

From the Editors

Logos and special publications for the Society

This supplement to *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* for 2002 carries the logo that has been used by our journal for the last 11 years. Carleton Moore used the hieroglyphic symbol for heavenly iron on the journal during his tenure. I chose something from my childhood. I was probably first excited by space and materials from space by the *Larouse Encyclopedia of Astronomy* and by a particular illustration. The illustration showed a meteor shower over a classical and very familiar European landscape, a landscape of hedges, houses, trees, church steeples in silhouette and a mighty heavenly display of grains from space as they disintegrated in the atmosphere. Space was yielding unto us its precious grains. It is said that we are driven by our childhood and this is a part of mine. The image carried me well through my 11 years as editor of MAPS.

This supplement contains a number of special publications the editors thought the Society would want published that we could not include in a regular journal issue. I think of them as service items, although this is a poor term. A discussion of the law of meteorite ownership, some discussions of particular meteorites, the final five oral histories from Ursula Marvin, and inventories for collections that cannot publish their own catalogs, .

Editors are inevitably faced with conflict. Usually it involves authors, sometimes it is authors and reviewers, very occasionally authors and associate editors, and—as the history of the Meteoritical Society journal ably illustrates—sometimes it involves the Editor and Council. In this case, I was faced with a conflict between my commitments to authors and not

having a place to publish these particular items besides a regular journal issue. At one point I was tempted to publish these papers in the December issue, the last opportunity I would have, but I received an e-mail from a very senior member of our Society who has worked as hard as I have for the Society and the journal, and who has gained, over a very long and very productive career in meteorite research, a particular insight into our Society and the personalities involved. My correspondent wrote:

But I am sure you have heard more than enough of such chatter. I am writing today because I am much concerned that, inasmuch as you and the Associate Editors made the decision to eliminate soft materials from MAPS, you will be going against your strongest convictions, and theirs, by printing [my article] in the December issue. I feel more strongly as each hour passes that you shouldn't do this. You may think you have nothing to lose, but you actually could lose the moral support of some of your best friends. Yes, I have worked hard, but I have enjoyed it, but in a time of crisis like this one you should stick to your guns.

As Editor, I have always sought and taken advice from people I respect. So in response to commitments I have made to friends and colleagues, the well-considered convictions of the editors of MAPS, and the powerful words of this colleague-correspondent, we have produced this supplement. My last.

Derek Sears
Editor
