

From the Editors

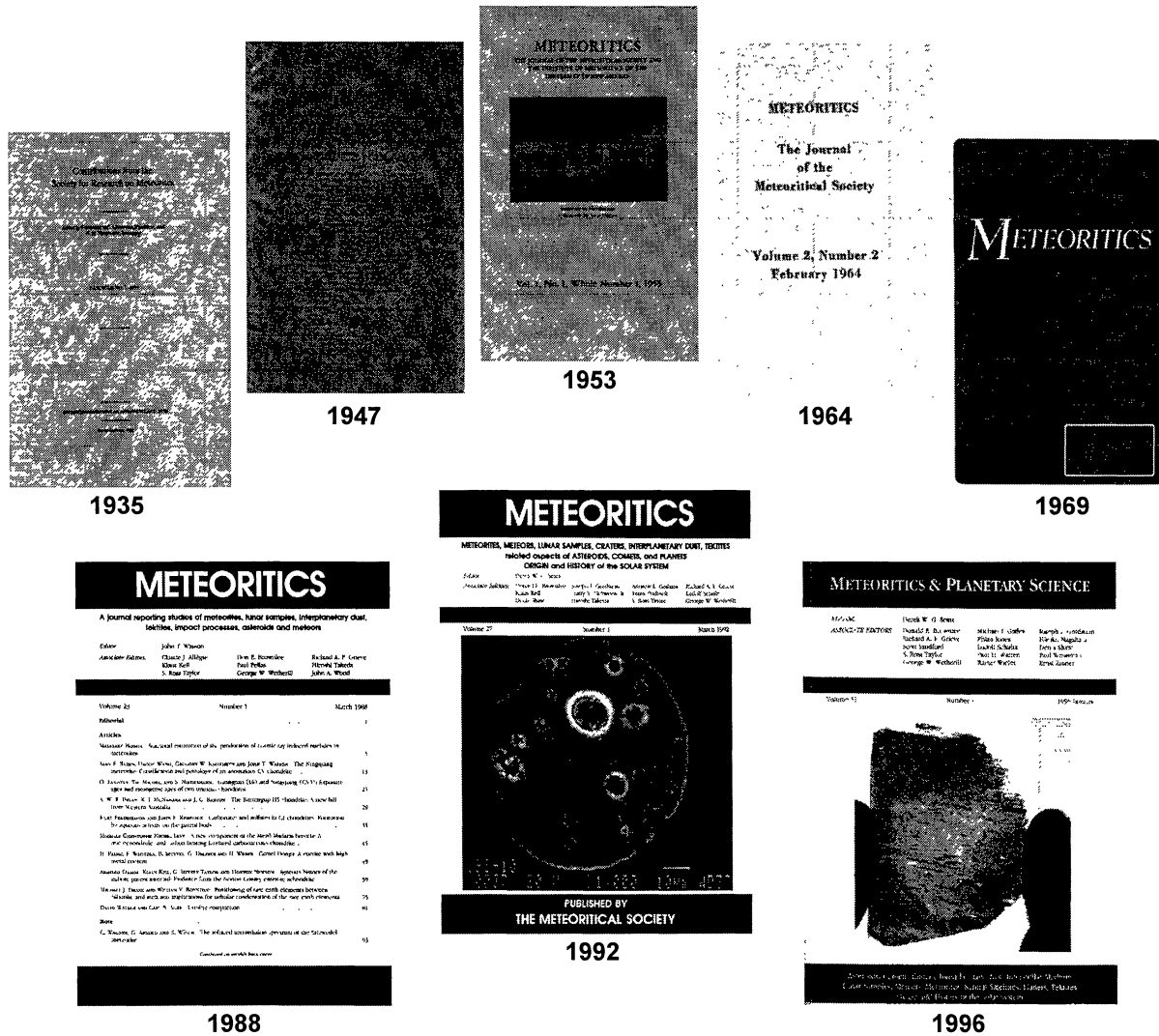


FIG. 1. The heritage of *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* and a tribute to the past editors who created and nurtured the journal. From 1933–1957 the journal was under the editorship of Fredrick Leonard. Items relating to the Society were published from 1935–1945 in *Popular Astronomy* and annually bound into fascicles issued as *Contributions of the Society for Research on Meteorites* (CSRSM). In 1946 the Society renamed itself "The Meteoritical Society" and the fascicles became *Contributions of The Meteoritical Society* (CMS). *Popular Astronomy* ceased publication in 1951. In 1952, with Fredrick Leonard still as editor and with Lincoln LaPaz as associate editor, the journal was renamed *Meteoritics* and was cosponsored by the University of New Mexico. Dorrit Hoffleit edited the journal from 1963 to 1968. In 1968 the editorship was assumed by Carleton Moore. In 1988 John Wasson oversaw the journal's transmutation into its present form, in which the journal is run by a team of associate editors. In 1992 the present editorial team assumed responsibility, and the journal assumed its present name in 1996.

**Meteoritics and Planetary Science
 in the next millenium**

For the January 2000 issue, with which I begin my third term as Editor, I asked several colleagues who had played important parts in the evolution of the journal to write short editorials. I asked them to avoid anything that could be construed as self-congratulation for the journal but to think about future opportunities and pitfalls. Their thoughts are rich and varied. More than anything I could write, their words demonstrate the reasons why *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* has grown so much in the last decade. A great many people care deeply about the journal.

President Drake and associate editor Shaw concern themselves with pitfalls that could befall *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*.

While being confident that the journal is currently a bargain, Mike Drake cautions us not to let the price of the journal rise faster than its value. Denis Shaw laments the use of publication to further funding and careers rather than Science, a sentiment that has been expressed in editorials in *Nature*. Surely both these appeals merit our deepest consideration.

Ursula Marvin makes a number of suggestions. Along with Bill Hartmann and Richard Grieve, Ursula especially advocates greater use of digital methods of doing business. Richard and Bill have been strong advocates of electronic publication for several years, and it was mainly through their efforts that our journal is now available in electronic form. However, there is also a strong case for continuing to publish hard copy because, as Bill Hartmann argues persuasively, we must avoid putting a "weak link" in the chain of knowledge.