

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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REPORT FROM THE EDITORS

In December 2000 it will be four years since the first No. of our Newsletter "New Concepts in Global Tectonics" appeared. It has become well established with an increasing core of stable support and has recorded much creative scientific achievement and discussion not found in the mainstream publications. Financially we have managed to keep a few numbers ahead and a recent substantial contribution from our Japanese colleagues guarantees our immediate future. We are therefore able to continue into the foreseeable future albeit taking into account that sometimes there is a strain on the time and resources the Editors have available.

Both Editors are well satisfied with the results and we believe that the Newsletter reflects the wishes of the founding group. We have tried to encourage rigorous science together with a somewhat informal approach. We have tried above all to facilitate discussion. We have allowed wide limits of subject and not excluded any contribution which did not fit within strict plate tectonic explanations. The only limits we have placed are on personally acrimonious material. We would propose to carry on in this way.

We do not see, at present, any relaxation in the dogmatic and exclusive approach in the mainstream publications which we believe is seriously hampering and hindering innovation and creativity in the geological sciences. There is a great need for publication of monographic work but unless we can organize some greater financial and human resources, we remain limited in this direction.

We do believe, however, that the time is ripe for drawing some conclusions. The work of the NCGT Group brings us to at least two conclusions which seem inescapable.

1. The earth has a basic pattern of polygonal structures marked out by a world-wide lineament fracture system. This pattern although it may have been subsequently modified was formed early in the history of the crust and these fractures have influenced tectonic movement up to the present. There are also circular or spiral patterns whose meanings are less clear.
2. During the Neogene there has been a very marked increase in the relief of the earth. Not only have present mountains as we see them now been formed or become higher but the oceans have become deeper and the trenches as we see them now have been formed.

If these conclusions are correct, any theories about the development of the earth must take these features into account. This may seem salutary but scientific truth may leave little room for emotion or compromise.

Perhaps other colleagues may like to add other results of our work, but from the above features, a number of implications follow and a number of significant questions are raised which could modify our ideas. The question for example of plumes and thermal expansion and how surge tectonics and mantle or magmatic diapirism may work. *(continues to the next page)*

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