

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

No. 20, September, 2001

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FROM THE EDITORS

Newsletter No. 20 contains diverse contributions. These should provide the basis for discussion about premises in Geology (i.e. the Earth Sciences) and the interpretations we can make from these premises. Examination of these articles does show, though, that many questions remain about the basic data. The term holistic has been used in philosophy on taking into account all the available data. The antithesis of holistic is reductionist: taking into account only a part of the data. To achieve an understanding of all the data is more than a little difficult and, no doubt, most of us fall into the reductionist category. Probably the only way to tackle this is with an open mind, by a constant exchange of ideas and information with likeminded colleagues. This is basic to science and dogma and unjustified certainty is deadly for science. Yet this surely cannot mean that we should ever flap about in a confusion of indecision and uncertainty, never making any advance in our

understanding. Certainly it is a major problem than even within Geology (the Earth Sciences) the existing specializations hinder understanding for all of us outside our own speciality. As, however, has been emphasized in the Newsletter, the earth itself is the experimental laboratory in which theory must ultimately be tested.

In a review of the published papers from the Tsukuba Symposium (Himalayan Geology, v. 22, No. 1, 2001, p. 1-4 and reproduced in Newsletter No. 19) one of us (J.M.D) attempted to list the main problems arising from the contributions to the Symposium. These are further elaborated in the contributions to this Newsletter. How do we resolve the differences and make a synthesis, for example, from Perin, Suzuki, Lowman and Ollier and Pain, not to mention other material that has appeared in the Newsletter and from elsewhere e.g. Pratt's paper ?

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PLEASE NOTE - FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It is now some time (considerably more than a year) since we have received financial support from some of those who have been regularly receiving the Newsletter. All financial support together with date of receipt is contained in our cash book but because we run the Newsletter on practically nothing it is rather beyond us to send out a yearly reminder note. We would rather spend our time on the content and scope. We are therefore reliant on the memory and good will of

our readers to continue regular support. We have to bear in mind that some of our readers are from countries from where it is very difficult or impossible to send financial support.

SO PLEASE FORWARD FINANCIAL SUPPORT !!!

We have hoped that we might be far enough ahead that we might be able to publish some longer papers so that this might be borne in mind by our supporters who could if they wish earmark money for such a purpose.

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