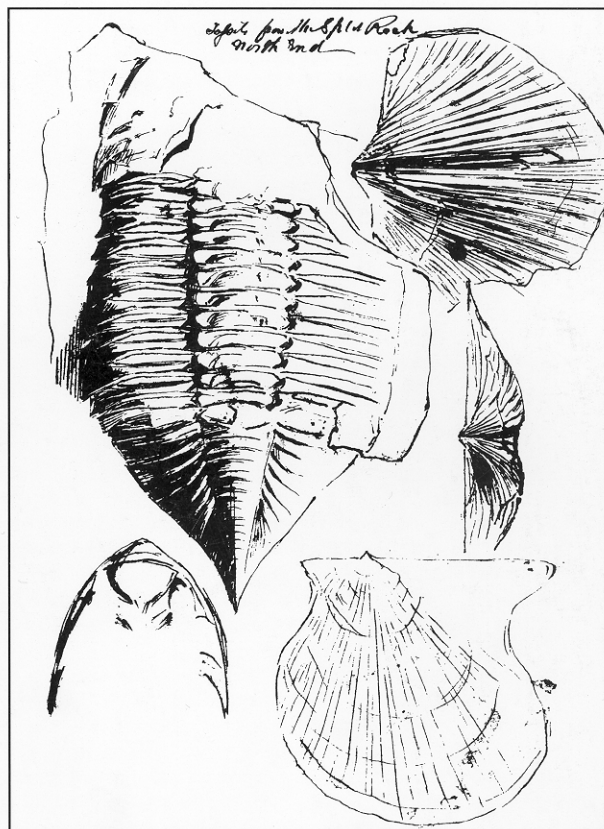
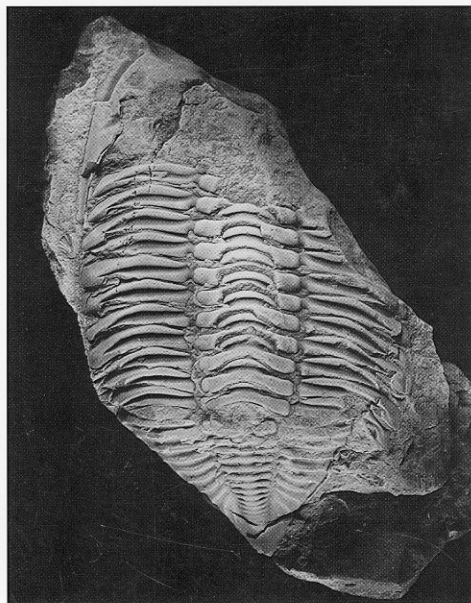


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HISTORY OF CANADIAN GEOLOGY
AND OTHER PAPERS PRESENTED AT
THE FIRST HISTORY OF EARTH SCIENCES SOCIETY MEETING

EDITORIAL

SWAN SONG OF THE FOUNDING EDITOR OF EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY: AN EDITORIAL

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You may guess from the title of this editorial: this issue is my last issue as Editor of *Earth Sciences History*. After twelve years in the editor's chair responsibility for our journal moves on to my successor. My successor is Mott T. Greene who will continue in the tradition of this journal, but plans to supplement the journal's mainstay focus by encouraging papers in related earth-science fields.

About fourteen years ago I recognized the potential interest and demand for a journal on the history of the earth sciences and discussed the possible mechanics of publishing a journal with whoever agreed to listen. At the 1979 annual meeting of the Association of Earth Sciences Editors in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the 1981 convention of the Geological Society of America in Cincinnati, Ohio, I explored the prospect of a journal before the councils of these societies. The standard reaction—as elsewhere—was one of discouragement. “Your journal will never take off” was the effective reply. During this early stage Claude C. Albritton, John G. Dennis, Joan M. Eyles, John Haller, and George W. White, all now deceased, responded with favor and enthusiasm. Others who supported publication of a journal included Michele L. Aldrich, Douglas A. Bassett, Kennard B. Bork, Walter O. Kupsch, Hugh S. Torrens, and Ellis L. Yochelson. I appointed an editorial board from among these supporters and added Stephen G. Brush, James X. Corgan, John F. Dewey, Donald W. Fisher, William M. Jordan, Daniel F. Merriam, Cecil J. Schneer, and C. Gordon Winder. Yet even among these supporters were some who predicted the imminent demise of this journal. However, with the help of these stalwarts a wave of enthusiasm moved us from the initial idea to a published journal and the creation of the History of the Earth Sciences Society whose only purpose was the publication of our journal *Earth Sciences History*. Later recruits to the editorial board included Barry Cooper, Helmut Flügel, Stephen Jay Gould, William A. S. Sarjeant, and Hatten S. Yoder.

Upon founding of *Earth Sciences History* I became the immediate editor and have retained this office for the past twelve years. The home of this journal has been during these years the Northeastern Science Foundation affiliated with Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

The editor's duties were minor by comparison with the rest of the journal's needs. For the first half of the editor's term the Foundation served as executive and home office for our Society. The tasks of the office of the Editor included, in addition to editorial functions, the preparation and distribution of a membership list, constant updating of members' addresses, preparation of address labels, mailing of ballots and letters from the Secretary-Treasurer, shipping of journals, correspondence about returned journals, banking, correspondence and sales of back issues, organization and storage of back issues, handling of enquiries about our journal from libraries, request and billing for page contributions, plus various other related tasks. In addition to the usual routines, the editorial work involved in-house typing and editing of authors' copy as well as cutting and pasting of articles improperly prepared. The Northeastern Science Foundation absorbed much of the cost of these activities. Without the Foundation's financial support this journal and the society would never have survived.

During the first half of my tenure as Editor the editor's office was also involved in journal and society promotion. Sue Friedman who was responsible for the routine tasks in the editor's office staffed booths promoting our journal and society at conventions of the Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, and the International Sedimentological Congress. At the latter congress, held in Australia, Sue attended at her own expense and spent six out of the seven days in Australia staffing our HESS booth promoting especially our Australian and New Zealand issue. Without Sue Friedman's contributions

this journal and society would have foundered. I quote from my 1989 editorial (v. 8, No. 1, p. 1): "Our society has an unpaid behind-the-scene angel who holds the editorial office together: Sue Friedman, who spent long hours reworking the Society's membership list. I may add that as part of her unpaid duties as assistant to the unpaid Editor, she handles almost all the Society's mailings, including back orders and complaints, and keeps track of members and subscribers. When the journal is mailed out she addresses envelopes, stuffs them, bundles them in sacks, and trudges them on a wagon to the post office. For overseas shipments she packs them in boxes, carries them to the car, drives them to United Parcel Service in a nearby town, and there maneuvers them by physical lifting and cart transfer to the counter for shipment. The officers and members owe her a real debt. More mature societies have a paid staff for this kind of work." During the second half of the editor's term many of the previous tasks were added to the secretary's and treasurer's offices, but until two years ago the mailing chores of the journal were still in the editor's office.

Over the years, *Earth Sciences History* has evolved. In the beginning, authors were required to submit their own "camera-ready" copy. In other words, once a manuscript had been approved and revised according to the suggestions of the reviewers, it was up to the author to retype, format, and layout his or her article exactly as it would appear once published. However, typography was not consistent. The differing typefaces were a distraction to the reader, and detracted from the overall appearance of the journal. More importantly, though, the process of piecing each issue together like a jig-saw puzzle created a great deal of wasted space. Thereafter articles were being prepared in a consistent format. The journal's look became more professional, and we were able to pack more information into each issue. The look was still somewhat ragged; underlining was done by hand, *italics* and **bold face** fonts were not available, and columns were not justified.

Through the development of electronic publishing techniques, and the acquisition by the Foundation of an optical scanner and a laser printer, it became possible to produce effectively a journal containing articles consistent and highly professional in appearance. Readability was enhanced through the use of a smooth and well-formed typeface, and the distraction of differing type styles was eliminated.

After completion of nine years of production via a desk-top publishing system, *Earth Sciences History* moved on to its next phase of improvement: printing

by a commercial printer using the time-honored (though at the same time state-of-the-art) methods of typesetting and large-scale offset printing. The purpose of this change was to bring the quality standards of *Earth Sciences History* up to the level of those journals for which commercial publishers charge many hundreds or even thousands of dollars per year. Allen Press Inc. was selected as our printer.

Going to a commercial printer has its inherent risks and problems. Along with printing costs go costs unrelated to printing, such as storage of current and past issues, back-issue fulfillment, maintaining mailing lists, packing, shipping, address-file maintenance, and renewal services. Up until our move to a commercial printer the Northeastern Science Foundation provided most of these services free of charge to the society.

Moreover going to a commercial printer was like setting the clock back 25 to 30 years. When I served as Editor of the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* in the 1960's and 1970's accepted and typed manuscripts were shipped to the printer who then printed the pages from the ready manuscripts. Our move to Allen Press repeated this old-fashioned style of operation. In other words, whereas previously *Earth Sciences History* required authors to submit their computer disks in addition to a paper copy, now disks were no longer necessary. Instead of disks we shipped paper copies to the printer. The plan for 1994 has been to return to electronic typesetting, including layout and figure sizing. This move will save money and hopefully will offset the society's current financial crunch. Except for the past two years, the journal has always been run as a low cost shoestring operation.

In this, my last editorial as Editor, I wish above all to thank our officers, authors, reviewers, members, and subscribers for everything you have done to make our journal a success. These past twelve years have been exceptionally challenging years in which we have created from a mere dream a first rate publication.

My successor Mott T. Green has my full confidence. I am one of his long-time admirers. His 1982 book *Geology in the Nineteenth Century* was the bible for my seminar studies in the history of geology. I extend my best wishes to Mott and to our members and subscribers the message that our journal and society are in good hands. Fourteen years ago when I promoted my plans for publication of a journal on the history of earth sciences I faced a most discouraging and negative reaction and response. I can now point to a most prestigious successor as Editor whose very acceptance of the editorship affirms that this journal has succeeded.

EDITORIAL

SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH SCIENCES SOCIETY FOCUSING ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

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On July 29 through August 1, 1992 the History of Earth Sciences Society jointly with the Northeastern Science Foundation, a not-for-profit educational and research foundation affiliated with Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, held its first convention at the Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology in Troy, New York. The occasion was the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Geological Survey of Canada and the coincidence of the meeting of the British Society for the History of Science which jointly with its Canadian and U.S. counterparts met in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on July 25–29, 1992. Toronto and Troy are within less than a day's driving range or about one hour's flight time.

The program consisted of five parts: (1) a program on the history of Canadian geology, (2) the U.S.–Canada connection, (3) the trans-Atlantic link, (4) volunteer papers, and (5) field trips to classical geologic sites. The program committee consisted of Charles H. Smith (Geological Survey of Canada, retired), Hugh S. Torrens (Keele University, England), and Gerald M. Friedman (Brooklyn College and Graduate School of the City University of New York and Northeastern Science Foundation). The program on the history of Canadian geology focused on the 150th Anniversary of the Geological Survey of Canada. The field trips at this meeting returned to the hallowed ground of geologic pioneers: Amos Eaton (1776–1842), James Hall (1811–1898), William W. Mather (1804–1859), Lardner Vanuxem (1792–1848), Sir Charles Lyell (1797–1875), Louis Agassiz (1807–1873), and Sir William Logan (1798–1875). The trips included visiting their field locations, and even some of their work stations and graves. *Northeastern Geology* (v. 14, No. 4, p. 263–274, 1992) published the abstracts of all 24 papers that were presented and Kennard B. Bork, HESS Secretary, reported on the meeting (*Earth Sciences History*, v. 12, No. 1, p. 81).

This issue of Earth Sciences History celebrates the founding of the Geological Survey of Canada in 1842 by presenting eight papers dealing with facets of its long and distinguished history. Interested readers may delve deeper into the history of the Geological Survey of Canada by referring to "Reading the Rocks," a 599-page account by Professor Morris Zaslow (now out of print); or a popular 52-page account ("No stone Unturned" by Christy Vodden) available free of charge from the Geological Survey. The History of the Earth Sciences Society was pleased to contribute to one of the many activities that marked the GSC Anniversary Year during 1992, and it sends its warmest congratulations to the Geological Survey of Canada on the occasion of this anniversary. Additional papers relating to the history of the Geological Survey of Canada are listed in the section titled Interesting Publications in this issue.

The next issue of Earth Sciences History will include the papers on the trans-Atlantic link and the link between Canada and South America, mostly papers related to Frederic Hartt (1840–1878).

The second meeting of the History of Earth Sciences Society jointly with the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science took place on June 23, 1993 in Missoula, Montana, and the third meeting is scheduled once again jointly with the Northeastern Science Foundation to take place in Troy, New York, on July 7–9, 1994.

I want to express my thanks to Charles H. Smith and the Geological Survey of Canada for participation in the first meeting of the History of Earth Sciences Society and for contributing the excellent articles relating to Canada in this issue. Further, our Society extends its appreciation to the Geological Survey of Canada for page contributions which paid for part of this issue.