

Editorial

RETROSPECTIVE

AS MANY readers will be aware I retired in the middle of 1985 from being Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Structural Geology*. Susan Treagus succeeded me on 1 June although I retained responsibility for Volume 7, which was largely complete by then.

The *JSG* was conceived in Bristol on 28 September 1977 during a meeting with Peter Henn, a Senior Publishing Manager at Pergamon Press. Peter left me with a long questionnaire and, for reasons which are now forgotten, I found the necessary three spare days required to complete it. With the help of advisors (many of whom are now members of the Editorial Board) and Tony Barber, who had volunteered to assist with editing, the formal establishment of the *JSG* followed on 1 June 1978. Our commercial viability within twelve months of launch was largely due to the faith of early contributors and subscribers, principally from mainland Europe (especially France), the U.S.A., Australia, Canada and, not surprisingly, the U.K.

There are two questions which, with suitable rephrasing to distance the speaker from his own anxieties, I have often been asked. What is your rejection rate? How soon can you publish my paper? The table below sets out for Volumes 1 to 7 (1979–1985) some answers to these and other questions.

During seven years of association with the *JSG* the discipline of structural geology has changed its emphasis and I like to think that some of the articles we have published have contributed to its evolution. In this context, and perhaps because of my own prejudices, I am delighted that faulting and the behaviour of the brittle crust are receiving more attention than formerly, and likewise, that structural geology is increasingly perceived by its practitioners as having much to contribute to tectonics.

Editing a scientific periodical is not an activity customarily associated with humour but occasional typo-

graphical errors make proof reading less of a tedious task. For example, I have been told “think skinned thrust belts” and to consider “a piggy-bank sequence”, “slide blocks of erotic material” and “a large polution (*sic.*) of granodiorite”, the latter presumably related to some “unashamed plutons” referred to in the same paper. Even an editor was unlucky enough to end up apparently discussing “mean geologists”.

During the last seven years I have been supported by many people. In particular, I wish to record my gratitude to Peter Henn, Russell Allen and Gail Spencer of Pergamon Press, who have been consistently helpful. Robert Shackleton has been an excellent ‘wise man’ in his role as Chairman of the Advisory Board, the 26 members of which have guided the editors in general policy matters in addition to acting as reviewers when their special expertise was needed. My debt to Tony Barber, Susan Treagus, Peter Hudleston and John Platt is outstanding. They have not only edited more than their fair share of manuscripts but they have also ensured that my infelicities did not make the printed page. In addition to looking after her ‘own authors’, Susan Treagus has also acted as my deputy for the last two years; I am confident that the *JSG* will prosper under her future direction. I welcome David Sanderson who joins the editorial panel to fill the gap caused by my departure; indeed he has been at work since June of this year. During the production of Volumes 1 to 7, the editors have been guided in their selection of articles by over 250 geologists who have reviewed manuscripts and provided authors with much good advice, commonly unacknowledged in the final published paper.

My final thanks go to my wife, Janet, who for many years has put up, fairly cheerfully, with more talk of “The Journal” than it is reasonable to expect anyone to take.

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P. L. Hancock

	Volume number						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Issues	4	4	4	4	6	6	6
Pages	345	475	495	509	633	751	765
Published research articles, discussion and letters	29	50	42	39	57	71	64
Other published items*	6	2	6	4	7	7	5
Research articles, etc. submitted	42	60	67	63	83	114	108
Rejected/withdrawn research articles, etc. (percentage)	31%	17%	37%	38%	31%	38%	41%
Average number of pages of research articles	9.8	8.1	9.5	11.6	9.8	9.7	10.9
Average review time (months)	1.8	2.1†	3.8	3.1	2.6†	3.6†	3.0
Average revision time (months)	1.9	3.4†	2.5	3.7	4.1†	3.7†	3.7
Average press time from date of acceptance (months)	6.2	9.4	5.2	6.3	5.2	7.8	7.6‡

* Includes editorials, prefaces, book reviews, meeting reports.

† Excluding Special Issues.

‡ Excluding issues 5 and 6.