Today the well-being of the average citizen is linked with social and economic events widespread over the world. The future of human life will depend more and more on the education, the intelligence, and the knowledge of the common man. Knowledge increases continually in range and complexity, and the days in which a man might master almost the whole of human learning lie far behind us. The citizen should have a rational though of course simple conception of the world as it is today, and of the past history of man and the world; how to achieve this is one of the great problems of education.

In a narrower sphere a like problem arises for the teacher of science, in view of its rapid growth in all directions. Experience suggests that for science students in universities the few years of undergraduate study are best devoted to the central and most fundamental parts of mathematics and science, which provide a foundation on which students can afterwards build a more specialized superstructure according to their individual tastes and professional needs. In teaching these central subjects, logic, order, and a vital interest are more helpful than history; but nevertheless it seems good to acquaint students briefly with the origins of their subject, in the thoughts and work of the great men of the past. A youth filled with zeal for knowledge and research should turn his gaze mainly forwards; but his knowledge and interests gradually widen, as he gains the tools for attack on more and more varied problems, one leading to another. Generally a time comes when he wishes to get some picture of the tree of knowledge—at least of his particular tree—as a whole; he learns not only what the pioneers of his subject did, but in what circumstances and in what intellectual atmosphere they did it. Such a man can attain a better understanding of the history of his subject than a historian who studies science without having contributed to it; but the aid of the historian, with his knowledge of the sources, is of great value to his scientific colleagues.

Geomagnetism, in particular, turns the gaze of its students to the past, when they seek knowledge of its second great unsolved problem, namely, the secular variation. It was this path that led me to wish to know more of Halley and his forerunners; my interest in the history of geomagnetism developed late and slowly, and it was at the suggestion of my colleague, Dr. Julius Bartels, that a historical chapter was added...
PETRI PEREGRINI
MARICVRTENSIS

De Magnete, seu Rota perp
tuis motus, libellus.

Diui FERDINANDI Rho
manorum Imperatoris auspi
cio, per Achillem P: Gasserum
L: nuncprimum pro-
mulgatus.

AVGSBVRGI IN
SVEVIS.

Anno Salutis
1558.
to our book "Geomagnetism." Inter alia this Chapter drew attention to the valuable collection of old writings and charts on meteorology and geomagnetism, reprinted by Dr. G. Hellmann.

This distinguished scientist and historian of science laid his colleagues under a great debt of gratitude by his beautiful reprints in facsimile, and by the interesting and learned Notes which he added in editing them. They were published in 12 parts, from 1893 to 1899, and are to be found in many libraries throughout the world; but doubtless there are many persons concerned with geomagnetism who would find pleasure and interest in these reprints, who have never seen them and have no easy access to them. Moreover many of these writings are in languages other than English, and in some cases in old forms of language not now easily understood even by countrymen of the authors.

These considerations led me to suggest to the Editor of the Journal of Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity, Dr. J. A. Fleming, in January 1941, that "a new and useful departure" would be to include in the Journal, from time to time, a Section under the general title Archaeologica Geomagnetica, and containing historical articles and reproductions of the old classics of the subject, in facsimile or otherwise, either in the original languages or in translation. Such a Section would add pleasant variety to the Journal, and would arouse and maintain the interest of many readers in the history of the subject. The inclusion of the old writings, in a continuing publication, would also increase the chance of their coming to the notice of future readers, and would render them more easily available to such readers, particularly in view of the general and very proper desire of librarians to have complete sets of the periodicals current in their collections. Many readers like to browse in the back volumes of journals on their subject, and in this way might find in Archaeologica Geomagnetica a natural and easy introduction to the historical documents of the science.

Among the most interesting old documents of the science are the early magnetic maps and charts; these are few enough in number to make it feasible to reproduce them all, over a period of years. The founder and first Editor of the Journal, Dr. Louis A. Bauer, was himself much interested in the history of geomagnetism, and in Number 1 of Volume 1 of the Journal (January, 1896) the first isogonic chart, Halley's Atlantic Chart, was reproduced for the first time; Dr. Bauer himself had newly discovered it in London, after the memory of it had long passed from men's minds.

The proposal for Archaeologica Geomagnetica found favor with the present Editor of the Journal and he was fortunately able to enlist the aid of H. D. Harradon in preparing translations of some of the foreign classics of geomagnetism, reprinted by Hellmann. This issue includes the first of these translations, that of the Latin letter of Petrus de Maricourt, written in 1269 but first printed in 1558.

*This has more recently been reproduced in the books "Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity" [Physics of the Earth, 8, New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. (1939)], and "Geomagnetism" [Oxford (1940)], and in Occasional Notes of the Royal Astronomical Society [No. 9, pp. 122-134 (1941)] where much detailed information about Halley's two charts is given. In particular, attention is drawn to the serious geographical errors in these charts, owing to the lack, in those times, of adequate means of determining the longitude; it would be of interest to publish a map giving, in outline, Halley's land boundaries (from the World Chart), and also, in a different kind of line (for example, dotted) the true outlines as now known.