



# ASH FALL

*News Letter of the Volcanology Division  
Geological Association of Canada*

October, 1979

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

A major topic of discussion at the Quebec City meeting (see Minutes) was the status of the annual compilation of volcanology research for publication in the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin. Members present at the meeting suggested that the compilation be discontinued, at least in its present format. However, before taking this somewhat drastic step we would like to canvass the membership, and I direct your attention to the questionnaire attached to this newsletter. Being a small organization we can afford to be democratic (at least once in a while) and take our major problems and decisions directly to the membership. (How about that for buck-passing!)

As I see it, we have five alternatives for the annual compilation:

1. Continue in the present format. Individual members and organizations would be contacted annually for their contribution as in the past. Material in the report would be organized by geologic age, geographic location, and subject matter of the research. Completeness would depend on the willingness of individuals to contribute plus the knowledge of the compiler. Based on past experience this would result in an incomplete report that would thus have limited use.

2. Change from an annual to a biennial compilation in the existing format. This would decrease the work of the contributors and hopefully make researchers more willing to contribute and the resulting report more complete. This would also mean less repetition from report to report.

3. Change the format, perhaps to an institutional reporting system as currently used by other disciplines being reported in the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin. This would involve the designation (hopefully voluntary) of reporters for each major institution or geographic area. The reporter would canvass all known volcanologists in his(her) area and prepare a 1-3 page report of research activities. Because of the limited distances involved the report could result from several hours of intensive telephone canvassing. The onus for reporting would be on the reporters rather than on individuals. This system could work provided the reporters are interested in their job. In this format missing reports would be much more obvious than at present.

4. Change the format but on a biennial basis.

5. Discontinue the compilation but encourage all members and other volcanologists to designate appropriate research projects under the category volcanology in Current Research in the Geological Sciences. At the present time volcanology research reported in Current Research is scattered among petrology, volcanology, and other categories.

Since I have your attention(?), I would like to present my own ideas on the subject. First of all, unless the executive has been misinformed, resistance to the present format dictates either a change or cancellation. Of the possible alternatives, I believe that we should continue with the compilation in a different format. I prefer an annual compilation for continuity and logistic reasons, but realize that a biennial report may be more realistic.

I would like to see the compilation continued for several reasons. Firstly, although many of us know the other active researchers in our special fields, we do not always know what projects are being initiated, particularly thesis projects, or progress on existing projects. The country is simply too large for constant communication, except in localized geographic areas. However, considering the relative scarcity of research funds, we should keep in close contact, both to avoid extensive duplication of research and to provide each other with preprints of research results. Because of its rapid publication, the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin is an ideal forum for rapid dissemination of research in progress.

Secondly, the Division has an obligation to the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin and its publisher, the Canadian National Committee for the International Union of Geology and Geophysics (CNC/IUGG) to prepare compilations of volcanology research. This is both a national and international obligation. Thus the executive should produce some sort of compilation, whether or not it is actively supported by the membership or published in the Geophysical Bulletin. The Division has the right to nominate a member to the CNC/IUGG. Our current nominee is Bob Baragar who will be succeeded by Maurice Lambert on January 1, 1980.

As for format, I prefer the concept of institutional reporters and this format is also being encouraged by the Bulletin editor. Hopefully there are enough interested people across the country to make this format work.

If we do designate institutional reporters, there is another job that they can do regardless of whether or not the compilation is continued. This would be compilation of an annual list of completed volcanology theses. This compilation would be published in the newsletter, and would inform the members of completed research, some of which will never be published in any other form.

The deadline for the 1979 compilation is January 30, 1980. Considering the present date we will probably not be able to change the format for the upcoming compilation. This compilation will thus have to be either done in the present format or discontinued while we retool for a new format. Let us have your ideas on this and other matters related to the compilation.

In a different vein I would like to congratulate Erich Dimroth for a very successful symposium on Precambrian Volcanism and Sedimentation during the Quebec City Meeting. Congratulations are also in order for Nick Arndt and Chris Brooks for a successful Penrose Conference on komatiites.

- Requests for submission should be publicized so that any individuals not canvassed by a coordinator will still be aware of the possibility of submitting material.
- GSC paper or open file report solely for continuity and defacto subsidy.
- Why isn't compilation published in Geoscience Canada?
- More field trips in early spring/or late fall.
- The compilation tends to be out of date by the time it is published. Still it is better than nothing.
- I think that the exercise of putting together an annual compilation through a network of reports may in itself be beneficial as a means of increasing communication among active workers in the field. That, after all, is the objective of our association.
- The best system is to send an annual questionnaire directly to all known volcanological researchers and others who see advertisement in Geolog and request form. The final result should be sent to all contributors only.
- The Volcanological Division should receive reprints for the year on the subject from the membership. These should be copied and bound and offered for distribution to the membership at cost.

#### SYMPOSIUM ON VOLCANISM AND VOLCANIC ROCKS IN THE CORDILLERA

Response to the "Call for Titles" for this symposium, proposed in ASH FALL of October 1979 was poor. Consequently, there will not be a symposium on Cordilleran volcanism at Calgary '81. However, we plan to devote a general session to volcanic topics if enough abstracts are accepted.

#### FIELD TRIP TO THE WEST INDIES

A.L. Smith of the University of Puerto Rico has agreed to lead a field trip to the West Indies. The very tentative dates are April 20 to April 30, 1981. This trip will be discussed further at the Annual Meeting.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The next Annual Meeting of the Geological Association of Canada will be held between May 19 to 21, 1980 at Halifax. This is also the occasion for our annual meeting. Four executive positions are open for election: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councillor (Central). The nominating committee has prepared the following slate:

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chairman             | - J. Nicholls, University of Calgary |
| Vice-Chairman        | - Neil Church, M.E.M.P.R., Victoria  |
| Secretary-Treasurer  | - Mikkel Schau, G.S.C., Ottawa       |
| Councillor (Central) | - P.C. Thurston, O.G.S., Toronto     |

Any three members of the Division may provide additional nominations for these offices by mailing the names together with the names of the nominating members to the Secretary-Treasurer. Such nominations must be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting. (Send to: Volcanology Division, Geological Association of Canada, c/o M.B. Lambert, 323-588 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4.)

The Executive is presently composed as follows:

Chairman: Lorne Ayres, University of Manitoba - 1978-80.

Past-Chairman: Jack Souther, G.S.C., Vancouver - 1978-80.

Vice-Chairman: Jon Scoates, Manitoba Dept. of Mines - 1978-80.

Secretary-Treasurer: Maurice Lambert, G.S.C., Ottawa - 1978-80.

Councillors:

Western Canada: Jim Nicholls, University of Calgary - 1979-82.

Central Canada: Erich Dimroth, University of Quebec at Chicoutimi - 1977-80.

Eastern Canada: Steve Papezik, Memorial University - 1978-81.

Geophysics Oceanography: Currie Palmer, University of Western Ontario - 1979-82.

Economic Geology: Roly Ridler, Newmont Exploration - 1978-81.

Ex-officio CNC/IUGG representative: Maurice Lambert, G.S.C., 1979-83.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 4-9,  
1980

International symposium on the activity of oceanic volcanoes, Ponta Delgada, Azores.

Sponsored by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, the symposium will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Submarine rift eruptions and oceanic island activity.
- 2) Petrology and geochemistry of oceanic volcanoes.
- 3) Implications of crustal spreading on oceanic volcanoes.
- 4) Geothermal power development in oceanic areas.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Professor F. Machado, Oceanic Volcanoes Symposium, Azores University, Horta, Azores.

Sept. 27 -  
October 4,  
1980

Penrose Conference on "Silicic volcanism: ash-flow tuffs, calderas and hydrothermal systems" to be held in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

For information contact: Dr. P.W. Lipman, United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Box 25046, Denver, Colorado 80225, U.S.A.