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Plankton Sheets - Editors Report 1979 - 80

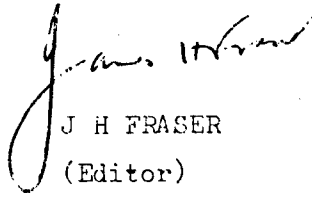
Progress has again been slow during the past year and only two sheets have been processed, bringing the total produced, to date, to 164. These are 163 on Cirripede larvae by Dr W H Lang of Rhode Island and 164 on Trachymedusae by Dr F S Russell of Plymouth. Although there are still a few promises to hand these are becoming increasingly difficult to realise. There have been a few cancellations of promises, and a few potential authors have regretfully been informed that their promises have been cancelled by the editor because of no progress or even replies to letters for many years.

It is therefore opportune for the committee to discuss the future of the series so as to make their recommendations known to the Council for them to consider. There are now very few plankton groups of significance yet to be produced and you should consider if it is economically sound to continue producing the series on its present basis. The series has certainly been very worthwhile.

If it is considered desirable to continue this might well be on the basis of revisions of the present sheets some of which are outdated and others are in need of amendments. I have been editor now for 27 years, work which has given me a great deal of satisfaction as I have felt it to be so useful. I am now in my 70s and retired from active plankton research for some 10 years and thus getting more and more out of touch with recent plankton research and its developments. If a new policy of continued production of the sheets is decided on it would be better to start with a new and younger editor. I therefore ask the Council to accept my resignation to date from such time as a replacement can be found.

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I thank the Council for all the help and encouragement I have received over the period of my editorship.


J H FRASER
(Editor)

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW EDITOR OF THE PLANKTON SHEETS

1. In his Editor's Report on the Plankton Sheets (Doc. C.M.1980/L:38 - copy attached), Dr J H Fraser asked the Council to accept his resignation as Editor after 27 years of service.

If the resignation is accepted, it will be for the Council to appoint a successor, but the Council will no doubt seek the advice of the Bureau.

2. Dr Fraser has, as he says, been Editor of these sheets in 27 years. Of the 164 sheets so far published, Dr Fraser has edited 110.

Over the years the Plankton Sheets have become one of the most popular and wide-spread of the Council's publications, they are probably not lacking in any of the institutions for research and education in marine biology in the area they cover. The large number of sheets sold annually also shows that they are much in use, institutions buy new ones as the sheets are worn out by use.

It is perhaps not generally known that Dr Fraser has undertaken a very detailed lay-out and editing of each sheet, in order to ensure that they should be as handy and practical to use as possible.

3. Dr Fraser suggests that the future of this series should be considered, and he raises the question, if the production on the present basis is economically sound. In this context the following information may be of interest.

The cost of publication varies from year to year but the total cost for the last five years for which there is full information has been about D.Kr. 67,000. The total income from sale for these years was D.Kr. 58,600. In addition comes the value of free distribution of copies to member countries (about 225 copies). Twenty sheets were produced over this five years' period; the price of the 10 first ones is D.Kr. 5.00 each, of the others D.Kr. 8.00 each. The total value of the free distribution copies to member countries for these five years was, therefore, about D.Kr. 28,000.