

Editorial

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Volume 16, numéro 3, septembre 1989

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/geocan16_3ed01

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

The Geological Association of Canada

ISSN

0315-0941 (imprimé)

1911-4850 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Miall, A. D. (1989). Editorial. *Geoscience Canada*, 16(3), 115–115.

EDITORIAL

This is the last issue of *Geoscience Canada* for which I will be responsible. After seven years as Editor, I feel the need for a change, and am stepping down.

Geoscience Canada is not like most journals. Our main function has become the publication of review articles, most of which are planned as part of a series, and are invited by the series editor. The journal is famous for its Facies Models series, which became a best-selling reprint volume. *Ore Deposits Models* is certainly on its way to becoming the next bestseller. Others that promise to become best sellers in the future include the series on paleontology ("Paleoscene"), and that on Diagenesis (now in production). My personal congratulations and thanks go to the editors of these two series, Godfrey Nowlan, and Ian McIlreath and David Morrow, respectively, for their vision in creating the series, and their hard work in bringing it to fruition. The "Methods in Quaternary Ecology" series, edited by Barry Warner, is also nearing completion, and seems likely to fill a particular need of a specialized research and teaching group.

A trickle of articles have appeared in the DNAG (Decade of North American Geology) summary series. This was conceived as an outlet for special summaries or speculative material written by the DNAG volume editors and contributors. Not many have taken up this opportunity. The splendid summary article on the Cordilleran Orogen by Hugh Gabrielse and Chris Yorath, that appeared in the June issue, is likely to become a well-read standard work on this subject. Other volume editors take note!

Another venture which was started during my tenure is the "Machinations" feature, now edited by Uwe Brand. This department is intended for short articles describing new high-tech techniques in non-specialized language. There is space for many more articles, and a need for writers willing to compose them.

Book reviews and conference reports are a standard feature of most issues of the journal. Book reviews are written by invitation only — we normally have not accepted unsolicited

reviews because of a sense that such reviews may be written by associates of the author or editor of the book, and may thus be advertisements rather than critical reviews of the book contents. Conference reports, on the other hand, are normally volunteered. I have found it almost impossible to solicit reports from a conference participant. Reports written by a conference organizer do, however, serve the purpose of recording significant events at major meetings, such as the workshops and planning meetings of LITHOPROBE, the Canadian Continental Drilling Program, and so on.

Solicitations in general, except for book reviews (when the reviewer gets to keep the book as an incentive), have been singularly unsuccessful during my tenure. Canadian earth scientists, for the most part, seem not to want to write on demand, or at least not for this journal. An attempt to put together a special issue on LITHOPROBE failed when it became apparent that most contributing authors would rather publish their work in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, or some other "international" journal. The lament is a familiar one.

Despite these problems the journal remains healthy and well read. Several American colleagues frequently comment to me on the contents of the journal, commenting favourably on its unique place in the earth sciences literature. This leads me to wish that it was more widely circulated outside the country. Promotional campaigns need to be repeated.

In closing, special mention should be made of Monica Gaiswinkler Easton, who brought us into the computer age. Our computer system is well ahead of its time, by comparison with many other major North American journals, who still plod their way through individual typesetting and galley proofing. Monica's efforts in this area, and her efficient management of the entire business side of the journal have made my job simple. I just do the science, and make Olympian decisions about book reviewers; but even this has become more than enough. It is time for someone else to have their turn. My good wishes to my successor. And be nice to Monica.

Andrew D. Miall

to appear in JSC's
Geol. Canada series