

EDITORIAL

On February 1st, 1967, the East Midlands Geological Society will enter its fourth year of existence. Constitution specifies that the President and Ordinary Members shall not be available for re-election for more than three successive years; thus, at this point in time, the original Council, appointed when the Society was formed, will cease to exist.

Our President, Mr. Peter C. Stevenson, will have already left us, since he is departing in December to take up an appointment with the Geological Survey in Tasmania. Mr. Stevenson was born on 21st May 1928, at Ferring-by-Sea, Sussex. He studied at the University of Birmingham from 1950 to 1954, obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then took up appointment with Site Investigations Co. Ltd., of Southall, Middlesex: this involved geological work in South, Central and North Africa, Iran, the Persian Gulf region and Iraq. In 1960 he took up appointment as Research Assistant in the Department of Physics, Royal Holloway College, London, where the successful presentation of a thesis on ground-water problems in the Middle East obtained for him the degree of Master of Science. In 1962 he took up appointment as Lecturer in Geology in Nottingham & District Technical College (now Nottingham Regional College of Technology); since that date, he has been undertaking research on diamonds at Nottingham University under the supervision of Professor W.D. Evans. Mr. Stevenson was a founder member of the East Midlands Geological Society; his steady leadership during the difficult early years has been a major contributory factor in the success of the Society. I am sure he carries with him, to his new home and appointment, the good wishes of all our members.

The original Council of the Society comprised, in addition to the present Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, the following eight members:- Miss F.I. Brindley, Mr. R.E. Elliott, Dr. T.D. Ford, Mr. P.M. Hanford, Mr. D.J. Salt, Mr. P.H. Speed, Dr. F.M. Taylor and Mr. R.J.A. Travis. Of the original Council, five were members of the group whose prior discussions brought the Society to birth - Dr. Frank Taylor, Mr. Edmund Taylor, Miss Brindley, Mr. John Travis and the writer: all others were founder members present at the formal inauguration. Miss Brindley and Mr. Salt resigned from Council at the first Annual General Meeting in 1965, Miss Brindley for family reasons and Mr. Salt on leaving Nottingham: Mrs. D.M. Morrow and Mr. L.J. Willies were elected in their stead. All six remaining original Ordinary members of Council now resign and cease to be available for immediate re-election in that capacity.

It has been decided by Council that the Presidential Address, which normally follows the Annual General Meeting, shall be replaced by a Foundation Lecture, to be given by a member of the Society but not necessarily by the President. This is not a stop-gap decision precipitated by Mr. Stevenson's departure; it is designed to lift from the shoulders of future Presidents, the burden of commitment to preparation of as many as 3 annual addresses - a burden which might well deter amateur geologists from accepting the office. Other proposed changes are increases in subscription rates (rendered unavoidable by the steep rise in printing and postal costs over the last 3 years) and the institution of appointment of local representatives; these matters will have been settled at an Extraordinary General Meeting before this goes to press.

The recent Nottingham meeting of the British Association proved both successful and interesting, though it is to be regretted that so few members of our Society were able to participate. The Society's exhibit, in the Geology Department of the University, attracted considerable attention. Unfortunately, "Mercian Geologist" 1:4 did not appear in time to be featured; as a result of circumstances outside the control of the Editorial Board, publication was delayed for fully three months.

Once again, it is my pleasure to record my thanks for those associated in the production of the current "Mercian Geologist"; to the members of the Editorial Board for their ever-willing assistance and

for their support, and in particular to Mrs. D.M. Morrow, Dr. Frank Taylor, and their band of assistants for arranging the collation of the journal; this has brought a considerable reduction in costs. Professor W. David Evans has again generously supported us in our work at many levels; Mr. John Eyett again assisted in photography; and Mr. T. Foster prepared the new frontispiece. Our panel of referees has functioned with its usual anonymous efficiency; and ultimately, of course, all credit lies with the authors of papers, on the interest of whose results depends the reputation of the "Mercian Geologist".

We were distressed to learn, early in November, of the death of the Society's first Honorary Member, Emeritus Professor Henry Hurd Swinnerton. Professor Swinnerton, first Professor of Geology at Nottingham University, was a major figure in research on many aspects of Midlands geology; he was also a great populariser of the subject and his numerous books have been of immense value to many generations of amateur geologists. (An obituary is included in this number). In his passing, English geology has suffered an irreparable loss.

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