

EDITORIAL: BACKGROUND TO THE JOURNAL

ONE OF the distinctive traits of earth science publishing in English has been the emergence of an increasing number of specialist periodicals: with a single exception structural geology and tectonics have not participated in this trend. The *Journal of Structural Geology* was conceived at Bristol University on 28 September 1977 during a conversation between Peter Henn of Pergamon Press and myself. After approval of the proposal by the publishers in June 1978 work started on assembling this issue and recruiting Editorial Advisors. During the summer of '78 Tony Barber joined me as Associate Editor and Robert Shackleton became Chairman of the Advisory Board.

The *Journal* appears nearly a decade after the inaugural meeting of the Tectonic Studies Group of the Geological Society of London. It is one outcome of the enthusiasm for structural geology generated by the TSG. However, it should be emphasised that the *Journal* is not formally linked to the Group although pleased to report on some of its thematic meetings, for example Cobbold & Ferguson in this issue.

Despite the Editors' aspirations for the coverage of the *Journal* (see "Aims and Scope", inside front cover) they are conscious that many browsers will judge its intended range from the articles in early issues. It may be worth repeating here that the *Journal* wishes to receive articles on any aspect of geological deformation from the scale of the crystal lattice to that of the lithospheric plate. Papers on the structure of a particular region will be welcome provided authors demonstrate the value of their interpretations to geologists not involved with the local details of their area. In addition to research articles, which will comprise the principal contents of the *Journal*, some issues will contain book reviews, and, as in this number, reports of thematic meetings. The Editors

would like to hear from the organisers of meetings outside the U.K. who believe that a short report on their discussions would be of interest to the readership. We also hope that in later issues there will be a correspondence section in which readers and authors will discuss papers which have appeared already. Despite the requirement for some work to be published rapidly, the *Journal* does not intend to have a section for this category of papers. It is suggested that authors who think their article merits accelerated publication should submit their manuscripts in the usual way and explain in a covering letter their reasons for special treatment.

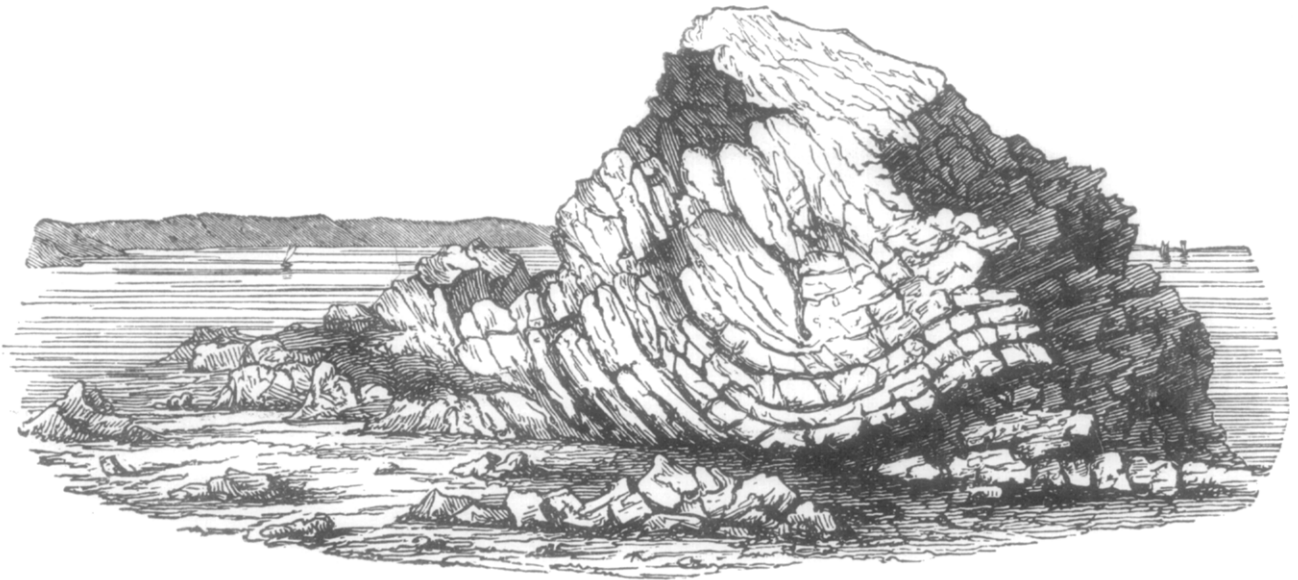
The front cover of each volume will be enlivened by an illustration which will be changed yearly. Some readers might like to know the background to this volume's cover photograph: it shows a fold in Carboniferous limestones at Stackpole Quay, Dyfed, Wales. Figure 1(a) illustrates its present appearance and Fig. 1(b) shows how it appeared to Mrs (later Lady) Murchison when she sketched it to illustrate Murchison's *The Silurian System* published in 1839; the same sketch was used fifteen years later in Sir Roderick's *Siluria*. Incidentally this is also the locality where the Editor commenced his work as a graduate student.

No doubt most readers will be able to imagine the problems of acquiring articles for a new periodical. I am most grateful to the authors of papers in this issue for their faith in submitting their work to a journal which did not exist in physical form. Not only did they respond soon after receiving a letter from me, but also they revised their manuscripts within a few weeks. Their cooperation, that of sixteen referees, and the efforts of Pergamon Press have enabled Volume 1, Number 1, to appear within one year after approval of the enterprise.

PAUL HANCOCK



(a)



(b)

Fig. 1. Hinge zone of a south facing Variscan syncline in Lower Carboniferous limestones at Stackpole Quay, southwest Dyfed (formerly Pembrokeshire), Wales. (a) As exposed in a sea-stack at the present day. (b) As sketched by Mrs (later Lady) Murchison for woodcut illustrations in Murchison's *The Silurian System* (1839, fig. 71) and *Siluria* (1854, p. 272). Reproduced with the kind permission of the publishers, John Murray, London.