

## Editorial

In six years as Editor-in-Chief this is my first Editorial, the occasion being that this issue marks an important moment in the history of *Journal of Micropalaeontology*. The journal was founded in 1982 on the initiative of Raymond Bate and, in the early years, was an entirely Micropalaeontological Society production. In 1994, on the advice of the then Editor, John Murray, publication was moved to the Geological Society Publishing House. This has turned out to be fortuitous as the world of scientific publishing has become ever more complex and it is increasingly difficult for a small organization to survive as a sole publisher.

In this part Readers will note the new, modern format. Potential Authors will also note the new guidelines inside the back cover with links to Information for Authors. In the background are a number of other important developments. Since 2014 all accepted papers are published Online First immediately after the accepted proof stage; the print version appears later but the online version carries the definitive date of publication. Further, in early 2016 we will move to an online manuscript management system which will facilitate both submission of manuscripts and the reviewing and editorial process. The inside back cover of this part provides advice on preparation for online manuscript submission. All these

developments reflect the commitment of The Micropalaeontological Society Committee, in partnership with our publisher, the Geological Society Publishing House, to provide a thoroughly modern journal to support and promote our science.

Authors are strongly recommended to follow the guidelines about format for submissions to *Journal of Micropalaeontology*. This helps the process of progression to successful publication and, not least, reduces the risk of vexing Editors and Reviewers. Expert peer review is an essential part of our publishing high-quality science and we are deeply indebted to the many colleagues internationally who help in this way. We are also grateful to our indispensable Production Editor, Sarah Gibbs, and copyeditor Jo Armstrong.

During 2015 two Editors retired. It is a pleasure to thank Jeremy Young and Martin Pearce for their contributions and to warmly welcome their successors, Emanuela Mattioli and Francesca Sangiorgi.

Alan Lord

8 December 2015