

## EDITORIAL

As most readers will know, the Council and Executive of the Geological Association of Canada recently approved the purchase of a micro-computer system for the production of *Geoscience Canada*. The hardware selected is a COMPAQ Deskpro 286 with the MAGNATYPE typesetting software package, and a laser printer. The system has now been in operation for several months, and the September issue of the journal was produced entirely using it. All text was entered to disk storage using the text editing function of MagnaType, and page layout was designed in-house on the same system. Final camera-ready copy for p. 211-232 of the journal (including book reviews and Secretary-Treasurer's Report) was printed on our laser printer using special paper. The rest of the September issue was produced in the same way, but the final pages were run through a conventional commercial cold-type typesetting apparatus using our disks containing the text and page layout coding. Readers will notice the difference in quality between the two parts of the September issue, if they examine them carefully.

Now that the computer, software and processing procedures are in place, *Geoscience Canada* will be produced in this way for the foreseeable future, with substantial savings in typesetting costs. Contributors can permit further savings and improve efficiency by adapting their method of submitting manuscripts, be they series articles, conference reports, book reviews or any other text material. All contributors who make use of a computer word processing system are now requested to submit an unformatted version of their text (i.e. no margins, tabs, or right justification) on a floppy disk meaning text should be stored as an ASCII file, without coding for line spacing, paragraphing, etc., a capability found in almost all word processing software. The ASCII codes are virtually universal, whereas other formatting methods are unique to each computer system. We can handle only the 5-1/4 inch (13.3 cm) disk. Three copies of the text should still be submitted on paper, as before. Your disk can be copied quickly on to our own disk storage and then returned to you. A substantial part of the text entry process is thereby eliminated (actually you are doing it for us), and we need only to enter formatting information, using your paper copy of the text as a guide.

In future it may be possible to transmit the text directly between computer and computer, using telephone lines, but at present transmission quality is poor and unreliable (also, we are not yet equipped for this type of submission). We look forward to your co-operation.

A note on phone numbers: The Editorial Office is at (416) 978-6588. All routine business should be conducted with the Managing Editor at this number. If necessary, the Editor may be reached at (416) 978-8841.

Andrew D. Miall