

OCEANOGRAPHY MAGAZINE: FORM AND FUNCTION

By David A. Brooks

*On behalf of the Editorial Board
of The Oceanography Society*

In these times of superabundant pages, it's fair to ask, "Why do I need something else to read?" *Oceanography Magazine*, we contend, will ease the information overload by bringing together in one place readable, concise, and interesting accounts of the activities of ocean scientists. In full development, the magazine is intended to serve as the oceanographers' professional focus — our touchstone and standard bearer.

In practical terms, the magazine will feature short articles that review contemporary topics and direct readers elsewhere for exhaustive detail. News and information items will keep us current on important events at institutions, facilities, agencies, and laboratories. A special section will highlight activities and concerns of oceanography graduate students. Regular departments will cover meeting reports, book reviews, ship activities, computers and instruments, historical perspectives — the list seems endlessly rich. In short, the magazine will chronicle the multifaceted comings and goings of ocean scientists.

Manuscript material may be submitted to the editor or to one of the associate editors, whose names, addresses, disciplinary affiliations, and Telemail/Omnet addresses are listed on the title page. We request that written material be submitted by electronic mail whenever possible, as this will speed the editing and reviewing process and avoid the time and expense of keyboarding.

Articles may also be submitted as files on magnetic disks, with Apple's Macintosh format preferred. Other formats can be accommodated, but conversion delays may result. We will of course consider typewritten, double-spaced manuscript material, when electronic or disk transfers are impossible or impractical, but in those cases additional time for keyboarding will be needed. Submitted material will be reviewed for style, relevance, and quality by the editors and, when appropriate, by anonymous external reviewers.

We will adopt the stylistic conventions of the

Journal of Physical Oceanography for references, abbreviations, units, etc.; authors should consult the cover notes from a recent issue of that publication.

The magazine will feature brief articles, critical essays, and concise reviews dealing with topics of trans-disciplinary interest. In general the expected style of writing is more compact and less technical than that appropriate for a scientific journal or a topical newsletter. An author should keep in mind that his audience may include, in addition to oceanographers from any of the traditional disciplines, a scientifically literate readership with a wide range of interests and responsibilities. In practice, verbal and mathematical jargon must be avoided; instead the article should emphasize the aspects of the topic that give it broad interest and appeal. This is a demanding task, perhaps best approached, as E. B. White once suggested, "by way of plainness, simplicity, orderliness, sincerity." Those accustomed to higher authority may prefer Ecclesiastes' stern dictum: "The more words, the more vanity."

The magazine presently imposes no "page charges" for published text, black-and-white photographs, or line drawings. High quality color negatives will be considered for covers or internal pages, if the use of color enhances the issue, but authors must bear the incremental costs of color reproduction.

There will be a certain amount of creaking and groaning as we get this magazine under way, as cables and timbers adjust to new strains. It will take time to settle into a comfortable format, time to find an acceptable routine. Along the way, procedures are bound to change and housekeeping inevitably will be needed. But in spite of the initial turbulence, the guiding principle and editorial policy of *Oceanography Magazine* will remain steadfast and inviolate: we intend to serve, promote, and chronicle all aspects of ocean science and its applications, and we invite you to join in the adventure.

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