



EDITORIAL

Editors' news

I am pleased to welcome a new Associate Editor to the *Journal of Structural Geology* this year. Joe White (University of New Brunswick, Canada) begins duties on 1 September 1996, and will be our first Canadian editor. He fills a place vacated by the retirement of Steve Wojtal this year.

I should like to thank Steve Wojtal for six years as an Associate Editor of the Journal, for all his careful editorial work with regular manuscripts, and for his recent work coordinating this year's Special Issue on fault populations. I look forward to his continued involvement with JSG, as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board.

Notice of forthcoming special issue

A Special Issue **Structures and Properties of High Strain Zones in Rocks** is proposed for publication in the *Journal of Structural Geology* in 1998. This is a publication arising from an international conference of this title, co-convened by E.H. Rutter and K.H. Brodie (University of Manchester, U.K.) and A. Boriani and L. Burlini (University of Milan, Italy), and held in Verbania, Italy. Publication in the Special Issue is not restricted to conference participants, and contributions are welcome from anyone working on structures and properties of high strain zones in rocks.

The conference convenors set out the context of this topic as follows. "From the scale of plate tectonics to small-scale structures observable in the field, the localization of strain into narrow planar zones is a process of special geodynamic and petrologic significance. Such high strain zones are often characterized by particular microstructural and paragenetic evolutions, which are likely to be reflected in their physical properties. High strain zones can focus the large-scale transport of volatiles, which give these zones importance beyond the scope of tectonics. In the exploration of the lower crust by deep seismic sounding and other techniques, the problems of identification of high strain zones have attracted particular attention. It seems timely, therefore, to bring together scientists working on all aspects of high strain zones, from the geological and geophysical communities."

The submission deadline for the Special Issue is 15 December 1996, to be submitted to S.H. Treagus at the usual JSG address. The conference convenors will be guest Special Editors, who will handle peer reviewing, and the general editing will be from my office. Contributors are requested to comply with the *Journal of Structural Geology's* stated guidelines (see end of this journal issue). The Special Issue must follow a strict timetable for reviewing, revising, editing and proof-reading, in order to meet a desired early 1998 publica-

tion, and contributors will be expected to meet stated deadlines. I look forward to receiving manuscripts and coordinating this exciting new Special Issue.

Update on electronic publication

Readers and authors will be aware that the *Journal of Structural Geology* moved from typesetting of manuscript copy to processing from authors' disks, in recent years. (See Editorial, Vol 17, No.1 1995). We have now progressed to complete electronic text production, by using authors' disks or rekeying, to produce an in-house electronic version. The Journal is not yet fully implemented on Elsevier's Computer Aided Production (CAP) programme, but this is scheduled for the end of the year. Full CAP will mean that all the figures, as well as text, will be published from electronic files, rather than by the current photographic printing methods.

The conversion of the Journal from classical production methods to new electronic production has not been without teething problems. Final manuscripts are submitted on disk using a variety of authors' hardware and word-processing software, which all need converting to Elsevier's CAP standards. The CAP staff at Elsevier are working keenly with Jo Horton, our Production Editor, to iron out some of the inevitable problems. We apologise to authors of papers who may have waited slightly longer for their proofs than they might have expected for disk production, or have been surprised to see some peculiarities or 'glitches', not present on their originals. A few particular aspects of JSG's style (e.g. citation of references) conflict with the CAP standards. We expect to change some of these minor aspects of style to the more standard style of other Elsevier journals, at the end of the year.

I am looking forward to a future promised land of fast and smooth production of papers, electronically. These are exciting times, and Elsevier are in the forefront of current technology in electronic production. Producing text from authors' disks, cutting out the process of rekeying (with its possible error-introduction) is just a small part, and only one benefit, of the new technology. The implications for electronic production, when this is fully implemented to include text *and* illustrations, are much more far reaching. These will open the way for the *Journal of Structural Geology* to be part of the electronic warehouse or 'virtual library', for electronic transmission of JSG to subscribers, and for hypertext links to enable readers to move around the paper, and to move across to other publications. All this was once science fiction! Will the next stage be the replacement of editors by robots?

Susan H. Treagus
August 1996