

Editor's Page

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Volume 14, numéro 1, avril 1978

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/ageo14_1ed01

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Maritime Sediments Editorial Board

ISSN

0843-5561 (imprimé)

1718-7885 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Pelletier, B. R. (1978). Editor's Page. *Atlantic Geology*, 14(1), iii–iii.

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Our opening number for Volume 14 of MARITIME SEDIMENTS contains, in miniature, a cross-sectional display of our recent policy to commence expanding the scope of our magazine in order to reflect all aspects of Atlantic and Appalachian geology in the Atlantic Provinces and adjacent areas. The paper by C.J. Hughes and M.M. Smith deals with structural geology, geochemistry and petrology and, although argumentative, is a fair account of the field and laboratory evidence. However, geology is fraught with controversy and to be fair, the authors of high level granitization are invited to reply. The relationship of modern sedimentation and oceanography in an Arctic marine environment are demonstrated by R. Gilbert. It is a fine treatment of the subject, and can have widespread application in hundreds of such fiords lying in Arctic and sub-arctic latitudes. In the report by S.P. Leatherman and A.T. Williams we are reminding our readership that MARITIME SEDIMENTS accepts papers on innovative material that pertains to geological research. This presentation is a good example of such reporting, and the equipment is inexpensive and practical. Our final paper is a lovely review of regional geology by an author D.A.V. Stow, who has spent some years of study in the area. It is also an outstanding demonstration of the type of review paper we so often seek as it balances and summarizes the accounts of individual and team research.

Recently we attended a conference on coastlines of Canada, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and reported in the latter part of this issue of MARITIME SEDIMENTS. Virtually all papers had a direct bearing on the coastline and its subsequent management by government. Industrial and commercial expansion is rapidly depleting our access to available beaches and shores that could be used for recreational purposes. If not already occupied, public beaches are being more confined by the spoiling of natural sites due to effluents derived from the progressive encroachment of industry. Harbours disgorge their waste along adjacent urban coastlands which immediately restricts the metropolitan dweller from enjoying some of Nature's nearby havens. Not everyone can forage into the countryside to find their moments of pleasure in the open air. Many less fortunate are unable to leave their living environs, or are unable to journey any distance at all. Yet they too deserve their place in the sun, but more and more, this share is being denied. The beach offers inexpensive enjoyment to more people than does any other form of natural setting. Therefore governments are justified in their attempts to preserve this enjoyment, even at the price of legislation. Although a great deal of effort is being expended on these matters by governments around the world, Coastlines Canada was a timely reminder to this country on what remains to be done. The conference also offered a unique setting for the marine and lacustrine coastal worker to share ideas and undoubtedly this will be the seed of a great body to follow.

Another aspect upon which we must comment is the implication of the Law of the Sea Conferences. Aside from the struggles of the lawyers and the opinions of international courts, scientists may find themselves deprived of field research space in the oceans. Should arbitrary limits on economic and political boundaries prevail and be sanctioned internationally, it may become impossible for independent research to be carried out in the world's oceans except by agreement of the bordering nation. Scientists will be engaged locally by governments or a developing industry, but will they be permitted to explore the seas as they are today? Before the rules are carved in stone, scientists must present a forum to their governments in order that the political leaders are aware of the consequence of economic expansion and territorial claims in areas remote from their traditional maritime jurisdiction.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor