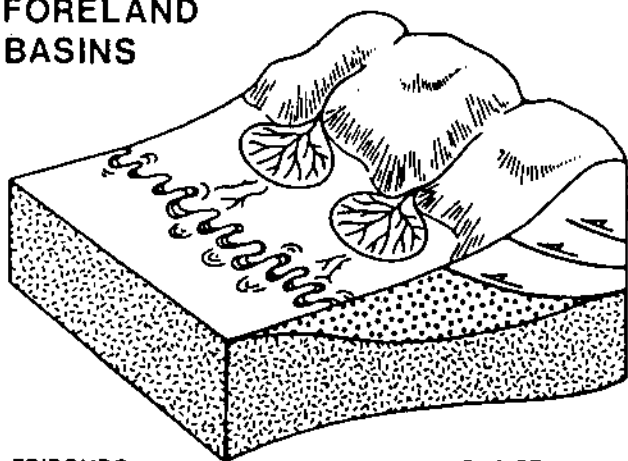


I N T E R N A T I O N A L A S S O C I A T I O N O F S E D I M E N T O L O G I S T S

NEWSLETTER

N° 78 April 1985

**FORELAND
BASINS**



FRIBOURG

2 - 4 SEPT., 1985

A S S O C I A T I O N N E W S

ISRAEL
(from A. Bein)

The Israel Geological Society held its annual meeting at the new campsite near Yotvata, located in the southern Arava Valley, some 40 km north of Eilat. The site was chosen because of its proximity to a variety of well-known geological features associated with sedimentary and mineralization processes, tectonism and metamorphic complexes. Several recent studies provide new insight into some of these features, thus raising the general interest and, as so common among geologists, provoking dispute concerning their origin.

Altogether, 78 lectures and posters were presented during the 4 day meeting, which also included 2 1/2 days of field trips. The meeting was attended by about 200 geologists and students who enjoyed the site's facilities and the nice weather usually prevailing at that desert location during early spring.

Phosphorites, as usual in recent meetings of the society, attracted much interest. Eight presentations discussed topics including distribution and enrichment of elements such as F, U, Zn and Cd, upgrading of phosphorites due to burrowing and unconformities and late diagenetic effects of calcification and micritization.

The spatial distribution of organic matter and its possible tectonic control in the oil shale beds found in association with the phosphorites was also discussed in two additional papers.

Studies of depositional and diagenetic environments in several stratigraphic levels by means of combined biostratigraphic and sedimentological methods were the subject of eight presentations. Another three lectures focussed on offshore features including structure, sediment composition and transport along parts of the Mediterranean Coast, the Nile Delta and the Gulf of Eilat. Two papers presented data and interpretations of subrecent travertine and paleokarst features. A special session of 6 lectures and posters was dedicated to the popularization of Geology among

pupils and nongeologists in response to the increasing interest of the public and on the occasion of the inauguration of the Ramon Cirque geological park and nature reserve. Other topics discussed included tectonics and seismicity of the region and the magmatic and metamorphic complexes of Eilat and Sinai.

Three one-day trips were run parallelly on the second day of the meeting. The first was devoted to the lithostratigraphy and mineralization of the Timna area. The theory that the entire sandstone layer bearing the copper and manganese ore accumulated as insoluble residue after dolomite dissolution and that these dolomites were the source of the ore in the first place was presented. Another opinion grounded mostly on chemistry and mineralogy was presented as well, arguing that part of the sequence and the associated mineralization in syn-early diagenetic and that the dissolution theory accounts only for part of the phenomena.

The second field trip concentrated on palaeomorphology and morphotectonics along the southern Arava Rift Valley with emphasis on phases of rift bottom lowering as recorded in scarps, straths and sediment surfaces.

A third field trip dealt with the lithostratigraphy of Mesozoic, Tertiary and Cenozoic sequences and their implications regarding the structure of the southern Negev desert.

Other half-day field trips were conducted during the third day of the meeting to structural features of the area, metamorphic complexes and the facilities of the oceanographic station of Eilat.

Most of the last day of the meeting was spent traversing the southern Negev desert along the new road stretching along the border between Israel and Egypt.

Abstracts of the meeting, including the field trip guides (in English) may be obtained from the Library, The Geological Survey of Israel, 30 Malkhe Yisrael St., Jerusalem 95501, (Price, including mailing cost, \$10).

MOROCCO
(from J. Beauchamp)

The second sedimentological meeting on "Moroccan Sedimentary Basins" was successfully held in Rabat, October 1984.

The two fieldtrips devoted to the Paleozoic cover of central Morocco and of the Coastal Meseta were followed by about 50 participants. Papers presented in the Faculty of Sciences building in Rabat were followed by one hundred sedimentologists. Detailed reports about the meeting will be communicated later by the organizers. Thanks to our colleagues from Rabat.

The 1985 meeting will be jointly organized by geologists from the Faculties of Meknes and Fes.

The "Moroccan Sedimentary Basins" Group has decided to keep its informal structure which avoids many administrative difficulties. The secretaryship is held by the Moroccan I.A.S. National Correspondent. Reduced fees will regularly be paid to the organizers of the next meeting so that they can face costs.

Accordingly the system of one annual meeting plus one or several fieldtrips appears to satisfy Moroccan geologists the more that there was nothing equivalent to this precise geological activities up to now.

FUTURE MEETINGS
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April 12-13, 1986

U.K. (Keele)

"CONTROLS OF UPPER CARBONIFEROUS SEDIMENTATION,
NORTHWEST EUROPE"

This British Sedimentological Research Group Research Meeting is designed as a sequel to the 1984 European Dinantian Environments Conference and will follow immediately upon the Symposium on Coal and Coal-Bearing Strata being held in London from 8th-11th April, 1986. The conference

will review the current state of knowledge concerning the principal factors determining the sedimentology and sedimentary evolution of Upper Carboniferous basin-fills in north-west Europe. Particular emphasis will be placed on the influence of the evolving geotectonic setting on sedimentary facies distribution at both local and basin-wide scales, and on the nature and role of other external controls, such as eustatic and palaeoclimatic changes. A number of basin case-histories will be presented.

The meeting will consist of two days of talks, including a small number of keynote addresses. Contributions in the form of short talks or posters are invited. For those requiring it, residential accommodation will be arranged on the campus of the University of Keele, or in nearby hotels (Newcastle-under-Lyme or Stoke-on-Trent).

Following the meeting a number of fieldtrips will be organized to some of the classic British Upper Carboniferous localities.

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ENGLAND

July 7-11, 1986

S.A. (Johannesburg)

PRECAMBRIAN GOLD/URANIUM DEPOSITS WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO THE CONGLOMERATE PLACERS OF THE WIT-
WATERSRAND TYPE

The Geological Society of South Africa will held its 21st biennial congress from 7 to 11 July 1986 at the Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. This congress will commemorate the centenary of the discovery of the world's largest gold-field, in 1886, in the Witwatersrand basin.

Beside the main themes of the congress, other will cover :

- Evolution of greenstone belts and gold mineralisation in the Archaean;
- The sedimentology and sediment-hosted mineral deposits of Transvaal-age basins;
- Results of the first phase of the current National Geoscience Programme entitled "The Evolution of Earth-Resource Systems";
- Open sessions devoted to the latest research results of findings on any topic not related to the above themes.

Field excursions will be arranged for the week before as well as the week after the congress and will deal with the following topics :

- Witwatersrand Gold/Uranium : a wide variety of gold/uranium-related excursions;
- Barberton Mountain Land - Pilgrim's Rest : greenstone belt and gold deposits;
- Bushveld Complex : mafic and acid rocks, platinum and chrome mines;
- Vredefort Dome : structure and tectonics;
- Geological Kaleidoscope : short visits to a gold mine, Bushveld Complex, Palabora, etc...;
- Namaqualand : high-grade metamorphic terrane, Zn-Cu-Pb deposits;
- Coal and Coal mining : emphasizing sedimentological controls;
- Exploration Geochemistry : Barberton and Namaqualand mineral deposits;
- Historical Johannesburg : gold-related historical sites.

Authors are invited to submit papers for presentation at the congress and, in addition, there will be opportunity for poster presentation of papers. Persons interested in receiving circulars with further details and reply cards are requested to write to :

The Symposium Secretariat, S.339
CSIR
P.O. Box 395
Pretoria
Republic of South Africa
0001

August 17-20, 1987

CANADA (Calgary, Alberta)

THE CSPG SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE
DEVONIAN SYSTEM

In 1967, the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists, predecessor of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (C.S.P.G.), hosted the very successful First International Symposium on the Devonian System. To mark the 20th Anniversary of that event and to highlight the many developments in Devonian geology in the interim, the C.S.P.G. will host the Second International Symposium on the Devonian System in Calgary, Alberta, August 17-20, 1987, under the general chairmanship of Dr. Digby J. McLaren.

The technical program will include both invited and submitted papers on :

- Devonian paleogeographic reconstruction throughout the world;
- Special sessions on a variety of subjects including petroleum and economic geology, tectonics, global reconstructions, biostratigraphy, transgressive-regressive cycles, event stratigraphy, non-marine - marine correlations, organic rich shales and carbonates and reefs.

Field trips will be organized before and after the symposium to Devonian exposures in western and northern Canada. The proceedings of the Symposium will be published as part of the C.S.P.G. Memoir Series.

A circular will be sent out in the Fall of 1985. Requests for circulars, and further information may be obtained from :

2nd Int. Symp. on the Devonian System
Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists
505, 206 - 7 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2P 0W7
Tel. : (403) 264-5610

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