

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

FROM THE EDITORS

This number is not a large one. There is thus considerable space for discussion and contributions to the Newsletter and we encourage our readers to take the opportunity which is offering.

We understand that the Tsukuba volume has been printed and some contributors have been in contact with Dr. Dubey. We are now looking forward to further information and some reviews for the next Newsletter – don't miss your opportunity.

SOME COMMENTS ON EDITING THE TSUKUBA CONFERENCE PAPERS (J.M. DICKINS)

Much time was taken in editing the English, which could be expected taking into account the background of the papers.

On other aspects, I found in a few cases some resentment of comments sent to some authors which I found worrying. I would like to offer the following:

1. High quality science calls for a rigour with little place for a good fellowship type of

approach, and on the other hand being over critical is to be avoided – not an easy balance to achieve. To achieve the highest standard is a rather hard kind of thing. For us involved in NCGT, we are opposed often to an unscrupulous, bigoted dogma, but there would be little purpose for us to replace one dogma with another. Facts are therefore paramount as a starting point and also in the end for deciding on the interpretations we produce. All the known facts should be taken into account and should not be selective in just supporting the point of view we favour. An open and questioning mind is a prerequisite for creative and innovative thinking.

2. It is my conclusion that the central role of geology must still be emphasized. A simple example is the trench and the associated fold mountains. They are real and require a real credible geological explanation – they just didn't fall from the sky. The real earth is the experimental laboratory in which we work, and the earth i.e. its geology is where our ideas and interpretations must be judged and justified.

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