The Atoll Research Bulletin is issued by the Smithsonian Institution to provide an outlet for information on the biota of tropical islands and reefs and on the environment that supports the biota. The Bulletin is supported by the National Museum of Natural History and is produced by the Smithsonian Press. This issue is partly financed and distributed with funds from Atoll Research Bulletin readers and authors.

The Bulletin was founded in 1951 and the first 117 numbers were issued by the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Sciences, with financial support from the Office of Naval Research. Its pages were devoted largely to reports resulting from the Pacific Science Board's Coral Atoll Program.

All statements made in papers published in the Atoll Research Bulletin are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Smithsonian nor of the editors of the Bulletin.

Articles submitted for publication in the Atoll Research Bulletin should be original papers in a format similar to that found in recent issues of the Bulletin. First drafts of manuscripts should be typewritten double spaced and can be sent to any of the editors. After the manuscript has been reviewed and accepted, the author will be provided with a page format with which to prepare a single-spaced camera-ready copy of the manuscript.

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# ATOLL RESEARCH BULLETIN GOLDEN ISSUE

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.
DECEMBER 2001
ATOLL RESEARCH BULLETIN GOLDEN ISSUE

PREFACE

This Special Golden Issue of the Atoll Research Bulletin commemorates the fiftieth year of the publication of this journal. Since 1951 there have been 97 issues with a total of 493 numbered articles.

The journal was the brainchild of F. Raymond Fosberg, who saw it as an outlet for information on coral islands. Ray was particularly concerned that all data collected on Pacific islands during the many postwar projects sponsored by the Pacific Science Board, including the Coral Atoll Program, would be lost in unpublished reports. Eventually he persuaded the Board to support the publication of the Atoll Research Bulletin.

The initial issues contained articles describing work supported by the Coral Atoll Program on Arno, Onotoa, Ifalik, and Raroia. Ray was the first editor, but as time went on Marie-Hélène Sachet, his research assistant, took on much of the work of editing and assembling this journal.

The Bulletin gradually expanded to include reports on research in the Indian Ocean and the Western Atlantic. For a time, it was supported by the National Academy of Sciences until both Ray and Marie-Hélène left the Academy in 1966 to work at the Smithsonian Institution under the auspices of the Tropical Biology Program. It now continues to be supported by the Director’s Office of the National Museum of Natural History.

David R. Stoddart, formerly with Cambridge University, England, and now with the University of California, Berkeley, joined the editorial board in 1969, followed by me in 1979. This editorial board has gradually expanded to include authorities in a number of disciplines who are involved in tropical island and coral reef research. Their names appear on our acknowledgment page. Sadly, Marie-Hélène died in 1986 and Ray seven years later in 1993.

The history of the Atoll Research Bulletin, and the contributions of Ray and Marie-Hélène, are documented in Mary McCutcheon’s excellent index issue (No. 347) and memorial issues for Marie-Hélène (Nos. 293-305) and Ray (Nos. 390-96).

It seems fitting on this historic occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Atoll Research Bulletin to publish some personal overviews of various fields of research centered on tropical islands and coral reefs. These essays not only help put a face on those scientific endeavors but also remind us of the many accomplishments that have occurred largely during the period that this journal has been published. With a total freedom of format, each author has discussed his or her own field of interest in their own unique way.

Two people have provided valuable assistance in assembling this special issue. Kay Clark-Bourne has helped with the editorial chores and William T. Boykins has played a critical role in scanning and printing illustrations and helping with the final layout. On the production side, this journal has benefited enormously from the advice and assistance of A. Alan Burchell of Smithsonian press for the last 24 years. In addition, special thanks go to my wife, Venka V. MacIntyre, for suggesting the personal historical review topic for this issue and assisting with the final editing.

Ian G. MacIntyre
Editor