EDITORIAL

IUGS Publishing Activity Accelerates

Several years ago IUGS began the publication of a new series of numbered reports, the results of the scientific activities of its commissions and other constituent bodies. Earlier the Union had followed a policy, developed largely by Anders Martinsson (see Personal Profile this issue), whereby larger and more substantial works were issued through established scientific publishing houses. Grouped into two series, A and B, depending mainly on the page size, these works were marketed by those publishers and not by the Union. IUGS did however publish a short, unnumbered series of reviews, some of which were reprints of journal articles. A list of these earlier publications is included on page 63 of this issue of EPISODES.

There are several ideas behind the new series. One is to make the scientific work of the Union more widely known. A second is to control more closely the distribution of IUGS publications. Sales revenues can now be used to finance future publications with a kind of revolving fund mechanism. Another aim is to produce high quality reports at modest prices, in order to facilitate their distribution in developing countries. To back up these objectives, guidelines have been drawn up explaining the procedures being used for the new series — these are reprinted below.

So far 11 separate reports in the new series have been released (see list on page 62 of this issue). All but one of these are available from the Union, through its Paris secretariat or from the EPISODES office. Many of the new publications are correlation charts and explanatory notes produced by the Subcommission on Ordovician Stratigraphy, and it is expected that similar reports will continue to be published as the work of other stratigraphic subcommissions progresses. Indeed, publications on the Triassic, the Cambrian, and the Palaeogene-Neogene boundary have already appeared. The proceedings of IUGS sponsored seminars and conferences will also continue to be included in this series. Now being prepared, for example, are key reviews on marine stratigraphy and a collection of state-of-the-art papers on petroleum resource assessment.

The Union's publications are now becoming widely known and used, and scientists involved in the work of IUGS commissions, committees, programs and affiliated societies are encouraged to consider publication through the new series. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Linn Hoover, U.S. Geological Survey, 915 National Center, Reston, VA 22092, U.S.A., who is in charge of the series.

GUIDELINES FOR IUGS NEW PUBLICATION SERIES

Approved by IUGS Executive Committee

Bangkok, January 29, 1983

The IUGS "New Publication Series" (NPS) is a numbered sequence of publications available from or through IUGS offices. The NPS is intended to encourage and facilitate rapid dissemination of results achieved through the scientific activities of the Union and its constituent bodies and joint programs. The NPS gives particular encouragement to works that may be produced at a low cost and hence made more

readily available to readers in developing countries. NPS publications should report the results of an IUGS-sponsored or co-sponsored activity, such as the proceedings of a seminar or symposium, or the findings of a research project.

The NPS is controlled by the IUGS Advisory Board on Publications (ABP) in consultation with the IUGS Executive Committee. The ABP Chairman, or his delegate, acts as Editor-in-Chief for the Series.

Prospective authors and editors must discuss publication matters fully with the Editor-in-Chief when planning a manuscript and well before proceeding to publication. To obtain a NPS number, a copy of the typescript should be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief, who is responsible for ensuring scientific standards and who may arrange for the manuscript to be reviewed.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for assigning IUGS and, where appropriate, ISBN numbers to each publication in the Series. The name and logo of the Union and the assigned publication number must appear in a conspicuous place on the cover and/or title page of each publication. A very brief (2-3 lines) standard description of the Union should be printed on the reverse side of the title page, or in some other prominent place.

Illustrations, references, abbreviations, citations, etc. should conform to international standards. Authors and editors are responsible for the content of the material.

In most cases and after full consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, the author or editor is expected to arrange production and printing of the publication at the lowest cost consistent with acceptable standards. In a few cases the Union may be able to take on the task of printing, but not without prior consultation with and approval from the Editor-in-Chief.

The financial arrangements (production and printing costs, sales prices...) will be determined in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. A limited number of complimentary copies will be provided to authors and editors. In the case of NPS publications issued by other organizations, a certain number of copies — to be negotiated separately in each case — should become the property of the Union.

IUGS will assist in the promotion and distribution of NPS publications. Distribution centers will be designated by the Editor-in-Chief; in most cases they will include the Union's Secretariat, the EPISODES office, and the Treasurer's office.

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES

New Approaches to Mapping Granites

Geozoology in Mineral Exploration

The Geological Development of the Southern Andes

Groundwater Research in Desert Terrains

The Law of the Sea from a Caribbean Perspective

New Data on the Geology of Venus