《沉积学报》的出版，得到了上级学会—中国矿物岩石地球化学学会和中国地质学会的热情支持，得到了中国科学院兰州地质研究所在人力和财力方面给予的重要保证和全力支持。在此，我代表编委会一并表示诚挚的谢意。

FOREWARD

Yeh Lientsun

(Institute of Geology, Academia Sinica)

The birth of "ACTA SEDIMENTOLOGICA SINICA" is a commemorable delighted event to all of the Chinese Geological circle. It demarks that the science of sedimentology has already standing up and booming in the field of Chinese geology.

Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, sedimentalogy had made many achievements and contributed herself to the march of geological investigation works in many respects, not only in the academic side but also in the hunting of economic minerals, as well as in the teachings in universities. Now, sedimentology is considered unanimously as one of the most important basic sciences to most of the main desciplines of geology. In the recent twenty years or so, particularly after the establishment of the plate-tectonic doctrine, and the carrying on of the "Lithosphere" project, enquiries about "The palaeooceans that sunk under mountain ranges" were the prodominant subject among investigations regarding the role of evolution of sedimentary basins. Thus, discussions on sedimentalogical problems were the prevailing topics amidst geologists nowadays. Marching in sedimentology were in almost every respects. It is under this blessing atmosphere, the "ACTA SEDIMENTOLOGICA SINICA" were given birth.

An attached "ACTA SEDIMENTOLOGICA SINICA" is essential to the development of a science. Because scientific communications were impetus to the deepening and marching of investigations.

In the former days, sedimentology has been dealing mainly with the lithology and sequences of sedimentary strata. So, in that time, sedimentology was only known as sedimentary petrography. It was just a sister science of stratigraphy. Such like the《The principles of stratigraphy》of A.W.Grabau, and the《Basic principles of Historical Geology》(in Russian) of H.M. Strahoff were the benchmark papers of that sort. But, probably after the 50's of this century, sedimentologists had shifted their pendulum of thought upon problems such like the origin and genesis of sedimentary rocks or mineral deposits, the sedimentary environments and backgrounds, the evolutional history of sedimentary materials, sedimentary physics, sedime-

ntary basins, etc. In one word, nowadays, sedimentology is no longer simply sedimentary petrography but rather the equivalent of epigenetic geology.

People says that the doctrine of plate tectonics is a big jump in geology. Now, somebody again declared that the deciphering of "palaeoceans" would be the next big jump. What is palaeoceans? Apparently, it must be those that sunken under the "mountain ranges". This is why the chief goal of the "Lithosphere" project is toward the continents. Obviously, ther is lots of work of sedimentology to be done to this end. To be worked on the origin and evolution of sedimentary basins through the geological history. To be worked again and re-evaluate the theory of geosynclines. And this has to differentiate first what would be the kernel difference of the real nature of terrestrial and suboceanic sedimentary processes, including weathering, transportation and sedimentation.

The ultimate purpose of science is to serve the people. Therfore, during the marching of our socialist modernization, the main work of sedimentologists would inevitably focused on problems of mineral resources exploration and assessment, especially resources of crustal energy. Thus, the origin of mineral deposits naturally come up as the main target. The origin of mineral deposits is no longer a simple problem as it seems, and could only be solve compositely from many a different sides, which include:

(1) The source of the ore-forming material; (2) The source material equilibrium; (3) The process of genesis; (4) The procedure of genesis process; (5) environment of sedimentation; (6) The background of sedimentation, and finally (7) The time of sedimentation. It is only after the working out of all these topics that the origin of a mineral deposit would disclosed. And it is only practical to enumerate reliable geological indications for the finding of mineral deposits after the real understanding of the origin of such deposits.

The themes set up above are only examples of personal understanding. But, in any rate, it shows that we have lots of works to be done. There are lots of things we are not yet understand. We have to learn more to meet the need of our socialist modernization. For instance we have worked many on petrology, yet we did very little on shale petrology; we know very little on carbonate facies models of the palaeozoic epicontinental seas; we are only in the start on diagensis. We sure have worked many on palaeogeography, but systematic investigations on that subject are still rather feeble. We have to work and we have to learn, we are marching on route of science promotion.

Celebrate the birth of our "ACTA SEDIMENTOLOGICA SINICA".