



After seven years as Editor-in-Chief of *Annales Geophysicae*, Prof. Stan Cowley has decided to end his term. Looking back over this seven-year history, one has seen the continued growth of *Annales* as a leading international Journal. Not only did the extent increase, from 942 published pages in 1992 to 1618 pages in 1998, but the scientific content has also improved; spontaneous submissions are no longer restricted to Europe, but come from everywhere in the world. The Journal has also published a number of special topic issues, focused on European missions or activities, e.g. INTERBALL mission first results, EISCAT workshops, or EGS special sessions. This growth does not simply reflect a standard evolution, but instead has to be credited to Prof. Stan Cowley's continuous action. He has set up high standards for the Journal and he has provided his team of Topical Editors with such good and efficient guidelines that the Journal quality has made spectacular progress. Stan has also been successful in keeping the publication in *Annales* free of charge, and moreover, in the recent past, in convincing the publisher, Springer-Verlag, to print colour figures, in rare and justified cases, free of charge too, making the Journal certainly more attractive in the future.

I know that Stan would not be happy that all the credit is given to him alone, and that he would appreciate that acknowledgements be forwarded also to all of the team, to Sylviane Perret, who is the centre

and major pillar of the Journal at the *Annales* Editorial Office, to the Topical Editors who exert the day-to-day control of the Journal quality, and to the Publisher. In his yearly editorials, Stan used to thank all the referees who give their time, effort and competence for the great benefit of the Journal and the scientific community. I am glad to add my voice to his acknowledgements of the invaluable role they play in maintaining the quality of scientific publication. I therefore fully acknowledge how redoubtable it is to succeed Prof. Stan Cowley. As a former Topical Editor, I have learned, under his authority and his tolerant but firm appraisal of the problems, some methods which have proved to be extremely efficient. I hope to be able to follow in the same tracks and to, at least, maintain the Journal's reputation at the level it has reached: certainly a difficult but fascinating challenge. The Editorial team has been almost entirely renewed. The Topical Editors have been instructed with mainly the same guidelines so as to maintain continuity in the standards of the Journal. Springer-Verlag's publishing team is also working hard to offer more modern and easier facilities to the authors, and the heart of the Journal, its Editorial Executive Sylviane Perret, is still there to ensure tremendous efficiency and Journal continuity.

Denis Alcaydé
Editor-in-Chief