

Along with the publication of *Meteoritics*, the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society is arguably the Society's most important function. Both the meetings and the journal have shown steady growth, from the first meeting in Chicago (1933), to the first outside the U.S. (Tübingen, 1971), and to the first outside the U.S. and Europe (Perth, 1990). Attendance at the annual meetings has increased from four participants at Chicago to 400 at Monterey in 1991. Since its formation in 1953, *Meteoritics* has always published accounts of the annual meetings, first by simply listing titles and authors and then by reproducing entire abstracts.

But the meetings have not only increased in size. The quality and variety of presentations have also grown. With this issue of *Meteoritics* we take the growth a step further. We will now publish five issues of *Meteoritics* per year; the extra issue, co-published with the Lunar and Planetary Institute, is devoted entirely to the annual meeting of the Society. The meeting/abstract issue will be handed out to registrants at the meeting and mailed to regular subscribers of *Meteoritics*.

The decision to publish five issues was made by the Editorial Board of *Meteoritics* with the concurrence of the Council. Equally important, we have received enthusiastic endorsement from the Organizing Committee for 1992 who made important sug-

gestions as to how to proceed. The meeting/abstract issue means that we avoid the duplicate publication of the past years, and it allows for more articles in the December issue. It also means that good quality half-tone photographs can be published in the volume that is distributed at the meeting and that the preparation of meeting abstracts is somewhat simplified since they do not have to be camera-ready. The price we pay, of course, is that modification of abstracts after the meeting is impossible, but this opportunity was used very little in the past.

I want to express my thanks to all those who made the production of this meeting/abstract issue possible. First the authors, who had to contend with a strange new way of preparing their abstracts. Then there is the active Editorial Board; a responsive Council, in particular President Ed Anders; a cooperative local Organizing Committee led by Vagn Buchwald; an ever-professional Lunar and Planetary Institute staff, especially the Departments of Program Services and Publication Services; and Theresa Pickel and the staff at Allen Press. I also thank my irreplaceable colleagues at Fayetteville, Hazel Sears and Joyce Roth.

Derek Sears
1992 July