

Editor's Page

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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Our major contributions for this number include two reports on geochemistry. The first deals with the organic fraction in marine sediments, with important remarks on environmental conditions at the site of sedimentary deposition. The other report is a significant joint contribution by N. R. O'Brien and Eiji Suito on the flocculation and deposition of clay minerals as inferred from scanning electron photomicrographs. This remarkable instrument appears to offer a multitude of new avenues of research, and is opening many fields of endeavour and enquiry previously inaccessible to the researcher. Another set of papers deals with basalts and carbonates which may appear incongruous considering the scope of this journal. However the basalts are described merely because they form the substrate for the layers of carbonate and coral presently growing on the basaltic subcrops, as well as that which has accumulated in fairly recent geologic history. From such combined studies - R. Gees writing on the Bermuda Sea Mount and C. T. Schafer on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge - interpretation may be presented on ancient ocean conditions, as well as those on the evolution of oceanic geological features and crustal events. We have also included a brief review by R. Gees on the art of bedding-plane sampling, with a description of a sampling device for carrying out this operation. Notwithstanding these fine contributions we have included the geological research program of three major institutions which has enhanced considerably our presentation of items of current research.

Over the past few years MARITIME SEDIMENTS has reported the activities of the pre-professional worker - the university geology student. Some of this material has been published as reports, some as current research items and some as titles of papers presented at meetings sponsored by student geological associations. In this number we have merely given a brief mention in Hither and Yon of three meetings held in various parts of Canada by university geological students. Of the meetings we attended, the facet that impressed us most was the encumbered spirit of independence from staff and the earnest responsibility toward the meeting itself. The papers offered were written under professional guidelines generally on student laboratory or field work and demonstrated good craftsmanship and content. It was also refreshing to see the support offered by area geologists, university departments, professors and industry. Participation at these meetings is always good and attendance appears to be growing. Because these sessions are organized and held by the students we deem it objectionable to make suggestions but perhaps a national congress once every four years or so may not be a bad one. At any rate, our compliments are extended to these vigorous organizations and certainly we look forward to attending more of these edifying sessions.

Two very interesting meetings are being given notice: one for the United Kingdom on the east Atlantic continental margin, and one for the eastern Canadian offshore. Both meetings are aimed at elucidating knowledge, and providing insight into the origin of continental margins. Coincidentally a summary account of a workshop on the concept of the new global tectonics is also given which is providing insight into the structure and origin of mid-ocean ridges, oceanic basins and trenches, as well as continental margins. When all of this information is properly correlated, and it appears to be soon, great strides should be made toward an understanding of these fascinating problems, and the imaginative scope of their solution. Not to be left in arrears are the energetic undertakings of regular annual meetings of regional and national associations. These actually form the groundwork of many of the major meetings and set the pace for the technical dialogue that emanates from smaller but enthusiastic groups of workers. The Geographers Association of Canada which met last summer in Newfoundland, and reported upon in this issue of the journal, is a paramount example of such a group. Our colleagues commented on the high interest in the papers and the exceptional opportunity of lengthy discussion brought about by personal contact.

In our next number we hope to bring you up to date on more research institutes along the Atlantic seaboard, as well as that by individuals and an account of recent work carried out in Arctic Canada. As well we have summary reports on certain major activities in the area, with some comments on offshore industry. We hope to close this volume shortly and then prepare for the number following which will usher in our sixth year of publication. Even at this point your editors thank you, the readers, for your continued subscription, and to you the authors for your many contributions.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.