

Editor's Page

In this our closing number for Volume 12 of MARITIME SEDIMENTS, we must thank our readership for being patient with its publication. Our total resources were also employed in the production of the first special publication of MARITIME SEDIMENTS entitled: "Benthonic Foraminifera of Continental Margins". This work contains approximately 800 printed pages with more than 350 illustrations including line drawings and about 30 plates. The work is published in two parts: (A) Biology and Ecology, and (B) Paleoecology and Biostratigraphy. We printed 400 copies of both parts and the supply is now exhausted. If sufficient interest is shown over the next few months, then we shall prepare a second edition for a selling price ranging between 45 to 50 dollars depending upon postal rates at that time. Before closing on this point, we again congratulate the authors for their splendid contributions, and the reviewers for their diligence. We are also most pleased at the response to the sale of the work. At this time your editor expresses his thanks to Charles Schafer and his committee for moving so vigorously on the administrative end, as well as his advice and unstinting hours in technical matters to his co-editor B.R. Pelletier. Both editors of "Benthonics" express a very deep debt of gratitude to Ferne McCoombs who laboured for months over horribly-edited script in order to save extra typing. In this she was a most patient and uncomplaining fellow worker. The type-script for the camera-ready copy was prepared by Ferne, indeed as is the regular volumes of MARITIME SEDIMENTS. So many thanks again: to contributors, reviewers, helpers and customers.

For a few years now we have departed from the policy of publishing only material dealing with sedimentary geology. With the agreement of the editorial board a decision was reached to include all aspects of geology in the Atlantic Provinces and adjacent areas. Properly this meant extending our scope to include all aspects of Atlantic and Appalachian geology in the region which is the concern of this publication. In the present issue we have produced a good example of this policy. Dorrick Stow's paper is a fundamental piece of research on sedimentology in the deep-marine environment. We congratulate this author on his superb illustrations with which he has amplified his thesis. Kenneth Burke's contribution on regional and crustal geology interpreted by means of geophysical aids is a fine example of reports we should like to see on the ancient rocks. However the overall spectrum is most surely achieved in the abstracts submitted by the Atlantic Geoscience Society on their annual symposium. A collection of their counterparts in report form, would keep any journal busy for a full 12 months, and probably more. The abstracts cover all major aspects of geology in Atlantic and Appalachian Canada and, as such, is truly representative of the scope of this magazine, both in content and regional coverage.

Before closing we would like to leave you with some thoughts on research science in the private sector as contracted to it by government. In many cases the contracts do not specifically deal with science so much as they do in the gathering of data and samples, and the preparation of consultative reports; these aspects are ignored at this time. But consider the private engineer who approaches the government scientist to enquire about the geotechnical properties of a marine soil upon which an underwater installation may be placed. The engineer is site-specific but the scientist is conscious of the natural framework surrounding the entire site, and this may include dozens, if not hundreds of square miles of sea bottom as well as huge volumes of ocean and sub-bottom materials. Naturally the engineer is interested in only the site because that is the focus of his, or his company's interest. On the other hand, the scientist is trying to demonstrate processes to elucidate the present properties of the sediment as a response to natural processes, and their fate with subjection to artificial processes. It is a classic dilemma: the engineer either lacks, or cannot afford the patience of the scientist, and the scientist is unable or refuses to consider the practicality of the engineer. Yet both can learn together. In cases in which the engineering company has the government as its client, a government scientist generally supervises the contract. Now the two groups must work together and for the sake of argument we shall say it is a successful arrangement. But consider when the job is over. The company engineer must depart for other contracts and the continuity with the work is broken. Some of this work is continued through the services of government scientists but much of the valuable field experience is absent. Certainly the universities can carry out the research with considerable emphasis on continuity, but their resources are limited and must be, and should be re-enforced by government support, even to the point of exchanging scientists for the purposes of teaching and carrying out research. Some of this is underway, but the effort could be increased. And it should be a two-way route. And this should also apply industry. National research is a big and ramified subject and it will require much effort from many administrative, academic and industrial levels of the country to meet its demands and fulfill its expectations.