

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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FROM THE EDITOR

Our Newsletter is exploding. We have too many papers to publish these days. Naturally we have to be selective. The Newsletter is open to new ideas and free discussion, but they need to be supported by hard data and sound evidence and convince our editorial members in this regard.

This number is headed by Choi who refutes outright the existence of subduction in Indonesia on the basis of a reinterpretation of seismic profiles off southern Sumatra. He found that vertical block tectonics had been predominant throughout the geological history of the region and that there had been a paleoland in the present Indian Ocean until Early to Middle Cretaceous.

Immediately after the central Java quake last May, Blot searched for deep precursory shocks for this devastating shallow tremor and related them to the nearby Merapi Volcano eruption. Like many other strong quakes, seismic energy transmigration took place along a major tectonic zone, in this case developed at the western margin of a basement block. The observed facts will open the door to the scientific prediction of future catastrophic earthquakes.

Cliff Ollier and others have recorded additional examples of mountain uplift in the Neotectonic Period; most of the world's mountains have been uplifted in the past few million years after a period of planation. They note, "Collision and subduction are offered as magical explanations for mountain building, while ignoring the large amount of information that should be studied before leaping to such facile conclusions". This is applicable everywhere.

Both of the Russian papers concern planetary tectonics. Dolitsky argues that primary tectonic structures of the Earth and planets are those resulting from mantle contraction as a result of core formation and general shrinking of the planet. Kochemasov's interesting article explains the similarity in the shapes of the Pacific Ocean and Australia from his wave- mechanism viewpoint.

The Publications section presents abstracts and figures of papers in the Japanese *Chikyu Kagaku* special volume. Vassiliev's abstract on pages 37-40 will convince all readers that the "oceanic crust" under the Pacific is nothing but altered continental crust, such as can be commonly observed in the continental shields today.

Kubota's graben formation mechanism is of special interest along with other excellent articles in the special volume.

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