

*NEWSLETTER*

# New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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## *FROM THE EDITORS*

For the International Geological Congress to be held in Florence in 2004, Professor Wezel and the Editors (J.M. Dickins and D.R. Choi) have accepted the invitation to be Conveners of a Symposium on New Concepts in Global Tectonics.

The Symposium title is still being considered but will be around the theme of Important Advances in Geological Knowledge which will also include Geophysics and some broader Global and Solar System and Planetary problems. We are proposing though that it should be organized around the problem of crustal stress under three main headings Contraction, Expansion and Pulsation. This covers a wide scope for contributions. There will be some scope for general papers. The papers should be of the highest standard and comprise new material or new aspects of existing themes. Presentation will be by invitation so please let us know.

Amongst our contributors there is wide concern on where our science is going or indeed is it going anywhere so here is an opportunity to make a contribution. Although plate tectonics has greatly discredited geology and particularly our knowledge of the upper crust and surface mapping geology – William Smith is not dead by any means – and leads to an uninteresting, repetitious assertions of dogmatic belief, there has, indeed, continued systematic gathering of important data and important advances of our knowledge. Important data and conclusions have appeared consistently in our newsletter, yet sadly its value has not been recognized by some of our contributors who perhaps would not regard themselves strictly as geologists. The data

on the state of the stress of the crust is one of these problems. The reasons for this we can only guess, be they elitism, a difficulty or suspicion in understanding data with which they are not familiar or even wishful thinking?

Our Newsletter, for example, has covered data on the world wide lineament systems. A very large amount of published information on these systems existed at the time when plate tectonics appeared. It is anathema to PT and they just don't want to know about it. The data continues to accumulate and surely there cannot be anything better proven in the Earth Sciences. Recent work recorded in our newsletter suggests that deep earthquakes and ultramafic zones may be associated with these lineaments. This is an extremely new and important subject of investigation. Another subject is the nature of geosynclines - the so called "subduction zones" of PT. Some of our contributors apparently don't accept the existence of geosynclines. Is this because in their rejection of PT, they cannot see before their eyes what is the reality of field and the very latest laboratory geology. In PT there is rarely recognition of the real structure of existing geosynclines. Much wonderful information has appeared or is referred to in our newsletter – I hesitate to mention the large number of names involved. The classical understanding of the geosynclinal couplet and the twin metamorphic belts, for example, has been greatly enhanced. Yet despite the wealth of information it continues to be ignored by PT.

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