

EDITORIAL

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THEMATIC ISSUE: MIDDLE EAST AND AUSTRALIA: AN EDITORIAL

This issue, devoted to the Middle East and Australia, starts out with historical perspectives. The first paper introducing the Middle Eastern theme, relates to the efforts in the 1960's of the Research Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in promoting a project in the Arabian Gulf, then generally known as the Persian Gulf. Photographs from the 1960's, predating the area's urban sprawl, show exposures in their early pristine setting. Following this historical perspective, papers discuss carbonates and evaporites from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, and Iran. The paper from Iran needs special comment. One of this journal's reviewers of this paper was Arthur (Art) A. Meyerhoff. Art was already debilitated and in the final throes of his fatal sickness, yet he provided an excellent review that was both positive and supportive. From my many years in the editorial chair, dating back to 1964 when I was elected editor of the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrography*, I can assure the reader that such reviews are exceptional. The senior author of the Iran paper Morteza Momenzadeh sent, together with his galleys, a letter to Art thanking him for his help and asking him to reread the paper now after revision "and let me know your comments". Unfortunately Art is now no longer available to help, he is really missed by the entire geological community.

The thematic papers on Australia begin with historical accounts by Rhodes W. Fairbridge and Curt Teichert on their coral-reef research in Australia in the early 1940's. Fairbridge, now in his eighties and Teichert in his nineties had planned to rewrite these papers and co-author them, but Teichert is now wheelchair-bound, and his priorities unfortunately had to shift. The final thematic papers deal with carbonates from eastern and western Tasmania, Australia.

Following the thematic papers this issue ends with a paper on Cambrian carbonates from Argentina.

Although all papers in this issue are rendered in the English language some of the authors do not conduct their daily business in English, hence their efforts to write their research results in English are especially appreciated. The editors have made an effort to help, but have time constraints. So please be understanding, if sentence structure does not conform to the Anglican convention.