

This is the first issue under my editorship, and it is made rather special for me since I begin my duties in 1992. Not only is this year the 500th anniversary of Columbus' American landfall, some 487 years before my own, but it is also the 500th anniversary of the Ensisheim meteorite. Ensisheim has a special significance for our subject and for all of us, and it gives me great satisfaction that Ursula Marvin's major work on this topic appears in this issue. In tracing the history of this meteorite, Dr. Marvin not only provides us with a new look at the history of meteorite research, but she explores, I think for the first time, some of the influences meteorites have exerted on people and politics. Her article should be the starting point for some interesting new sociological and historical studies of meteorites.

This issue is also made special for me because it is the first issue of *Meteoritics* to contain the award papers of both the Leonard and Barringer medalists. Victor Masaitis gives us a new and pragmatic view of craters, while Don Clayton's article takes us through his efforts to understand isotopic properties of meteorites which is, in the words of one of the referees, "easy to read yet painting a canvas whose study will be scientifically rewarding."

I am most grateful to Drs. Marvin, Masaitis and Clayton, and the seven external reviewers who worked so very hard to bring us this special issue.

But, of course, the mainstay of the journal is its research articles. Our cover serves to draw attention to the work of Christophe Michel-Levy and Bourot-Denise whose major study of 250 micrometeorites appears in this issue. These authors argue that the micrometeorites originated from sources resembling carbonaceous chondrites. Also in this issue, Cresswell and Herd report on investigations to see whether Greenland ice sheets are collecting meteorites in a manner analogous to the Antarctic ice sheets. Apparently they are not. Treiman discusses the remarkable coincidence that two members of a very rare class of meteorites should have fallen on the same day of the year. Our final research article is from Keller and co-workers who describe Maralinga, another of the extraordinary and rare metamorphosed carbonaceous chondrites. There are also three notes in this issue. Bevan and co-workers describe Tabbita, a new L6 chondrite from New South Wales, Fudali and Fredriksson take issue with Murali and co-workers on whether glasses from Lonar Crater are extraterrestrial, and Hofmann applies uranium series dating to the weathering products of the Canyon Diablo meteorite in an effort to date the impact.

This issue of the journal is therefore particularly diverse and well-packed, and I think it accurately reflects the activity and

foremost, the Society's journal. It is a reflection of the quality and breadth of the membership; after all, we can only publish material we are sent.

The history of *Meteoritics*, the Society's main journal, has been one of steady and inexorable growth. Before 1953 the Society's "journal" was, in fact, a section in another journal (*Popular Astronomy*), but in that year it became an independent but irregularly published journal under the editorships of Lincoln LePaz and then Dorrit Hofflit. Then in 1974, under Carleton Moore, the journal became a regular quarterly and reached very respectable scores in *Current Contents'* impact rating. In 1988, it assumed the present large-format, two-column guise, run essentially by a team of associate editors led by John Wasson. The new review process is already being highly effective in seeing that papers reach their highest potential for the benefit of readers, authors, and the journal. There is every reason to think that the growth in the journal will continue. The distribution of the journal is good and well-targeted; the format is attractive and versatile; reprints are cheap; and publication schedules are comparable to those of the monthly journals. It is my aim that 25% of submitted papers appear in the next issue and that 75% appear within 6 months. The journal currently finds its way into most of the world's major university libraries, and the journal will become even more attractive as the rates charged by the commercial publishers increasingly paralyze our university libraries. Michael Lipschutz, the financial editor, will work with me to ensure that we take full advantage of the opportunity that commercial greed presents us.

In this my first editorial, I also want to list several persons to whom I feel a sense of gratitude for support while assuming the reins. First and foremost are the associate editors who have shown unbelievable grace and patience while I tried to collect ideas and inspiration; then there are Ross Taylor, Ed Anders, Mike Lipschutz and Doug MacDougal who have been marvelous cheerleaders, although they lack all the necessary attributes; and there is the Barringer Crater Company who not only provided funds to purchase the hardware for the new *Meteoritics* office, but who, in the form of Paul Barringer, provided equally important moral support. Finally, there are the essential Joyce Roth and Hazel, my wife, who have seen me through the daily turmoils associated with assembling this first issue and who hopefully plan to see me through the next few.

Derek W. G. Sears
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