

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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FROM THE EDITORS

We continue to receive contributions on diverse topics which make up most of the present number and which are of a challenging and stimulating character.

David Pratt presents a summary of a 1958 paper by K.F. Dalmus on relationships between basin sedimentation and dynamics and the convexity of the earth. Dalmus explains that these relationship are obscured in flat maps and cross-sections where the sea level is shown as horizontal. The implications of this for the relief of the earth and the amount of sinking in sedimentary basins are far reaching and challenging.

We include the Abstract of paper by C.D. Ollier in which he convincingly tabulates increased and vertical relief on the earth's surface especially in the Plio-Pleistocene. These can hardly be explained by subduction processes. He also describes distinctive planation processes which apparently develop repeatedly and relatively rapidly in the earth's geomorphological history and are poorly recognized

as such in current geological work although the "sedimentary ramp" terminology may be a representation of such features.

D.R. Choi's contribution deals further with the lack of seismic activity at the base of the oceanic trenches and earthquake and seismic data that indicates subduction slab is non-existent. Examination of data from many parts of the world has followed from J. N. Murdock's papers in the Newsletter on the Alaskan Trench which have been suppressed in mainstream publications. Murdock's work indicated an absence of significant seismic activity at the base of the trench with the main activity on the trench slope. The examination of other trenches has not only confirmed Murdock's conclusion but has shown that these features had been recognized in pre-plate tectonic work such as the famous 1949 and 1954 work of Benioff after whom the Benioff Zone has been named. Apparently plate tectonics has not examined carefully or ignored this work.

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