

EDITORIAL

THOMAS W. SWETNAM

You will note several major changes in this issue of the Tree-Ring Society's "flagship" publication. First, in a general vote of the membership, the name of this publication was changed from the original "*Tree-Ring Bulletin*" to "*Tree-Ring Research*." This may seem to be a rather momentous change for a journal that has been published since 1934 under the name "*Tree-Ring Bulletin*"! In fact, I believe this change is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. The original *Tree-Ring Bulletin* served, in part, to publish accurate tree-ring dates and chronologies for a Society that was largely located in North America, and predominately in the Southwestern United States. Much has changed since then. If you are fortunate enough to have access to the complete set of 56 volumes of the *Bulletin* you can see for yourself the impressive breadth and depth of contributions that our journal has made. Here you will find articles by virtually all of the great and legendary figures in our field—from North America and other continents. A general trajectory throughout these volumes has been toward publication of original and significant scientific papers. I believe that the new name we have adopted marks a re-dedication of our Society's efforts to publish the world's most important and influential tree-ring research.

Although the name has been changed, for purposes of continuity we have kept the Volume numbers continuous with the *Tree-Ring Bulletin* series. The current Volume is number 57, issue number one. Our plan is to publish at least two issues per year. We encourage all libraries to place *Tree-Ring Research* on their shelves in the same location as the *Tree-Ring Bulletin*, and to update their catalogues appropriately. Second, you will note that *Tree-Ring Research* has a new format. The overall dimensions of the journal are the same as the *Bulletin*, but we are publishing in two columns rather than one. A few other modifications have been made, but overall we have kept most of the style and text formats of the *Bulletin*. You may also note that our new publisher is Allen Press. This change has significantly improved the efficiency of the publishing process, mailing, and reprint service. Our new publishing arrangements will facilitate eventual co-publication of an online version of *Tree-Ring Research* and down-

loadable Adobe Acrobat pdf files. *Tree-Ring Research* will also be included in most of the electronically-searchable databases.

Additional changes include a new Editor (yours truly), and replacement of the Advisory Council with a board of Associate Editors (so far these are Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer, Dr. Malcolm Cleaveland, and Dr. Steven Leavitt). Many thanks are extended to the *Bulletin's* past Advisory Council and Associate Editors. We especially thank Dr. Jeff Dean for his many years of service as Editor.

Last, I will use this opportunity to make a plea to the members of the Society and the scientific community as a whole for (1) more submissions of high quality papers, and (2) a spirit of openness and inclusiveness in our publishing efforts. To fulfill the great potential of *Tree-Ring Research* we need more manuscripts of first-rate scientific content. The Editors, working with Allen Press, will do our best to produce a quality and timely publication and to expand the visibility of our society's flagship journal. In his Editorial in the first issue, A. E. Douglass identified the purposes and scope of the *Bulletin*. Douglass emphasized the utility of the *Bulletin* in laying the cornerstone of our science (dating accuracy), while also the need to be inclusive of all scientific uses of tree rings. Although we have changed his journal's name, I believe we are following through with Douglass' vision:

Such publication represents a thoughtful effort to standardize the accuracy of tree-ring dating so that before presentation to the public such dates shall have had every reasonable test to exclude error. This care, which had its immediate connection with archaeology, has equal importance, we must remember, in all the scientific lines associated with tree-ring study. It is only by infinite care that the language of trees can be correctly interpreted. While these are the present purposes of the publication it is not intended that the papers included should be limited in this way. The door is held open for development along any line to which the study of tree rings may be of service to science.

A. E. Douglass,
Tree-Ring Bulletin (Vol. 1(1), 1934, pp. 2-3)