

# ***EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY***

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WILHELM SALOMON-CALVI, 1868-1941

This issue completes our fifth year of publication. Six years ago this journal was only a dream. Following a successful symposium on the History of Geology in 1980, which William M. Jordan organized and which was published in *Northeastern Geology* (1981, V.3, No.1), it became obvious that a widespread demand existed for a publication on the history of the earth sciences. In 1981 I discussed the possibility of publication with anyone willing to listen, but most were pessimistic and discouraging. Exceptions included George W. White (Urbana, Illinois), Hugh S. Torrens (Chester, England), and Joan M. Eyles of the Cotswolds of England, with whom I corresponded, spoke on the telephone, and even visited. Ellis Yochelson stirred interest in a society whose function would include the publication of this journal. With the support of Claude C. Albritton, Michelle L. Aldrich, Douglas A. Bassett, and Walter O. Kupsch, HESS was born, and Kennard B. Bork served as special editor of the first issue of *Earth Sciences History*. I recruited initially as members of the editorial board Michelle L. Aldrich, Kennard B. Bork, Stephen G. Brush, James X. Corgan, John G. Dennis, John F. Dewey, Donald W. Fisher, John Haller, William M. Jordan, Cecil J. Schneer, Hugh S. Torrens, George W. White, and C. Gordon Winder.

As Editorial Associate or Managing Editor the following served the Society: Raymond M. Buyce as inaugural editorial associate whose term of service was followed by managing editors Lori Parrott, Christine Worden, and now Janet B. Hollocher. Buyce holds a Ph.D. degree in geology, Hollocher and Worden Master's degrees in geology, and Parrott a Bachelor's degree in geology and a Master's degree in technical writing. My thanks are extended to these appointees for a job well done.

The home of this journal is the Northeastern Science Foundation Incorporated, a not-for-profit corporation located at the Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology on 15 Third Street in Troy, New York. The Foundation and Center are affiliated with Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. The Foundation's and journal's home consists of three stories plus basement level (29,000 ft<sup>3</sup>) and holds laboratories (X-ray facility and petrographic, sedimentological, and pe-

trophysical laboratories), library, offices, lecture theatre, seminar room, computer facilities, core and sample library, and rock-preparation facilities. Collections of original handwritten manuscripts of 18th- and 19th-century geologists (Wollaston, Humboldt, Buckland, William Smith, Lyell, Sedgwick, Murchison, Dana, Darwin, and many others) and related historical material have been scheduled for museum space on the top floor. These exhibits were to open in 1986, but because of the "crunch" which decimated the geological community, completion of the top floor's exhibits has been postponed.

The Foundation and Center have served as executive and home office for our Society. During the past five years the tasks of the office of the Editor have included, in addition to editorial functions, the preparation and distribution of a membership list, constant updating of members' addresses (quite a task), 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 commonly involves in-house typing and editing of author's copy as well as cutting and pasting of articles improperly prepared. The Northeastern Science Foundation has absorbed much of the cost of these activities probably unbeknown to the members of HESS and to the Board of Directors of the Foundation. As this journal represents a labor of love I took the responsibility as President of the Foundation to help where possible. Unfortunately in 1986 this Foundation was likewise affected by the general downturn that hit the geological community and hence in the future both the Foundation and HESS have to be more cost-conscious.

In line with its commitment to the history of the earth sciences the Northeastern Science Foundation will endow a medal through the Geological Society of London for distinguished research in the field of the history of the earth sciences. The Geological Society will award this medal annually or from time to time on a worldwide basis and, as the

#### COVER ILLUSTRATION:

Photograph courtesy of the Leo Baeck Institute, New York, was prepared from a painting which hangs in the medieval "Aula" of the University of Heidelberg. When the Nazis dismissed Prof. Salomon-Calvi in 1933, his painting likewise vanished from the University grounds. Prof. Werner Fricke of the University of Heidelberg (Human Geography) related to Editor Gerald M. Friedman on his visit to Heidelberg in June 1986 that Mrs. Ernst Plewe, a student of Salomon-Calvi's, discovered this painting in an antique shop and acquired it. After World War II she donated this painting to the University.

guidelines state, without regard to nationality, membership in the Society, race, sex, or religion; the award will not be confined to those with a geological background. The first medal will be awarded in 1988.

For her work as Treasurer of the Foundation and volunteer on matters of HESS, the Society owes a great debt to Sue Friedman. Her contributions have simply been too numerous to list. Part of the Editor's function has been to staff a booth at conventions. This task has always involved Sue Friedman. As examples, in August 1986 Sue went to Australia at her own expense and spent six of her seven days in Australia staffing a booth at the National University of Australia in Canberra promoting our Society and journal, especially our Australian and New Zealand issue. Two months later she occupied a booth at the Convention of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists and Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paleozoique; in March 1986 she staffed a booth at the meeting of the Eastern Section of the Geological Society of America.

At the 12th International Sedimentological Congress in 1986 in Australia, HESS co-sponsored a symposium with the International Convention on the History of the Geological Sciences entitled "Sedimentology: Historical

and Philosophical Perspective". Barry J. Cooper and I were the international convenors. Cooper and Colin G. Gatehouse, editors of our special Australian and New Zealand issue, served as session chairmen. The program included:

Visher, G.S., A history of geological thought.

Osborne, R.A.L., Red earth and bones: the history of cave sediment studies in New South Wales.

Branagen, D.F., Australia's vanishing desert sandstone.

Friedman, G.M., Glimpses of pioneer sedimentologists Johannes Walther and A.W. Grabau: correspondence 1911-1936.

Cooper, B.J., Walter Howchin (1845-1937) and the recognition of Late Proterozoic glaciation.

For this past five years' success story in the history of HESS, especially relating to this journal, I want to thank Ellis Yochelson and Sue Friedman for their important contributions, and the officers of our Society and the Northeastern Science Foundation for their support.

Gerald M. Friedman  
EDITOR