

Editor's Page

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Editor's Page

To open our new Volume 6, we have an account of a very interesting structure on the Scotian Shelf, discovered and described by L.H. King and his associate B. MacLean. This type of structure is of immediate interest to oil companies and contractors exploring the offshore areas in the search for petroleum and natural gas. This activity is summarized by D.G. Crosby in the end report of this number, and gives a fairly good quantitative assessment of the work done and the money to be expended in the work programs of permit and lease holders over the next few years in the Canadian offshore. Also in this number we are presenting four separate accounts on modern sedimentation over the eastern continental shelf and eastern Arctic. Another article deals with laboratory apparatus which may prove to be quite popular because of its inherent economical and practical aspects. Studies on the Bermuda platform continue, and the one by R. Gees and F. Medioli contained in this issue will set a solid base for future stratigraphic and sedimentological studies.

In the section on Current Research we have given in its entirety, a submission sent in by B. Kennedy of The Memorial University of Newfoundland. This list is most comprehensive but because it lacked some coverage on the offshore, we decided to include a submission on some of the work of the Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratory. At this time we note that the geological investigations of D.H. Loring of the Marine Ecology Laboratory, Bedford Institute, is being prepared for a major publication. This work which has been published from time to time in MARITIME SEDIMENTS, deals with various geological aspects of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and includes sedimentology, geochemistry, ecology, physiography and bedrock studies. Although our list of current research topic covers studies on land we are somewhat pressed for copy on these subjects. Therefore, as a notice to our contributors we accept and look forward to receiving this material.

On the Editor's Page of this issue we felt it was time to pass along some kindly words of praise to the organizers, workers and contributors of regional news letters. Although they seldom rank in prestige with the professional journals, and indeed this is not their intention, they also serve a creditable purpose for the regional worker. Such publications are easily duplicated and sent to other regions, particularly to major magazines, who then considerably amplify the original audience. And so, more people get to know about more things and people. We felt that several news letters could be cited but only a few are mentioned here and this by no means lessens the respect we hold for the others. However, Coastal News from the Gulf of Mexico, the Arctic Circular, the Quaternary News Letter, and the news letter of the Geological Association of Canada are real workhorses in the area of our readership and interest. Such news letters may graduate to the status of society transactions and later to full scale professional publications, having grown from a very firm basis from the beginning. At any rate MARITIME SEDIMENTS salutes such labour, particularly when it is offered free as a service to the profession.

Although we are not in the habit of publishing letters to the editor, we did receive a copy of one making the rounds so to speak. This one refers to an educational series entitled: "Twelve Coloured Films on Geography". The objections raised by the geological fraternity centre around the fact that a pamphlet describing the films deals mainly with geology. We are not attempting a division of professional ranks as geographers and geologists are both dearly needed to continue the development and assessment of the land. In the written words of C.W. Stearn, Chairman of the Geological Sciences, McGill University, to the National Film Board: "Presumably the pamphlet is directed in part to high school teachers. In this area Geologists are now trying to establish courses in the high schools in earth science which will be independent of geography, and generally would like to see increasing recognition that geology is an entirely separate discipline. I would think the meteorologists might think the same way about your pamphlet. I therefore request that the pamphlet be either re-issued with the titles 'Geology, Meteorology and Physical Geography' on the front, or else a separate pamphlet be issued with the geological films entitled 'Colour films on Geology'."

Neither geographer or geologist should take offense from each others profession. Obviously a great many geologists at university are attempting to introduce their subject at the high school level, and because of the massive inertia that must be overcome, anything put in the way of its progress is quite naturally frustrating. We wish the geographers well in their attempts at sowing the seeds of their profession in the area of the secondary school, although in many places their head start over the geologist is noticeable. May both groups prosper as the aim is certainly a worthy one.