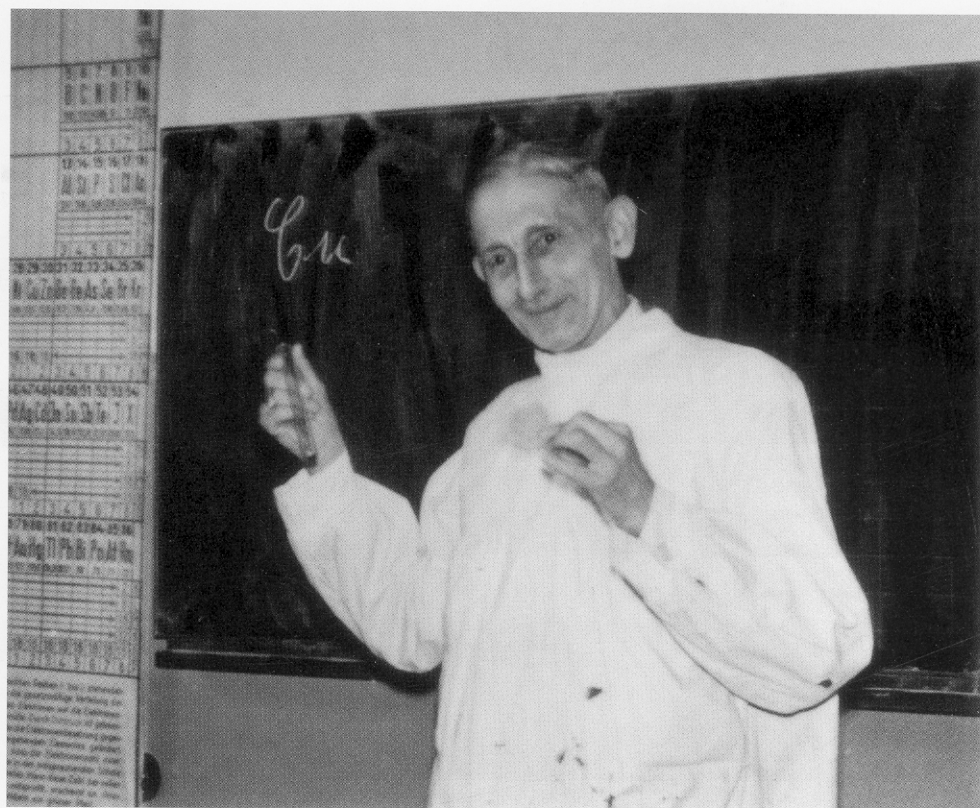


EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

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Otto Wetzel (1891–1971) teaching a chemistry class
in Eutin, Germany, early 1950s

EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

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EDITORIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

GREGORY A. GOOD

This, the first issue of *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* entirely under new editorship, is obviously different. The new, smaller format was undertaken not for novelty, but for practicality. Many readers will instantly recognize the size: many publications of the Geological Society of America are in this format, as is *ISIS*, the journal of the History of Science Society. The officers, councilors, and all electronically connected members of the Editorial Board were consulted on this change. With careful management, this change may also save our society a little money. Please note that the paper and the typeface are unchanged in order to maintain our quality of illustrations and the legibility of the text.

The second important change concerns the citation style of the journal. *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* has a diverse readership and authors from different backgrounds. This diversity is one of our defining strengths, but it also presents us with peculiar challenges. Long-time readers of the journal know the multiple horns of this dilemma. Most scientists (but not all) are accustomed to parenthetical citations in the text of articles, with a **References** section after the text, in which works are listed alphabetically by author. Most historians (but not all) are accustomed to footnotes, with a filigree of detail that allows readers to assess the sources by glancing at the base of the page.

For much the 1990s, former editor Mott Greene tried to urge authors toward endnotes, as a compromise position. This effort succeeded, but not entirely. Now, after months of consultation with the journal's Editorial Board, I have a new, modest proposal—all right, an edict. The journal will put the reader first. For readers seeking quick knowledge of the sources cited, a section called References follows each article. For those who want to know, for example, the page in Harry Hess's "The History of Ocean Basins" from which some quote comes, that will be in the footnote, perhaps along with an added sentence or two from the author, elaborating or qualifying.

The footnotes and References will also be supplemented when needed by a section called **Archives**. Because the References section will list only *published* material, non-published material such as manuscripts and oral history interviews will be listed or described in this separate section.

This three-way system of footnotes, Archives section, and References section clearly exacts a toll on authors of articles and on the editor. It is, however, a clear and consistent system. It will ease the reader through our journal. Does it duplicate effort and take more space? Yes to both questions, although not much. Nevertheless, if we each think of ourselves as readers, venturing into a subject new to us, we will see the value of the extra guidance we receive. The new guidelines are printed in this issue and are available on the web site for the journal.

This new citation system will be phased in. There are two exceptions in this issue that do not follow the new style: The article "The Dreamer and the Pragmatist" and Gerald M. Friedman's "Interesting Publications." The next issue will approach the new system more closely. Beginning with volume 19 in 2000, no article will be accepted for publication until it meets these guidelines. If authors cooperate in this matter, it will speed the publication process and also save HESS money. As any editor will tell you, citations require much more attention than does text. It would be better the other way around.

Readers should also note other new guidelines for submission of articles,

which are due partly to the changing nature of publishing. EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY is moving toward electronic transfer of both text and images. More editing is also being done on-screen. Ultimately, the editorial office will do much of the preparation currently done for us at Allen Press. Please help us in this transition by observing the guidelines at the back of this issue and on the web site.

The web site deserves its own announcement. Over the last twelve months an undergraduate history major at West Virginia University (Tom Tucker) has designed a useful web site for both EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY and the History of the Earth Sciences Society. (He has also helped immensely as I have struggled to deal with the "conveniences" of computers. The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at WVU has generously supported his work.) Information on the officers and history of the Society can be found on the site, along with guidelines for submitting articles and information on subscribing and ordering back issues. There is a page with the covers of past issues, tables of contents, and abstracts. It should be complete soon. The address is www.as.wvu.edu/hess. Feedback is encouraged.

The content of this issue ranges widely. The letter to the editor, by the journal's founding editor Gerald M. Friedman, corrects material previously published. In this letter, he revises some earlier comments on Adam Sedgwick's female acquaintances. There are three articles. In "The Dreamer and the Pragmatist," Linda F. Dietz, William A. S. Sarjeant, and Trent A. Mitchell compare the careers and researches of two rather different German geologist-micropaleontologists who, although unrelated, shared the same family name and worked together. The article by Davis Young is the first of several installments on the emergence of petrologic research. This article explores the importance of research on volcanoes and volcanic rocks for understanding how a particular "problem" came to be defined. Lastly, G. B. Morey relates the interesting tale of how a state geologist became mixed up in the 1870s with George Armstrong Custer, then a Lieutenant Colonel exploring the Dakota Territory for the U.S. Army.

A new feature in this issue is the **Focus Book**, discussed in my editorial in volume 17, number 2. You may recall that in this and subsequent issues, an important recent work in the history of geoscience will be highlighted. Books are chosen for their potential interest to scholars across disciplinary boundaries. The Focus Book is meant to stimulate interaction among colleagues. Will Kellogg and Nico Stehr review the first Focus Book, James Rodger Fleming's *Historical Perspectives on Climate Change*. The second Focus Book, in volume 18, number 2, will be *The Rejection of Continental Drift: Theory and Method in American Earth Science* by Naomi Oreskes. Suggestions for future Focus Books will be gladly entertained.

Lastly, readers will notice that the back of the issue and the inside covers contain several different kinds of information: Announcements, Notes on Contributors, Citation Guidelines, information on back issues, a "clip and mail" membership application, and more. Less easily observed: "Headers" now appear on each page with authors' names and an abbreviated title, to allow readers to locate articles more readily. The editor hopes that this information will be useful to the readers.

As you can see, EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY metamorphosed during its apparent long sleep in 1999. Please forgive the delay and don't hesitate to communicate your reactions. Future issues of the journal will appear in a more timely manner.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Adam Sedgwick And Mrs. Skinner: A Correction by Gerald M. Friedman

In my paper "Adam Sedgwick and Mrs. Skinner" (see References, below) on the friendship of Mrs. Lucy Elizabeth Dorothy Skinner with Adam Sedgwick, the focus is on a series of letters from Sedgwick to Mrs. Skinner. Most of these letters are expressions of gratitude to Mrs. Skinner for various kindnesses shown.

In this paper, I referred to David Oldroyd's paper on "Adam Sedgwick and Lakeland Geology," which he presented in the session on history of geology and international communication of geoscience ideas at the Thirtieth International Geological Congress, Beijing, China in 1996. Using shorthand in taking notes at technical meetings, discussions, and recollections, sometimes my note-taking interferes with reporting or understanding some points. In my paper, I unintentionally misrepresented Oldroyd about Sedgwick's female acquaintances. In Oldroyd's published paper, there is, in fact, no reference at all to any female individual. There was, it appears, some misunderstanding between Oldroyd and myself in the conversation after the presentation of his paper, and later when we met in Britain. The "personal communications" referred to in my paper were recollections of conversations, not written letters. What Oldroyd said to me in China, regarding Sedgwick's female acquaintances, was that he was a confirmed bachelor. Also, he told me that he had made a study of Sedgwick's field notebooks for the years 1822–24, when he was working in the Lake District (as stated in the lecture). For those years, Oldroyd (subsequently) told me, he had counted the names of fifty-one people whom Sedgwick met during his Lakeland travels, only one of whom was a woman—a fossil collector whose name he had been unable to decipher. Any reading of Sedgwick's *Life and Letters* shows, of course, that he knew many women and girls, and seemingly he had cordial relations with all.

Gerald M. Friedman

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