you, our readers, enjoy this pioneering issue and encourage you to submit your manuscripts to us for consideration of publication in what we hope will become a highly successful and reputable journal.

The Editors

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