

Editorial: New science for old strata

“Stratigraphy is what makes science out of geology” - Yuri Gladenkov, 2004

This new journal is dedicated to the proposition: *If geology is the application of all other sciences to the study of the earth, then stratigraphy is the application of all other geological disciplines to the study of earth history.* It was from stratigraphic hypotheses — not theories based on physics or chemistry or biology — that the framework of geology was created in order to explain the properties of layered rocks, as described by Andrew and Charlene Miall in this issue.

Over the past half century, new applications have added extraordinary power to stratigraphy, but their very breadth and diversity have also required stratigraphers to become more and more specialized in order to make a contribution.

We believe that the time is ripe to bring these advances to bear on our fundamental goals. To this end, we invite contributions that use modern stratigraphic tools — biostratigraphy, chemostratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy, cyclostratigraphy, sequence stratigraphy, tectonostratigraphy, climatostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy, and more — to explore broad ideas in earth history.

The identity of “Stratigraphy”

As an international peer-reviewed journal, our only criterion for publication is the willingness and ability of authors to meet the standards set by our reviewers, whom we select to represent the interests of the profession as a whole and not as advocates of particular schools of thought.

As a sister journal to *Micropaleontology*, now in its 50th year, *Stratigraphy* shares production values, editorial style and management with its elder sibling.

As a product of Micropaleontology Press, the journal is issued by an independent, non-profit organization that is supported entirely by its publications and activities in the promotion of the stratigraphic sciences.

As a non-commercial journal, *Stratigraphy* will provide free space for professional notices, as well as maintaining close cooperative relationships with societies, national organizations and the International Commission on Stratigraphy.

This first issue is dedicated to our colleague and good friend William V. Sliter, late of the US Geological Survey. Bill Sliter, Emile Pessagno and Charles Blome were the self-appointed committee that cornered the editor of Micro Press during the 1996 GSA meeting, to make the case for a new journal on basic stratigraphy. We deeply regret that the wheels moved so slowly that Bill did not get to see this first issue. We also would like to express our gratitude to Howard E. Harper (SEPM), Robert Harington (Blackwells Publishing), and Linus Lam (Thincode Inc.) for their help in realizing this goal. Special thanks are owed to Médard Thiry, École des Mines, Fontainebleau, who arranged with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France for the reproduction of the magnificent Cuvier and Brongniart lithograph that will be our cover icon.

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