

The last issue of *Meteoritics* was the last to appear under John Wasson's editorship and, on behalf of the Society, we wish to pay tribute to him for his major contributions to the Society and its journal over the last four years.

The Meteoritical Society exists to promote the collection and study of meteorites and a variety of other extraterrestrial materials. It chooses to do so through the media of the annual meetings and *Meteoritics*. Both functions consume considerable amount of time and effort on the part of their organizers, but they are the life-blood of the Society. As one illustrious member once put it, if the meetings are the heart of the Society, the journal is its soul. Like the meetings, the journal has grown steadily over the years, and each editor has made major contributions. This is especially true of John Wasson, who has exerted exceptional energy in the pursuit of a quality journal.

Probably John's major contributions are in the manner in which he actively and energetically sought out good papers, and the way in which he shepherded a steady, inexorable growth in institutional subscriptions. Most of us were very pleased with the physical transformations to the journal which John and his cohorts brought to pass. Surely the format of the journal is a practical matter, as well as an aesthetic one. The increased flexibility of the large-page, two-column format makes the journal more attractive as a place to publish, and it also means that a greater variety of papers can be published with the maximum degree of clarity. But in addition to making these format changes, John worked extremely hard, through all possible devices—telephone calls, letters and meeting conversations—to increase the quality of papers in the journal. He also took a particularly active role in improving papers through his editorial involvement by making constructive suggestions, performing additional calculations and generally interacting with the participants involved with a highly characteristic and precise style.

Also part of his success in attracting quality papers was the establishment of an editorial board, which will probably be John Wasson's most important legacy. The health of any journal lies in the productive interchange of ideas, which is greatly catalyzed by an active and authoritative team of associate editors. This is especially true of such a multidisciplinary field as ours. To the Society's great fortune, John assembled a truly impressive team of associate editors. The result has been a journal which, by common consent, has improved considerably over the last few years and shows every sign of continuing to do so.

Equally close to John's heart as quality papers was the number of institutional subscriptions which is, as he has rightly pointed out, a major factor in the well-being of the journal. Again the format changes helped, but so did the letters to members and their librarians and the vocal reminders that became a regular feature of Society meetings. During John's tenure as Editor, there was a steady growth in institutional subscriptions by about



25% over the four years, and this was at a time when most universities were holding emergency meetings to deal with slashed library budgets.

Regular readers of *Meteoritics* will know also that when John stood down, the journal also lost the services of Alan Rubin and Greg Kallemeyn, the UCLA managing editors. An acknowledgment of the services performed for *Meteoritics* by John Wasson would be very incomplete without acknowledging their considerable contribution. Alan took care of manuscripts, steering them through the review and copy-editing process, while Greg looked after business matters. Both contributions are essential and were performed with great professionalism. But beyond this, both Alan and Greg were actively concerned in the overall management of the journal and both cared deeply about its well-being. It was very obvious at meetings that the solicitation of good material, the number of institutional subscriptions, and the general health of the journal was never far from their minds. In fact, it is impossible to imagine three persons so unlike, yet capable of welding into such an effective team.

We look forward to the continued participation of John Wasson and his team in the Society's affairs and in its research efforts. We are sure that it will be a vigorous and constructive one. Now, freed of the tasks of editorship, they can more fully enjoy the journal, the Society meetings, and, of course, writing their abstracts and articles for the journal, carefully prepared according to the new editor's guidelines.

Ed Anders, President  
Derek Sears, Editor