

that the initial letters of the acronyms that abound in the text (ECORS, EUGENO, COCORP, FENNOLORA, DEKORP, . . . etc.) may be rearranged to yield another acronym—NEED CHECKS; the meaning of the message depends on whether it is read as American or English, of course. Two previous volumes of this series (Vols 13 and 14) are devoted to reflection seismology, and they represent better value by far than the equivalent fraction of this volume.

As for the remainder of the volume: I can well imagine that the *JSG* reader would like to have available in the library one or more of the interesting but disparate set of papers that are here: perhaps the most obvious are brief reviews of the lower continental crust (J. A. Percival and M. J. Berry), of lithospheric rheology (D. L. Turcotte), of formation of anisotropy in peridotites (A. Nicolas and N. Christensen), but each of the other papers contains nuggets of information, too. One should definitely scan the list of contents before deciding whether to purchase this book; many individuals will probably not find enough in it to justify the price, and it is not clear, in these hard times, that every library needs it.

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### **A new journal for South American geology**

*Journal of South American Earth Sciences*. Pergamon Press, Oxford. Price £50.00 p.a. Quarterly.

The new *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* starts with eight papers ranging in subject matter from depositional and diagenetic factors in Brazilian arenite reservoirs, through the geochemistry of Mesozoic–Tertiary volcanic rocks of the Andes (three papers); copper mineralization; central Cordilleran structures; palaeomagnetic analysis of active plate margins of South America, to the geochronology of metamorphic and eruptive rocks from Argentina. They are all of interest and will be of considerable use to the geologist

studying South American rocks. The journal editors also intend to include papers on Central America, the Caribbean and the Antarctic Peninsular geology.

Two problems face the geologist attempting to understand and compare the geology throughout this region: one relates to the very large number of journals both parochial and international in which relevant papers are published; the other relates to language. Certainly the non-South American geologist may find the pursuit of papers in Portuguese and Spanish in a large variety of journals, bulletins, reports, etc., daunting.

With regard to the first point this journal aims "to increase the international diffusion of work conducted on the geology of South America", and also to improve scientific communication between workers from various countries who conduct their main research in South America. With regard to the second problem English is the official language although up to 15% of papers will be accepted in Spanish or Portuguese. The scope is broad and papers on all aspects of the Earth Sciences will be accepted. Reports will be included on international programs related to this area. Larger contributions on subjects of continental appeal will be solicited as well as Symposia on topics of international interest. Indeed many of the articles of the first issues are from participants of IGCP 120: Andean magmatism. This is a good start as many interesting and exciting aspects of South American geology cut across national boundaries, e.g. Andean margin magmatism, tectonics and sedimentation are almost invariably discussed with reference to the whole of the Andean chain. Furthermore the Andes is perhaps the best model for ocean–continent subduction and associated mountain building and mineralization and a journal which includes the whole gamut of geological phenomena will be both useful in comparative studies and make much diverse but relevant data readily accessible. If the quality of the journal can attract most workers from within and without South America to consider putting their papers in it, the journal will be a major contribution to our knowledge of South American geology. The start is good, the journal is apposite. It is to be hoped it succeeds.

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