

## Preface

THIS Special Issue contains 10 papers about the structural geology, palaeoseismology and tectonic geomorphology of a variety of active and neotectonic faults. With the exception of the last article, all papers were presented as talks at the final business meeting of IGCP Project 206, 'A Worldwide Comparison of the Characteristics of Major Active Faults', held in Mammoth Lakes, California, U.S.A., 2-4 July 1989.

Project 206 started in 1983 under the co-chairs of R. C. Bucknam of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., and Ding Guoyu and Zhang Yuming, both of the State Seismological Bureau in Beijing, China. The objective of the project has been to synthesize current knowledge of the characteristics and tectonic histories of selected major active faults. To achieve this objective, members of the project have been compiling information to be included in an 'Atlas' illustrating the seismological, geological and geomorphological attributes of the selected faults, which occur in a variety of continental tectonic settings. In addition to this primary objective, a secondary aim has been to establish international links between workers in the fields of active tectonics and neotectonics. This has been done by organizing business/field meetings in countries containing one or more of the faults selected for inclusion in the atlas. A total of four meetings have been held during the life of the project: (1) Kobe, Japan, 1984; (2) Beijing, China, 1985; (3) Franz Josef, New Zealand, 1987; and (4) Mammoth Lakes, U.S.A., 1989. Two of these meetings resulted in the publication of accessible field guides (Beanland 1987, Bucknam & Haller 1989). The 'Atlas' is now being edited by

R. C. Bucknam and P. L. Hancock, and will be published by Cambridge University Press. Although only selected faults will be featured in the 'Atlas', project participants' interests extend to many other faults and thematic topics which, for reasons of space, will not be included in the 'Atlas'. This collection of papers discusses some of those faults or topics.

Despite arising from a meeting this Special Issue is by no means a 'conference proceedings'. Only nine of the 31 papers delivered at the meeting are included as a result of non-submission and the customary review procedures of the *Journal of Structural Geology*. The emphasis on normal faulting in the Special Issue does not reflect a bias in the interests of Project 206 members, but rather it stems from the proximity of the Basin and Range province to Mammoth Lakes, where the final project meeting was held during a 3-day pause in the field excursion. Credit for the success of the meeting and the seven-day accompanying field excursion is largely due to the efforts of Bob Bucknam, Tony Crone, Kathy Haller, Mike Machette, Mike Rymer and Bob Wallace.

## REFERENCES

- Beanland, S. (compiler) 1987. Field guide to sites of active Earth deformation, South Island New Zealand. *N.Z. geol. Surv. Rec.* **19**.  
Bucknam, R. C. & Haller, K. M. 1989. Examples of active faults in the Western United States: a field guide. *U.S. geol. Surv. Open-file Rep.* **89-528**.

*Paul Hancock  
Bob Yeats  
Dave Sanderson*