

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER 1: SPRING 1991

EDITOR'S WELCOME

I have great pleasure in presenting the first International Newsletter and mouthpiece for the recently formed **International Association of Structural/Tectonic Geologists**. Most readers will have read the proposals to set up these two linked ventures in my article in the *Journal of Structural Geology* (Vol 12, No 8, 1990). I can now report that the IASTG is off the ground, thanks to all of you who have already returned membership forms.

This first Newsletter will set the pattern for future newsletters, by beginning with a progress report on the IASTG, and continuing with information on forthcoming international meetings in structural geology and tectonics, and sections giving news from regional structural/tectonic groups (as available). The final item in this newsletter is about a proposed field meeting in the Kola Peninsula, U.S.S.R. This is the first of what I hope will be regular contributions from individuals who wish to communicate information and invite international collaboration.

Finally, I should like to request readers to help with further IASTG communication, in two ways. First, please copy this Newsletter to colleagues and contacts who may have difficulty obtaining *JSG*. Secondly, please send material regularly for forthcoming Newsletters, either from representatives of structural/tectonic groups who wish to advertise their group's activities, or from individuals. The Newsletter will provide potential conference organizers with a world-wide means of communicating their 'first circulars', but information should be sent as early as possible to be of most use. The next Newsletter will be Autumn 1991, with a closing date for contributions of 30 June 1991.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STRUCTURAL/TECTONIC GEOLOGISTS PROGRESS REPORT

First, for those who missed the 'launch' article in the *Journal of Structural Geology*, let me give a brief summary of the proposals I made. Proposal 1 was to initiate an International Newsletter: to be published as an end section in the *Journal of Structural Geol-*

ogy, initially twice a year, and for the purposes of communicating information on conferences and news from regional structural/tectonic groups and individuals. Proposal 2 was to initiate an informal International Association of Structural/Tectonic Geologists (IASTG) with two principal purposes: to encourage international communication, and to create an international *Directory* of structural and tectonic geologists. (For a full explanation of proposed purposes and procedures of the Association, see the original article.) Proposal 3 was to offer the *Journal of Structural Geology* at a special member price to newly enrolling IASTG members. The final section of the article concerned the financing of the IASTG, and how we would seek sponsorship rather than levy personal subscriptions.

Now to the progress, so far. Since the article first appeared in November 1990, membership forms have been arriving steadily from all over the world, and totalled 190 on 23 January, when this report was written. I have set up a special IASTG data base in preparation for producing the *Directory*, and all new members have been sent a letter of acknowledgement and an IA number. Each letter has included a leaflet offering *JSG* at a special IASTG personal member rate for 1991.

The IASTG membership forms asked the question "Would you support an application for the IASTG to become an Affiliated Organization to the International Union of Geological Sciences?" From the first 190 responses, 93% have said 'yes', 4% 'no', and 3% 'don't know' or left blank. Such a strong majority in favour of seeking IUGS Affiliation is a clear signal to approach the IUGS quite soon. Progress will be reported in following newsletters.

In addition to the launch article in *JSG*, the proposals to create an international association have been publicized in several regional structural/tectonic newsletters, and Dr Paul Hancock, Secretary-General of the IUGS Commission on Tectonics (COMTEC), has recently submitted an article for *Episodes*, including a copy of the IASTG membership form.

Sponsorship for the IASTG has just been received from the U.K. Tectonic Studies Group, and donations are expected from some of the other regional structural/tectonic groups. I am currently seeking sponsorship from the industrial sector, in the hope of building up a healthy IASTG Fund to cover IASTG running costs. So far, the secretarial work of setting up the IASTG and registering members has been done by me at no cost, but I hope to be able to

employ secretarial help as soon as sufficient IASTG funds allow.

I should like to thank the many people who have, directly or indirectly, helped in the initiation of the IASTG and this first Newsletter: (1) members of the Backing Committee (below), who have offered support and practical advice in setting up the IASTG; (2) Pergamon Press for underwriting the initial ventures and publishing this Newsletter; (3) Jack Treagus for 'living' with my ideas and helping me refine them into practical proposals; and (4) our daughters, Helen and Jane, for help putting acknowledgement letters into envelopes.

IASTG Convenor: S. H. Treagus

IASTG Backing Committee: P. Bankwitz, K. Birkenmajer, J.-P. Burg, R. Butler, M. P. Coward, G. A. Davis, S. K. Ghosh, P. L. Hancock, X. Ma, W. D. Means, G. Mitra, C. W. Passchier, R. A. Price, T. Shimamoto, J. Tullis, T. Uemura, E. Wallbrecher, K. Weber, P. F. Williams.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MECHANICAL INSTABILITIES IN ROCKS AND TECTONICS

4–6 September 1991; *Montpellier, France*

Organizers: Jean-Pierre Burg, David Mainprice and Jean-Pierre Petit

Contributions are invited on the mechanisms responsible for mechanical instabilities in rocks. Instabilities are critical phenomena in tectonic and geodynamic processes at various scales, leading to strain localization or periodicity. Natural examples of such processes include faulting, boudinage, folding, recrystallization, etc. On a larger scale, the dynamic interaction between erosion, sedimentation, metamorphism and mountain building or basin development provide instabilities in time and space. The organizers welcome quantitative approaches to these problems, from studies using experimental, analogue, theoretical or field techniques.

Pre-conference field trips to the Pyrenees, Languedoc and the French Alps are planned.

Papers arising from this conference will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Structural Geology*. Deadline for submission of manuscripts is 5 September 1991 (i.e. at the conference).

Conference abstract deadline: 30 April 1991.

Further information (costs, registration, abstract forms, etc.): Mrs L. Faynot (Instability Conference), Centre Géologique et Géophysique, U.S.T.L., Place E Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier Cédex 5, France.

Tel: 67634983, Telex: USTMONT 490944, Fax: 67523908.

THE GEOMETRY OF NATURALLY DEFORMED ROCKS THE JOHN RAMSAY MEETING

9–11 September 1991; *ETH Zurich, Switzerland*

This meeting, organized by the Geologisches Institut, ETH Zurich, marks the 60th birthday of Professor John Ramsay. Contributions are welcome on any topic relevant to the discussion of folds, fractures and geometry of deformed rocks. The positive response to the first circular suggests that it may not be possible to accommodate all the intending speakers within the available time, and also have adequate time for open lively discussion. However, there will be no limit on posters.

Field excursions to study a complete cross section of the Swiss Alps will take place before, and repeated after, the conference.

Papers arising from this conference will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Structural Geology*. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is 31 December 1991.

Conference abstract deadline: 1 June 1991.

Further information (costs, registration, preparation of abstracts): Mrs Eva Pour, Geologisches Institut, ETH-Zentrum, Zurich 8092, Switzerland. Tel: 01 256 3680, Fax: 01 252 7008.

29th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

24 August–3 September 1992; *Kyoto, Japan*

This IGC will host a variety of symposia and theme sessions, as well as open structure/tectonics sessions and poster sessions. Second circular: 1 April 1991; third circular: 1 March 1992.

Abstract deadline and registration: 1 January 1992. *Information:* Secretary General, IGC-92, P.O. Box 65, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan. Fax: 81 298 54 3629.

TECTONIC STUDIES GROUP, U.K.

The 21st TSG Annual Meeting was held at Liverpool University (19–21 December 1990). The meeting proposed Paul Hancock (Bristol) as Chairman and Dave Prior (Liverpool) as Secretary, for 1991–1992. The outgoing Secretary, Rob Butler, is thanked for the information here, and all TSG members are thanked for voting to make a donation to the IASTG Fund.

In 1989, to mark the 20th TSG, a *Ramsay Medal* was inaugurated to recognize excellence in post-graduate research into tectonic and structural geology. The first Ramsay Medal was awarded at the 1990 meeting to Neil Grant (Conoco U.K., formerly Leeds University) for his 1990 paper: "Episodic

discrete and distributed deformation: consequences and controls in a thrust culmination from the central Pyrenees" (*J. Struct. Geol.* **12**, 835–850).

The retiring Chairman, Ken McClay, has agreed to write an article on 20 years of TSG in Britain, for the next International Newsletter.

Forthcoming meetings

Magmatism and the causes of continental break-up: 3–4 October 1991; Burlington House, London

This thematic meeting will consider the relationship between continental extension, supercontinental break-up, mantle plumes and massive bursts of igneous activity, by integrating tectonic, geochemical and geophysical data. There will be keynote speakers. Further details: Dr B. Storey, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, U.K.

Annual Meeting: 16–18 December 1991; Edinburgh

This will dovetail with BSRG (18–20 December, Edinburgh) with a shared session on 18 December on sedimentation and tectonics. Contact Dr John Underhill, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, U.K.

Annual Meeting 1992: provisionally Southampton, U.K.

For general information on TSG, consult the *Geological Society Newsletter*, or contact Dr Dave Prior, TSG Secretary, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, L69 3BX, U.K.

CANADIAN TECTONIC STUDIES GROUP

The 10th annual CTG meeting was held in Nova Scotia, 19–21 October 1990, organized by members of the University of New Brunswick. This meeting doubled as the second of two meetings of the Structural Geology and Tectonics Division of the Geological Association of Canada, the first being the annual GAC meeting at Vancouver (May 1990).

The CTG gave its prize for the *Best Paper* to Paul Williams and Graham Price for their 1990 paper "Origin of kinkbands and shear-band cleavage in shear zones: an experimental study" (*J. Struct. Geol.* **12**, 145–164).

Forthcoming meetings

Geological Association of Canada: 27–29 May 1991; Toronto, Ontario

The Division is sponsoring a special session *Deformation in Transpressional Regimes* at this GAC Meeting. Emphasis will be placed on structural

studies of ancient and modern settings associated with oblique plate convergence. Contributions are welcome on ore deposits associated with transpressive regimes, macrostructural features such as fault jogs, flower structure, folds and transecting cleavages, microstructural studies and experimental or theoretical research. The associated field trip will present evidence of regional transpression across the Wawa/Quetico/Wabigoon subprovince boundaries and the Beardmore–Geraldton greenstone belt in northwestern Ontario.

Information: W. M. Schwerdtner, Department of Geology, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 3B1.

Tel: 416 978 3022.

CTG Fall: 25–27 October; Magog, Quebec

Contact: Dr Norman Goulet, Sciences de la Terre, Univ. du Quebec, Box 8888, Montréal, Canada H3C 3P8.

For further information on Canadian activities, consult *The Main Thrust*, Newsletter of the SG&T Division of GAC, or contact Philippe Erdmer, Division Secretary, Department of Geology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E3. Tel: 403 492 3265. Fax: 492 2030.

SPECIALIST GROUP IN TECTONICS AND STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY, AUSTRALIA

Forthcoming meetings

6th SGTSG Meeting: Cratonic Margins Structural and Tectonic Processes: 30 September–4 October 1991; Perth and Margaret River

This field conference will present the opportunity to integrate research from the margins of cratons with the tectonic and structural implications for basin development. Symposia, poster sessions and excursions will be directed at both sedimentary and basement tectonics. Pre- and post-conference excursions are planned to Darling Fault/Pinjarra Orogen, Albany–Fraser Orogen, Pilbarra Craton, and Kalgoorlie ore deposits.

Structural Control on Mineralization: 9–12 October 1991; Kalgoorlie

For further information on both these conferences, and on SGTSG in general, contact John Baxter, Chairman SGTSG, Continental Resource Management, P.O. Box 3079, Rivervale, WA 6103, Australia. Fax: 09 470 3956.

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND TECTONICS DIVISION, GSA

The S&T Division of the *Geological Society of America* met at the Annual GSA Meeting at Dallas (29 October–1 November 1990), and elected its Committee for 1991. The current Chairman is Mark Cloos (Austin, Texas), Secretary/Treasurer Don Secor (South Carolina), and the Newsletter Editors are Greg Davis and Scott Paterson (Southern California).

The Division's *Career Contribution Award* was presented to John Ramsay (ETH Zurich). The citation and response will be given in the March Division Newsletter, and later published in a *GSA Bulletin*. The *Best Paper Award* was given to David Engebretson, Allan Cox and Richard Gordon for *GSA Special Paper 206*, 1986: "Relative Motions between Oceanic and Continental Plates in the Pacific Basin".

Forthcoming meetings

GSA Annual Meeting: 21–24 October 1991; San Diego, California

The theme of the 1991 meeting is Global Perspective, with the program built around symposia, theme and discipline sessions. The S&T Division proposes a symposium on *Strike-slip faults* (primary contact Art Sylvester), and a *Short Course* by Declan De Paor and Carol Simpson *Deformation and kinematics of high strain zones*. For further information on all GSA Meetings, and the two special events above, contact Meetings Department, GSA, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301, U.S.A.

GSA Annual Meeting: 26–29 October 1992; Cincinnati

Information as above.

Information for the S&T Division Newsletters to Editors Greg Davis/Scott Paterson, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90989-0740, U.S.A.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FIELD MEETING

DUCTILE SHEAR ZONES IN METAMORPHOSED ROCKS

15–26 June 1992: *Apatity, Kola Peninsula, U.S.S.R.*

This meeting, organized by the Geological Institute of the Kola Science Centre of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, and headed by Prof. F. P. Mitrofanov, aims to bring together structural geologists interested in the study of flow in highly metamorphosed rocks. It is sponsored by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, and IGCP Project 275 "Deep Geology of the Baltic/Fennoscandian Shield".

Preliminary programme

Part A: 15–19 June. Field excursion. Two 'study areas' near Apatity will be visited, which comprise highly deformed Precambrian supracrustal and plutonic rocks metamorphosed under amphibolite facies conditions during the late Archaean and early Proterozoic. The areas afford an excellent study of pinch and swell structures, ductile shear zones, sheath folds, lineations, S–C structures, deformed conglomerates, migmatites and mylonites.

Part B: 20–24 June. Independent research. All participants will be able to carry out independent field research in the study areas. The necessary materials such as maps and thin sections will be provided.

Part C: 24–26 June. Discussion and presentations. If the weather is fine, discussion will take place in the field. Presentation will be posters only.

The organizers will decide on the exact form of the programme, depending on the responses they receive. When contacting Dr Alekseev, please indicate whether you would prefer the programme above (comprising parts A + B + C), or would favour parts A + C, only. Please also indicate the maximum period (days) you would wish for B and C. The second circular will be sent to those who respond, clarifying the programme, accommodation and other costs.

Contact: Dr Vladislav Alekseev, Geological Institute, Fersman str. 14, 184200 Apatity, U.S.S.R. Telex: 126129 KOLSC-SU. Tel: 37 737.

Please reply before 1 May 1991, if possible.