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1963–1988

This is the final issue of the *Bulletin* and it is appropriate to look back over its twenty-five year history.

The establishment of the series *Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Scientific Reports* in 1953 provided an important outlet for the growing quantity of detailed descriptive material being produced, mainly by geologists working in the Antarctic Peninsula area. By 1961, in the post-International Geophysical Year period, it became clear that the series was no longer suitable for the numbers of shorter scientific papers being produced by Survey staff and *BAS Bulletin* was established by the then Director, Sir Vivian Fuchs. From the outset Fuchs restricted the remit of the *Bulletin* to BAS work and noted that publication would be at irregular intervals.

The first editors were R. J. Adie and G. E. Todd and they remained responsible for the first 55 issues, through to 1982. The original style and format of the journal was due almost entirely to Ray Adie's efforts and his meticulous attention to detail ensured a remarkably polished final product.

Editorial responsibility was taken over first by D. J. Larner and then J. Mitton. During the early 1980s it was important to establish a regular publication schedule for the *Bulletin* and the journal went to four numbers per year. In addition, Jacqueline Mitton changed the cover design and some of the typography. The present editor, B. Moran, took over in 1986 and has been responsible for maintaining high standards in the journal's production.

An important feature of Antarctic science over the past 30 years has been the recognition that in most disciplines much basic descriptive work must be published to provide the essential baseline for later synthesis. Since the journal was financed by the Survey, it was not necessary to restrict severely the length of individual contributions compared with international journals, and it was possible to produce many foldout maps and tables which were especially important for Earth science contributions. This valuable source of published material is now coming into general use as Antarctic science develops to a more sophisticated level.

From its inception in 1963 the *Bulletin* has always used a rigorous internal reviewing system for its papers. Increasingly in the late 1970s it was felt that more independent refereeing was necessary and mandatory external reviewing was introduced for all papers by the early 1980s.

During its 25 years the *Bulletin* has published over 725 papers and short notes. The material was, to begin with, mainly geological but with increasing biological studies the balance changed until some issues came to be almost completely dominated by papers on the life sciences. Regrettably, throughout its history, the journal has failed to attract any significant input from either glaciology or atmospheric sciences.

The journal was created to meet a specific need and it has fulfilled this objective admirably. Its editors have worked hard to ensure a high quality product and the frequency of citation of many of the *Bulletin* papers by other Antarctic scientists has clearly demonstrated its value.

However, the tempo and nature of Antarctic science have changed considerably during the last decade and organizations such as the British Antarctic Survey involved in the development and implementation of timely and effective research programmes must look towards the best vehicles for the dissemination of results. A house journal no longer seems the most appropriate mechanism to publish our work. It is for this reason alone that the *BAS Bulletin* ends its honourable career with this issue.

D. J. DREWRY

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