

Editorial

For some time the number of manuscripts received by the Journal—a number which continues to grow—has been so large that the editors have been obliged to adopt a more selective policy. The alternative would be to accumulate a backlog of manuscripts and so to increase the critical time interval between receipt and publication, and this we consider undesirable.

The editors are of the opinion that the time has come when modern petrology can be presented in a similar way to chemistry or physics and that significant papers could be substantially shorter than has become customary in geological writing. Obviously, if authors will cooperate, we can overcome many of the current difficulties and still achieve the objective of the journal: to provide rapid communication of new ideas of global interest.

Some proposals are offered below as to how the required reduction of unduly lengthy manuscripts may be effected.

The following can often be omitted or reduced to the barest minimum consistent with a clear presentation of the author's procedure, data and conclusions: introductory remarks, outlines of previous work, reviews of earlier ideas readily available in the literature, details of analytical procedure, lists of samples, localities, tables of individual experimental runs.

Lengthy analytical tables will only be accepted if the individual values are of special significance. Normally, range of variation, mean values and standard deviations should be sufficient. The reader may be told in a footnote that additional data can be obtained from the author.

Data should not be duplicated in tables and graphs. Often a single sentence would cover all that is shown by a figure; the interested reader could then plot it for himself.

The author should consider the possibility that separate diagrams and illustrations could be combined to form a plate. Photographs, especially microphotographs, should be strictly limited in both number and size.

All manuscripts should be carefully and neatly typed. The editors cannot undertake detailed technical editing and correction of spelling, grammar, punctuation etc. Therefore, papers with imperfect presentation will not normally be accepted.

Manuscripts of local rather than general interest have to be rejected. A good many manuscripts, while containing material of general significance, include so much description of local geology as to render them unacceptable for this journal. To maintain the spread of topics covered by the journal, the editors may reject some manuscripts simply on the ground that they offer yet another example of some well-known phenomenon already amply covered in recent issues.