



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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Contributions to be sent to:

André Strasser
IAS General Secretary
Institut de Géologie
Pérolles
1700 Fribourg
SWITZERLAND

Tel. +41 26 300 89 78
Fax +41 26 300 97 42
E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

IAS-Homepage:

<http://www.blackwell-science.com/uk/society/ias>

ROMANIAN GROUP OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

During 1997 the activities of the R.G.S. developed in the following fields:

The following presentations were given at the periodical meeting COLOCVIUL S.

- Carbonate platforms - concepts and examples (Cristina Panaiotu, Bucharest University);

- Ancient turbiditic systems - peculiar evolution and architectures (Bodgan Varban, Bucharest University);

- Miocene sequences in Pericarpethian units, Jitia area, Romania (Paul Dumitru, Bucharest University);

- Oligocene facies and sequences in Marginal Fold Nappe (Romania) depositional significances (Dan Stefaniuc, Bucharest University);

- Alluvial facies and architectures in Alto de Nicanor Basin, Colombia (Carlos-Alberto Guzman-Lopez, Universidad de Manizales, Colombia);

- Traditional and modern approaches for stratigraphic correla-

tion - valid or not? (Marius Popa, Bucharest University, Carlos-Alberto Guzman-Lopez);

- Pliocene sequences in southern Carpathian Foredeep, Romania (Christian Derer, Bucharest University);

- Systems tracts in foreland basins (Eugenia Nicolae, C.C.P.E.G., Bucharest);

Our members also participated in the 18th Regional IAS Meeting, Heidelberg, Germany, and the AAPG "East meets West" Conference, Vienna, Austria.

For 1998 we are planning to start a field trip programme for small groups of students. Also, we are interested in developing a new research project on "Comparative sequence analysis in the Alpine Orogen".

It is constantly our intention to keep all colleagues from the IAS informed about our activities and fields of interest.

*Nicolae Anastasiu,
Bucharest, Romania.*

REPORT ON THE SIXTH MEETING OF SWISS SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

A good opportunity to obtain a valuable update on developments in sedimentology in Switzerland is provided by the yearly meeting of Swiss-Sed, an informal group of sedimentologists of Switzerland and adjacent countries. On January 31, 1998, at the University of Fribourg, scientists representative of nearly all Swiss groups involved in sedimentological research gave overviews on new and ongoing projects.

Sedimentologists from the University of Geneva presented a detailed review of multidisciplinary analyses on upper Jurassic pelagic sediments from the Vocontian Trough (C. Pellaton et al.) and Upper Jurassic neritic carbonates from the French Jura Mountains (M. Meyer). A. Carrillat discussed the results of a biostratigraphic and sedimentological study on a Middle Triassic succession in Sardinia, and A. Wachry reviewed sequence- and cyclostratigraphic patterns in Lower Eocene near-shore and shallow-marine sediments of the south-central Pyrenees.

The research group from the University of Lausanne discussed new stable isotope data obtained from Jurassic pelagic successions in Italy and Spain (E. Morettini et al.), whereas A. Baud, from the Geological Museum in Lausanne, provided a

review of his research on the events associated with the Permo-Triassic boundary extinction event.

The Fribourg research group was represented by H. Hillgärtner et al. who discussed the importance of meniscus-type cements in marine phreatic environments, and C. Dupraz who, in collaboration with G. Aillud of the University of Plymouth, UK, showed the dependency of ecological communities on nutrient levels and terrigenous mud import rates in Upper Jurassic (Switzerland) and Lower Cretaceous (Portugal) paleoenvironments. G. Aillud showed more in general that changes in ecological communities may have a decisive influence on geometries in sediments.

From the Neuchâtel side, N. Meier et al. presented a detailed study on Lower Cretaceous carbonate resediments in the Vocontian Trough, whereas M.P. Bolle gave a general overview on events associated with the Paleocene-Eocene transition, based upon multidisciplinary analyses.

Researchers from Bern gave us good insight into a diverse range of sedimentological topics: R. Burkhalter discussed the influence of tectonism on differential subsidence patterns of the southern European margin during the Bajocian; D.

Fleitmann et al. presented the results of a study on the frequency bands of eolian input into the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden during the last 500 ky; A. Immenhauser et al. showed us intriguing data on stable isotope and sea-level records in Aptian-Albian sections of northern Oman; A. Juhász et al. discussed the development of hydrological systems in the Pannonian Basin of Hungary; and Kellerhals and Matter presented a 3-D facies model for the late Precambrian glaciomarine environment recorded in Oman.

Sedimentologists from the Zürich group emphasized the importance of stable-isotope analyses in presenting results from Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous sediments in the Helvetic realm (S. Schneider et al., Wissler et al.), as well as in Turonian sediments of western and central Europe (S. Voigt). U. Wortmann et al. presented a new interpretation for paleogeographic distribution patterns of siliciclastic deposits in the middle Cretaceous northern Tethyan realm.

The meeting was concluded by A. Strasser from the University of Fribourg who gave us a challenging perspective on actual developments in sedimentology. He emphasized the increasing importance of environmental issues in sedimentological research, the need for education in the sedimentological domain which is adapted to actual problems, the increasing demand for high-resolution data in sedimentological and geochemical analyses, the urgency of improved communication amongst scientific communities and to the non-specialist world, as well as actual developments in funding.

All by all, the sixth annual meeting of Swiss-Sed was very rewarding, not only because of the insights offered into new projects and developments in sedimentology, but also because of the opportunity offered to meet old and new colleagues and gather in a pleasant and informal get-together.

*Karl Föllmi,
Neuchâtel,
Switzerland.*

15TH INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The 15th International Sedimentological Congress was held in Alicante, Spain, from April 13 to 17, 1998. 692 participants from 54 countries met in the spacious campus of the University of Alicante where up to 8 parallel sessions were held. Coffee and tea breaks drew everybody to a central court where stimulating discussions animated the milling crowd. Much time and space were attributed to the posters that were very well visited. As in any international meeting, the quality of talks and posters was variable, ranging from awe-inspiring to somewhat less excellent. However, the main goal of the Congress, i.e. to allow the participants to compare their own research with the international standards, to communicate with colleagues and to make new acquaintances, was fully attained. The Congress truly showed the state-of-the-art in Sedimentology at the dawn of the 3rd millennium.

Ample room for socializing was given during the icebreaker party on Sunday evening, and during the gala dinner on Wednesday in the beautiful castle overlooking Alicante. Non-Spanish participants had to get used to having a late and not-so-light dinner and still be up and awake early next morning.

The General Assembly of the IAS was held on Thursday. The presidential address by Alfonso

Bosellini focused on beautifully illustrated carbonate platforms. The Sorby Medal was awarded to Robert N. Ginsburg (presented by Noel P. James), Honorary Memberships to Hans Füchtbauer and Kenneth J. Hsu (see also p. 11). General Secretary, Treasurer, chief Editor of *Sedimentology*, and Special-Publications Editor then presented their reports, and the new IAS Bureau and Council were presented.

Seven excursions were run before the Congress, and 7 after it. Each excursion had between 10 and 27 participants who were enthusiastic about discovering the varied and fascinating sedimentology of Spain. Three short courses were held, with 11 to 37 participants. The themes were Carbonate Platforms, Tectonics of Sedimentary Basins, and Ichnology. The organizers did a great job in preparing and running the field trips and short courses.

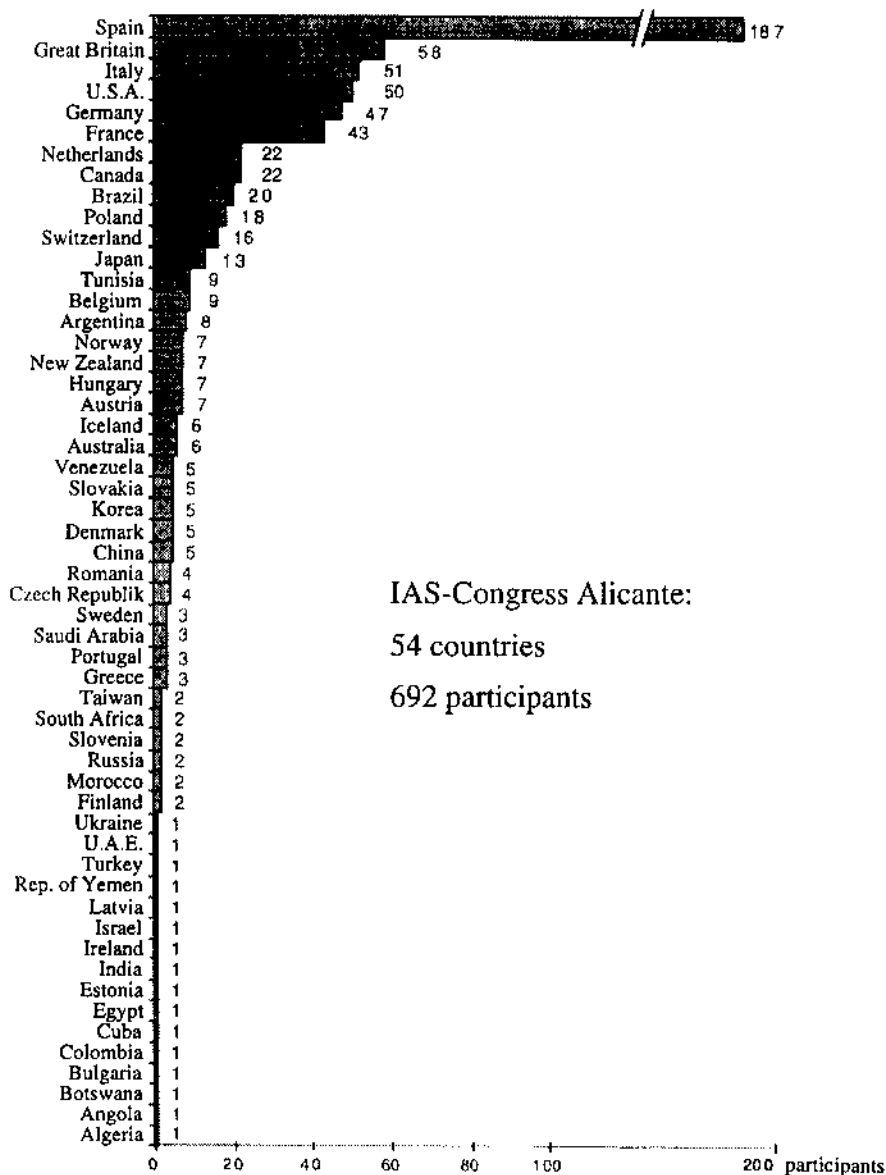
In conclusion, this Congress can be considered a great success. In the name of the IAS Bureau I would like to thank the Organizing Committee (Salvador Ordóñez, José Pedro Calvo, Alfonso Meléndez, Cristino Dabrio, Antonio Estévez, Joan Rosell, Alfonso Yébenes, Carlos Auernheimer, Vicente Gabaldón, José A. Pina, Juan Carlos Cañaveras, Angeles García del Cura, and Jesús Soria), and the Technical Bureau (Ana Martínez, Cécile Montgobert,

Sonia Verdú, Olimpia Mas, and the technical staff) for all the work and effort they have invested. I also thank the various sponsors and institutions who have generously supported the Congress, and the University of Alicante which hosted the meeting.

An abstract volume of 862 pages, a field-trip guidebook of 354 pages, lots of color slides, and lots of

good memories are the outcome of this Congress. To renew the experience, we will meet again in Denmark, in Ireland, in Switzerland, and in South Africa over the next 4 years.

*André Strasser,
IAS General Secretary.*



EYE WITNESS REPORT OF THE 15TH IAS CONGRESS IN ALICANTE

Alicante '98 can be looked back at as a very successful academic meeting of sedimentologists from all over the world. As Alfonso Bosellini stated in his speech, it reconfirms the effort of the Spanish to establish themselves in the upper ranks of the international sedimentologic research. In addition, it showed that the number of sedimentologists actively involved in research, considering the dip of the last couple of years, is high and the science diverse. The meeting was very well organized, few presentations were cancelled, and the level of scientific discussions was high. The weather was relatively cold and windy compared to normal Spanish climatic conditions, and this may have helped to keep the sedimentologists from trampling the beaches as well.

Rather than focusing on the various themes, symposia and short courses that were presented during the meeting, I would like to reflect on several things that I noticed. I should make it very clear that I regard the meeting as very interesting and inspiring, but on the other hand it is always important to be critical. Especially right now as we realize that the academic environment is currently changing very rapidly and will continue to do so over the next few years.

First, in general I tend to participate in AAPG and SEPM meetings rather than in IAS conferences. As a result I realized that a certain number of presentations in Alicante, though at a high level, were not "tailored" towards the audience. The fact that IAS members represent so many different disciplines makes it very attractive to look over the borders of one's personal field of expertise. Unfortunately, several presentations were at such a high, often technical, level that it was nearly impossible to even "grab a bite of them". Unfortunate, as the presenters probably planned to reach a large audience rather than a few colleagues specialized in the same field as themselves.

Also, few presentations seemed to have a clear focus towards the ever returning question: "so what?". This is one of the famous remarks by Robert Ginsburg to students after they spent tremendous amounts of energy in their research. "So what" is, as funding is dropping, competition increasing and governments and funding agencies are requesting applied research proposals, an important question. Whether one is involved in pure fundamental or applied research, this question is crucial to keep oneself on the track and in close reach of funding.

Third, almost a global problem, it seemed that the coming, not established, generation of scientists is missing in the ranks of the IAS structure and organizing committee. Although the IAS board has a relatively "young" composition, it seems that few young scientists make it to the hierarchy of the organization. Similarly, very few new faces were observed in the group of session chairpersons.

Finally, although briefly mentioned by Robert Ginsburg and Alfonso Bosellini during their speeches, the meeting lacked a session that addresses the future of sedimentology. Of course this is an extremely difficult question to answer and probably very different for the various disciplines that are combined in the IAS community. Still, very open workshops chaired by the "grey and experienced" will certainly help the younger scientists to canalize their research and become part of an international network. Very absent in this respect were the

professional sedimentologists who could deliver input in such workshops from the current needs of government and industry.

What did I learn from this meeting? Sedimentology is more diverse and contains many more disciplines than I ever dreamed of. Second, IAS meetings like this one in Alicante are extremely valuable for generating ideas, discussions and networking. Finally, the academic environment I have experienced at this recent IAS meeting is very open rather than the relatively protective atmosphere at professional meetings, and of very high relevance for the international sedimentologic community. My sincere appreciation towards all the people that made this meeting a successful exchange of ideas and experience.

*Jeroen Kenter,
Amsterdam,
The Netherlands.*

SORBY MEDALIST

At the 15th International Sedimentological Congress in Alicante, the highest award of the International Association of Sedimentologists, the Sorby Medal, has been given to **Robert N. (Bob) Ginsburg** for „distinction in Sedimentology“. The citation by Noel P. James and R.N. Ginsburg's acceptance speech will be published in the February 1999 issue of *Sedimentology*.

Previous Sorby medalists are:

- 1978 R.A. Bagnold, F.P. Shepard (*Sedimentology* 26, 157-165)
 - 1982 F.J. Pettijohn (*Sedimentology* 30, 149-151)
 - 1986 R.G.C. Bathurst (*Sedimentology* 34, 177-186)
 - 1990 R.L. Folk (*Sedimentology* 38, 191-195)
 - 1994 J.R.L. Allen (*Sedimentology* 42, 191-192)
-

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hans Füchtbauer and **Kenneth J. Hsu** have been awarded the Honorary Membership of the IAS for being „distinguished sedimentologists who have played an important role in the affairs of the Association“. Citations will be published in *Sedimentology* of February 1999.

Honorary Membership has already been awarded to:

- 1975 A. Vatan
- 1978 Y. Gubler, P. Allen (*Sedimentology* 26, 157-165)
- 1986 G.M. Friedman, G.V. Middleton (*Sedimentology* 34, 177-186)
- 1991 H.G. Reading (*Sedimentology* 39, 353-354)

FIFTH IAS SPECIAL LECTURE TOUR

After the very successful Special Lecture Tours of Robin Bathurst (1992), John Crowell (1993/94), Emiliano Mutti (1996), and Gerhard Einsele (1997), we are happy to announce the fifth Special Lecturer, **Prof. Dr. Harold G. Reading**.

Prof. Reading teaches at the Department of Earth Sciences in Oxford, U.K. He is widely known for his textbook on Sedimentary Environments (now in its third edition) which is used in every Sedimentology class around the world.

The lecture themes are:

1) The controls on clastic coastal systems. Clastic coastal depositional systems were, until recently, classified primarily according to the dominant physical process: waves, storms, tides, and fluvial sediment input. Greater emphasis is now made upon marine sediment supply and relative sea-level changes. To what extent can we separate controls, especially tectonics and climate, in ancient sedimentary systems?

2) Sequence stratigraphy, an aid or hindrance to sedimentological understanding? Whilst sequence stratigraphy has rightly brought back time as a major control on evolving depositional systems, there has sometimes been an

overemphasis on jargon and a neglect of process sedimentology. Can we get the balance right?

3) The use and misuse of models. The creation of models is fundamental to our understanding of sedimentary facies. Yet, too often, the uncritical application of models, especially simplified and easily understood ones, has led to delays in scientific advances. What lessons can we learn for the future?

4) Controls on deep-sea systems, especially petroleum reservoirs. The prime control on the nature of deep-sea clastic systems is sedimentary supply, grain size, volume and mode of delivery into deep water. Consequently, knowledge of the up-current supplying system is essential. However, the actual facies distribution, crucial to reservoir development, is a consequence of local factors within the basin itself.

These lectures can be completed by round-table discussions and local field trips.

Sedimentology groups and institutes interested in receiving Prof. Reading should apply as soon as possible, but not later than **September 1st, 1998**, indicating the preferred time for the visit, and the preferred themes. A travel plan will then be established. Priority will

be given to institutions in countries that normally don't have the means to invite foreign lecturers, and to countries in Asia, South America and Eastern Europe where the previous Special Lecturers have not yet been.

IAS finances travel expenses to and from the visited country, but local expenses for food and lodging as well as for local field trips must be paid by the host institutions.

For applications, please write to:

André Strasser
IAS General Secretary
Institut de Géologie
Pérolles
CH-1700 Fribourg
Switzerland
Fax +41 26 300 97 42
E-mail andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

**THE 1999 LYELL MEETING: ORGANISM - ENVIRONMENT
FEEDBACKS IN CARBONATE PLATFORMS AND REEFS
1 - 2 MARCH 1999, LONDON, U.K.**

This international meeting aims to bring together palaeobiologists, ecologists and sedimentologists to address questions on how interactions between organisms and environments have generated the variety of carbonate platform facies and geometries seen in the ancient and modern record. All hierarchical levels of interaction are to be considered, ranging from that between organismal growth and ambient conditions, via growth fabric development in response to climate and the provision of accommodation space, to the interplay of global and evolutionary change. Themes will include:

- Ecology and palaeoecology of benthic faunas, particularly factors influencing growth fabric genesis;
- Processes and rates of skeletal growth, bioerosion and sediment production;
- Taphonomy of reef fabrics and sediments;
- Regional to global environmental change and associated patterns of evolution and extinction;
- Contribution of carbonate-carbon burial in the global carbon cycle budget and climate feedbacks.

Keynote speakers include Peter Glynn (Miami, U.S.A.), Wolfgang Schlager (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Wolf-Christian Dullo (Kiel, Germany) and Jean-Pierre Masse (Marseille, France).

Oral and poster presentations addressing these themes are invited. Papers dealing with patterns and processes, concepts and dynamics are particularly welcome. Abstracts (no longer than 400 words) should be sent to Enzo Insalaco by 1st October 1998.

Conveners:

Dr. Enzo Insalaco (The University of Birmingham); Dr. Peter Skelton (The Open University); Dr. Tim Palmer (The University of Wales, Aberystwyth).

For further information contact:

*Enzo Insalaco,
School of Earth Sciences,
The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT, U.K.
Tel: +44 121 414 6163
E-mail: e.insalaco@bham.ac.uk*

CALENDAR

PALAEOECOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN SEDIMENTOLOGICAL STUDIES

July 2-4, 1997

POLAND (Wroclaw)

Contact: Jurand Wojewoda, Institute of
Geological Sciences, University of
Wroclaw, Cybulskiego 30, 50-205
Wroclaw, Poland.

Tel: +48 71 201 235 or +48 71 325 30 03
ext. 321

Fax: +48 71 201 371 or +48 71 325 30 03
ext. 327

E-mail: wind@wroclaw.top.pl

PALAEODIVERSIFICATIONS LAND AND SEA COMPARED

July 6-8, 1998

FRANCE (Lyon)

Contact: Mireille Gayet, UFR des Sciences
de la terre, Université Claude Bernard, Lyon
1, 27-43 bd du 11 novembre 1918, 69622
Villeurbanne cedex, France.

Tel: +33 4 72 44 83 98

Fax: +33 4 72 44 84 36

E-mail: gayet@univ-lyon1.fr

lysiane.thevenod@univ-lyon1.fr

GEOCONGRESS '98

Geological Society of South Africa

July 8-10, 1998

SOUTH AFRICA (Pretoria)

Contact: The Secretary: Sedimentology
Division, c/o M.J. Schweitzer, P.O. Box
91230, Auckland Park 2006, South Africa.

Tel: +27 11 358 0174

Fax: +27 11 482 1214

E-mail: jschweit@csir.co.za

4th EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR REEF STUDIES (I S R S)

September 1-4, 1998

FRANCE (Perpignan)

Contact: R. Galzin or M. Pichon, E.P.H.E.,
Université de Perpignan, 66860 Perpignan
Cedex, France.

Tel : +33 4 68 66 20 50

Fax : +33 4 68 50 36 86

E-mail : epheconf@univ-perp.fr

PERITETHYAN

PALEOGEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

September 3-5, 1998

ITALY (Bologna)

Contact: William Cavazza, Dept. of Earth
and Geoenvironmental Sciences, University
of Bologna, 40126 Bologna, Italy.

Tel: +39 51 243556

Fax: +39 51 243336

E-mail: cavazza@geomin.unibo.it

Web:

<http://www.geomin.unibo.it/orgv/igcp/igcp.hum>

SEDIMENT TRANSPORT AND DEPOSITION BY PARTICULATE GRAVITY CURRENTS

September 7-9, 1998

UNITED KINGDOM (Leeds)

Contact: Ben Kneller, Earth Sciences
Department, University of Leeds, Leeds
LS2 9JT, U.K.

Tel: +44 113 233 6625

Fax: +44 113 233 5259

E-mail: ben@earth.leeds.ac.uk

Web: <http://earth.leeds.ac.uk/turbidites/conference.htm>

**2ÈME CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS DE
STRATIGRAPHIE
2ND FRENCH SYMPOSIUM ON
STRATIGRAPHY**

September 8-11, 1998

FRANCE (Paris)

Contact: Strati-2000, Université de Paris VI,
Dép. de Géologie Sédimentaire, case 117, 4
pl. Jussieu, 75252 Paris cedex 05, France.

Tel: +33 1 44 27 50 41

Fax: +33 1 44 27 38 31

E-mail: palstrat@ccr.jussieu.fr

**STRATA AND SEQUENCES ON
SHELVES AND SLOPES**

September 15-19, 1998

ITALY (Sicily)

Contact: Judy Tarpely at SEPM

E-mail: cemeet@galaxy.galstar.com

or

E-mail: stratcon@octopus.wr.usgs.gov

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE EPICONTINENTAL
TRIASSIC**

September 21-23, 1998

GERMANY (Halle / Saale)

Contact: G.H. Bachmann, G. Beutler, H.
Haubold, Inst. of Geosciences and Geiseltal
Museum, Martin Luther University,
Domstrasse 5, D - 06099 Halle / Saale,
Germany.

Tel: +49 345 55 26070 / 71

Fax: +49 345 55 27178

**CONFERENCE ON
GROUNDWATER AND BASIN
DEVELOPMENT**

October 29-31, 1998

INDIA (Dhule)

Contact: M.V. Baride, Dept. of Geology, Jai
Hind College, Dhule 424002 (MS), India.

Tel: +91 02 562 223 43

Fax: +91 02 562 206 78

**COASTAL AND ESTUARINE
ENVIRONMENTS:
SEDIMENTOLOGY,
GEOMORPHOLOGY AND
GEOARCHAEOLOGY**

November 9-10, 1998

UNITED KINGDOM (London)

Contact: Prof. K. Pye and Prof. J.R.L.

Allen, University of Reading,

P.O. Box 227, Whiteknights,

Reading RG6 6AB.

Tel: +44 118 93 18 499

Fax: +44 118 93 10 279

E-mail: k.pye@reading.ac.uk

**GEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF
WIRELINE LOGS (GAWL III)**

January 20-22, 1999

UNITED KINGDOM (London)

Contact: Neil Parkinson

Tel: / Fax: +44 181 296 93 72

Email: neil.parkinson@dial.pipex.com

or

Mike King, Imperial College, London, SW7
2BP, U.K.

Tel: +44 171 594 73 30

Fax: +44 171 594 74 44

Email: m.s.king@ic.ac.uk

**7TH MEETING OF SWISS
SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

January 30, 1999

SWITZERLAND (Fribourg)

Contact: André Strasser, Institut de
Géologie, Pérolles, 1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.

Tel: +41 26 300 89 78

Fax: +41 26 300 97 42

E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

**1999 LYELL MEETING
ORGANISM-ENVIRONMENT
FEEDBACKS IN CARBONATE
PLATFORMS AND REEFS**

March 1-2, 1999

UNITED KINGDOM (London)

Contact: Enzo Insalaco, School of Earth
Sciences, The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT, U.K.

Tel: +44 121 414 6163

E-mail: e.insalaco@bham.ac.uk

* * *

THE BATHURST MEETING

July 12-15, 1999

UNITED KINGDOM (Cambridge)

Contact: Dr. J.A.D. Dickson, Dept. of Earth
Sciences, University of Cambridge,
Downing St., Cambridge, CB2 3EQ, U.K.

Tel: +44 1223 333400

Fax: +44 1223 333450

E-mail: jadd1@esc.cam.ac.uk

**19TH REGIONAL EUROPEAN
MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY**

August 24-26, 1999

DENMARK (Copenhagen)

Contact: Conventum Congress Service,
Carit Etlarsvej 3, DK-1814 Frederiksberg C,
Denmark.

Tel: +45 31 31 08 47

Fax: +45 31 31 63 99

or Lars B. Clemmensen, Geological
Institute, Øster Voldgade 10, DK-1350
Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Tel: +45 35 32 24 49

E-mail: larsc@geo.geol.ku.dk

* * *

**PALEOCEANOLOGY OF REEFS
AND CARBONATE PLATFORMS:
MIOCENE TO MODERN**

September 27-30, 1999

FRANCE (Aix-en-Provence)

Contact: Gilbert F. Camoin, CEREGE, B.P.
80, F-13545 Aix-en-Provence, cedex 4,
France.

Fax: +33 4 42 97 15 49

E-mail: camoin@cerege.fr

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