

Editor's Page

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[See table of contents](#)

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Editor's Page

With the printing of this number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS we commence the final volume of our first decade of publication. The first two contributions are companion papers submitted by C.M. TUCKER. These studies are good examples of Pleistocene work carried out at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland. In earlier numbers of the magazine we have published accounts of Pleistocene studies from Memorial University which is indicative of the continuing program of study offered there in this field. Also dealing with Pleistocene is the report submitted by R.H. Fillon. It is a fine example of the use of modern parameters in the study of ancient oceans. Our final report is by B.N. Akpati which is an exceptionally well documented sedimentological study of deposits along the eastern American seaboard.

In our Current Research section we have provided our readership with three separate essays on the role of the national geological surveys. Generally these reports carry the same message to a degree, and our view would only add another facet of the same story. But these surveying institutes are remarkable for other achievements than the mere execution of basic and applied research. Not only are our friends members of these organizations, but commonly our sons and daughters, and sometimes a husband and wife. All of us come from the universities, all of us have similar training, and all of us who have free will tend to seek our own sphere of activity. Some of us enter the arena of free-enterprise, others remain or return to academic and still others join the folds of the national surveying institutes. Although professional ethics are equally developed in all sectors, the national surveys seem to engender an additional spirit. This is the passing of professional traditions from one generation to the next. Generally a recruit is warmly welcomed and is received as a fully seasoned partner of equal standing. After several years of "learning the ropes" and expanding his circle of professional contacts and friends, he then begins to pass along his lore to recruits and so his cycle continues. His loyalty to the firm, so to speak, and his personal zeal and pride, continue to maintain in him high professional standards imbued by the older cadre preceding him. This is what he leaves to his successor - a legacy of loyalty, of high standards, of good conduct, and that intangible *esprit de corps* which comes only from the pride of association with a well respected institute. These are some of the qualities that underlie the efforts of the national surveys. They embrace the principles of apprenticeship in which older geologists help the younger ones, and over which a camaraderie is developed amongst all. Everyone on these national teams is just as concerned as the author, that a good paper is written, a talk is well presented, and that creditable field work and consultation is rendered. And this notwithstanding the inter-necine wars that inevitably arise.

We have included the essays in Current Research to emphasize the fact that workers on the national surveys undertake much basic research. To map and interpret an area originally is a fundamental operation in solving a field research problem. The late Professor Ernst Cloos often exhorted to us in class how basic was this philosophy. And it carries through to addressing oneself to problems on the modern environment. In all areas where human enterprise infringes on the well being of society, the government surveys must commonly stand as the referee between accused and accuser. We take this opportunity to offer a salute to these national surveys who we certainly feel would thank, in turn, the universities for offering their friendship and unfettered ideas, and the industry which also offers friendship as well as the maxim that all is not science for science's sake.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.

We would like again to remind our subscribers of the new rates for MARITIME SEDIMENTS. These were published in Vol. 9, No. 3 and will remain posted in continuing numbers under Notices.