

Editorial

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Editorial

Unusually perceptive readers may notice that in the third and fourth issues we have tried to introduce a little more French on the first two pages of the magazine. In this, we are trying to follow a general move by the Geological Association of Canada to recognize the rights of its French-speaking Fellows: another sign of this activity is the appearance (at last!) of a bilingual membership application form.

We would like to be much more bilingual than we are. Our policy on this matter is the same as that announced in *Geolog*: "normalement tous les articles proposés seront publiés dans leur langue d'origine". We would like also to publish French summaries of all English articles (and vice versa) as well as printing key information about the magazine in both English and French. What keeps us from living up to our wishes is our own linguistic limitations: the editor and his assistant do not have the fluency in French to produce anything but "fractured French" translations. Our self-imposed stringent limitations on publication time simply do not allow us the time to send all summaries out to one of our Francophone editors for a correct translation to be made.

We would like to appeal to prospective authors: please let us have a brief summary in French, if your article is in English. And to Francophone authors, let us add: we would be delighted to have your contribution in French.

Readers might be interested to learn a little more about the way that *Geoscience Canada* is being produced. We have a large editorial board whose duties are to advise the editor on matters of policy and to help find suitable contributions to the magazine. Many of the articles printed in the first four issues have been solicited by one of the editors: we hope that, as the magazine becomes known, we will receive a higher proportion of unsolicited MSS. If you feel the urge to contribute, the best policy is to make contact with the associate editor closest to you, either geographically or in scientific field.

Our MS deadlines are announced in each issue. In future they will be: Feb. 28, May 31, Aug. 31, and Nov. 30. One week after the deadline, we deliver all the copy-edited MSS into the hands of our designer, Dave Bartholomew, at Waterloo University. Meanwhile, our artist, Peter Russell, has been preparing the graphics that enliven the text, and our advertising manager, Ward Chesworth, has been seeking advertising copy. The general layout is decided at a consultation between Chris Barnes, Dave Bartholomew, Ward Chesworth and myself, and the details are then worked out with the printer, Ainsworth Press Ltd. of Kitchener. Design takes about a week, printing about six weeks, and proof-reading (galley and page proofs) about another week. Within two months, the magazine is printed and ready for distribution by Business and Economic Services: the slowness of third class mail delivery may mean that your copy does not reach you for another two to three weeks.

We believe that, short of producing the copy ourselves in a form ready for offset (for example, as the Geological Society of America does for *Geology*), we have reduced publication delay to an absolute minimum. This has been achieved only by sacrificing some valuable things: no referees review our MSS, there is no time to prepare translated abstracts, and authors do not have the opportunity to correct proofs (we do all the proof-reading ourselves). We believe, however, that the timeliness achieved by rapid publication is an essential feature of a magazine such as *Geoscience Canada*. As for refereeing: we put our faith in the reputation of our contributors and in the vigilance of our readers. If you see something that you think needs comment or correction, let us hear about it!

G. V. Middleton