

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

No 28, September 2003 Editors: J.M. Dickson and D.R. Choi.

FROM THE EDITORS

Great Discoveries in Science

Great discoveries are made in many ways. An important way results from the building up of knowledge which then allows synthesis and a forward leap not previously possible. Is the New Concepts group now at the dawn of such a time? The present and recent Newsletters and the work of the NCGT group bring together many fundamental facts about the earth. These include the increasing relief on the earth (Gao, Ollier and Pain). Is this connected with the formation of the present oceans and continents from the beginning of the Jurassic (Dickins, Choi and Yeates, Rezanov, Vasiliev and others), the hypsographic bimodality of the oceans and continents apparently related to the Jurassic and lower Cretaceous events and formation of the continental shelves apparently from the mid-Cretaceous? Is this connected with the pulsation of the earth with expansion of the crust and foundering from the Jurassic to mid-Cretaceous and contraction and increase of relief of the earth from mid-Cretaceous to the present with analogous earlier cycles (Hunahashi, Laing, Wezel and Dickins), the relationship between deep structures and upheaving and the position of geosynclines (Hunahashi, Fujita and Suzuki), and the lineaments (Smoot) and deep earthquakes (Choi).

When we look at the history of the earth from the Proterozoic through the Phanerozoic we see how the geographic pattern of the geosynclines changes radically, the last radical change at the Triassic- Jurassic boundary. Does the work of Storetvedt and Hunahashi offer us an understanding of this process? As for the deep mantle and the core, what is happening here

remains obscure still, and are there some surprises from our contributors? This account is, of course, not wholly inclusive nor is the list of contributors.

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