

Editorial

The IV International Symposium on the Ordovician System was held in Norway in August 1982 and followed similar meetings in France (1971), Great Britain (1974) and the U.S.A. (1977). The Symposium was sponsored and partly financed by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and numerous oil companies, but it was left to the "Friends of the Ordovician" to organise. This group has no constitution, and membership is open to all with interest in "things Ordovician". The friends, via Reuben J. Ross Jr. and Stig M. Bergström approached me in 1977, suggested the date and venue of the fourth symposium, and gave me a free hand in organising the programme and meetings. From the start I came to rely heavily on the support of Valdar Jaanusson and much later especially Henry Williams. Valdar Jaanusson and I decided that part of the programme should be devoted to the presentation of those aspects of the Ordovician System such as climate, volcanicity, global transgressions and regressions etc., often neglected yet so important in their bearing on the more commonly studied stratigraphy and faunas. The former aspects have been given scant attention, so much so that some of the lecturers invited to present individual themes had to start preparation from scratch often using only a few published results.

This book contains twenty of the invited thematic lectures presented on two days of the Symposium and it is hoped that their content

and style of presentation will be of general interest to the specialist and non-specialist alike.

I take this opportunity of thanking all authors for agreeing to lecture and for meeting the December '82 dead-line set for submission of manuscripts. These have since been assessed by a number of referees, some of whom wish to remain anonymous. Nevertheless I wish to thank Henry Williams, Alan W. Owen and David A. T. Harper for their assistance. Hans Arne Nakrem kindly re-drafted some of the original text-figures and Elisabeth Sundholm re-typed sections of manuscript where necessary.

All views expressed in the papers represent the opinion of the authors as of 1 June 1983, after which date no amendments or additions have been made to manuscripts.

The following sponsors are thanked for financial contributions which enabled this book to be published:

Norsk Hydro A/S
Statoil
Total Marine Norsk A/S
Elf Aquitaine Norge A/S
Norsk Getty Exploration A/S
Norske Esso A/S
British Petroleum

David L. Bruton
Paleontologisk Museum,
Sars gate 1,
Oslo 5.
Norway.

Reference to this volume

It is suggested that either of the following alternatives should be used for future bibliographic reference:

BRUTON, D. L. (ed.) 1984. *Aspects of the Ordovician System*. Palaeontological Contributions from the University of Oslo, No. 295, Universitetsforlaget.

JAANUSSON, V. 1984. What is so special about the Ordovician? pp. 1-3 *In* Bruton, D. L. (ed.). *Aspects of the Ordovician System*. Palaeontological Contributions from the University of Oslo, No. 295, Universitetsforlaget.