

Editor's Page

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Four more papers on the geology of Nova Scotia variously authored by THOMAS LANE and LYNDON JENSEN close this volume. Their format is designed to supplement other papers by local geologists in the compilation of a field guide book on the sedimentary geology of Nova Scotia. These authors together with LAING FERGUSON, IAN HARRIS and PAUL SCHENK have contributed substantially to this effort and are to be congratulated on the timeliness, quality and energy of their respective studies. Readers may wish to extract these papers, which appeared in all issues of Volume 11 in MARITIME SEDIMENTS, and re-trace the route of the authors with this material in hand. It should suffice as an excellent guide for the student and professional alike.

On another topic of publications we are preparing the proceedings of the First International Symposium on Benthonic Foraminifera of Continental Margins. These papers were presented at the conference "Benthonics 75" held in Halifax last August. All contributions have been reviewed by investigators in this field and will appear as "Special Publication 1" of MARITIME SEDIMENTS. The work will appear in two sections: Part A - Ecology and Biology; and Part B - Paleocology and Stratigraphy. For non-participants at the conference, the publication (including Part A and Part B, which are designed as two separate books for publishing purposes) will sell for thirty dollars (\$30.00 Canadian) and may be obtained through the offices of MARITIME SEDIMENTS. Each book will be about 200 pages in length and overall will include more than 150 line drawings and at least 50 plates. We expect Part A to be in press in June, 1976, followed shortly by Part B. The entire publication represents a comprehensive review of the subject and includes a considerable amount of new material. It covers several geographic localities and attempts to give a world picture of the benthonic foraminifera in space and time. Considerable emphasis is placed on taxonomy and this, together with its scientific and scholarly approach, should make it a valuable accession to libraries - institutional and private.

Support for scientific research has declined in recent years due to budgets and lack of public interest. If the latter is stimulated perhaps the former may be alleviated. Some scientists have expressed the view that they are to blame themselves because of a reluctance to discuss their work, or present it at a layman's level. Others may not wish to be identified with certain projects, and some are unable to describe their work because it is classified in one way or another. Military information must be kept from the public because of national security, and the same holds true for some economic matters. Workers in private companies are committed to the principle of confidentiality because of competitive risks. However one of the major causes of public disinterest or unawareness in science is the lack of proper reporting in the newspapers. Although the subject is covered in detail and generally complete with calculations and speculation (perhaps too much, and this too frightens the scientist), they are generally unsupported by good illustrative material. Rarely does a scientist explain his work to an audience of technical experts that he does not have his presentation illustrated. How is it possible then for the lay public to grasp the same theory from a newspaper without the simplest map, diagram or photograph to illuminate the scientific matter for him? If the subject is sufficiently difficult for scientists, who must depend on illustrations in order to see the subject, then how burdensome must it be to the lay reader who lacks the rigorous education and the simplest illustrative devices to assist his understanding.

A space shot, an earthquake or an accident at a reactor plant will certainly rate photographs. Newspaper articles on science should be illustrated in order to attract the reader, and then to inform. Perhaps the scientist will speak more confidently and freely, and perhaps we may just earn a little more public support for our work.

B.R. PELLETIER, Editor.