

IAS



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

NEWSLETTER

N° 188 October 2003

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Report on the

12th BATHURST MEETING: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

This meeting was held in the historic city of Durham, northeastern England, 8-10th July, with 145 limestone lovers attending from all round the world; some came from as far afield as Australia, India and Japan, and there were 30 from North America. This series of meetings was started by Robin Bathurst in 1960 and the first 8 were held in Liverpool, where Robin was lecturer and then professor of geology. The aim has always been to have a small focused conference with plenty of time for discussion.

This meeting was extremely successful and enjoyable. Far more talks were offered than could be accommodated in the single-session programme, and the fieldtrips were extremely popular, with 3 fieldtrips (Permian strat, Zechstein carb and Jurassic oolites) of the 5 oversubscribed, with 35 people on each, and 20 each on the other two (Carboniferous cycles and Chalk). The sessions were held within a University teaching block just a few minutes walk from Durham Castle, a World Heritage Site, where almost all the delegates were accommodated. The Castle proved an ideal venue for evening discussions in the 11th Century bar and adventures around the battlements! One highlight of the conference was the appearance of Robin Bathurst at the Icebreaker Party; he was delighted to see so many friends and acquaintances and we were all pleased to see him too.

There were 44 talks and 60 posters at the meeting, and time set aside for general discussion. As can be imagined, all aspects of carbonates were covered, all ages and all facies, with many of the usual problems being addressed. More detailed work, on 3-D seismic, well-logs, core, outcrops and crystals, more precise analyses with probes and lasers and other techniques such as mag-sus and petrophysics, all combined to make our understanding of carbonates more thorough – or to appreciate that everything is actually more complex than we thought. In terms of deposition, Piers Larcombe demonstrated the role of cyclones in controlling the development of the GBR, mainly through their influence on terrigenous influx to the shelf. Several contributions described the effect of Pleistocene-Quaternary sea-level changes on facies in temperate carbonates in the Mediterranean area, and tropical carbonates elsewhere. Subaerial exposure surfaces were documented in successions from many parts of the Phanerozoic – and as always, the similarity of textures is striking.

In diagenesis, the role of long-distant movement of fluids was addressed by several authors, as was the effect of fractures and faults in acting as conduits. In the Capitan they control the development of karst (Dave Hunt). By comparison with modern systems, the formation of extensive palaeokarst systems, as in the Ellenburger, was

related by Peter Smart to ocean-margin meteoric dissolution, rather than more traditional continental karst processes. The possibility of regenerating primary porosity once filled by brine or halite was addressed by Alan Kendall, but the difficulty is proving the notion!

Dolomite presentations illustrated the variety and complexity of dolomites. There were reviews of dolomitisation from Leslie Melim and Fiona Whittaker, and Duncan Sibley presented arguments that the dolomite problem is effectively a question of time. The proposal is that the induction period for dolomite within marine pore-fluids is long and that in this period metastable precursors are developed which may progress into more stable dolomite or be destroyed if there is a change in pore-water, as through a meteoric influx. It was felt necessary to reiterate that the mixing-zone dolomite model is history – although most of the audience was already converted.

Cycles were described and interpreted from a range of shallow and

deepwater settings, modern and ancient. The importance of subtle variations in climate on sub-Milanokovitch scales in affecting carbonate production and frequency and strength of platform-top currents was well illustrated by studies from the Bahamas by Sven Roth, John Reijmer and Lars Reuning.

All in all, the Durham meeting was hugely successful: it brought together people from a wide range of countries and experience in carbonates; many friendships were made and we all look forward to getting together again. And the weather was brilliant too... being able to eat and drink *al fresco* in the north of England in the evening is very unusual.

The next Bathurst meeting, number 13, will be held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich in July 2007, with Julian Andrews and Alan Kendall at the helm. For carbonate sedimentologists, put the date in your diaries.

Maurice Tucker
Convenor

MESOZOIC PALAEOCEANOGRAPHY IN RESPONSE TO PALAEOGEOGRAPHIC & PALAEOCLIMATIC FORCINGS

Paris, July 10-11, 2003

The workshop was held in Paris (University Pierre-et-Marie-Curie, PARIS 6), on July 10 and 11, 2003. Nearly 100 scientists participated in the 2-days workshop. More than half of them came from outside France, from Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Germany, U.K., Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and the U.S.A. Two former wine cellars built from Lutetian limestones were particularly pleasant locations to appreciate the posters during the hot summer days.

Twenty-two talks and 27 poster presentations informed the participants about recent progress in various types of palaeoceanographic reconstructions, based on the sedimentary, geochemical and palaeontological records. Talks were grouped around three thematic sessions, each of which was introduced by an invited speaker (K. Föllmi, R. Coccioni and H. Jenkyns). All abstracts were briefly (1 min.) introduced by the authors to the audience in the lecture theatre and further discussed in detail during lengthy poster sessions. The full program and abstracts are available at the following address: <http://www.lgs.jussieu.fr/~cepage/GB/english.html>.

Towards the end of the workshop James Ogg presented the NSF funded project CHRONOS, which has as objective the development of a global network of stratigraphic databases. To

know more about the detailed objectives and schedule of this project see <http://www.eas.purdue.edu/chronos/>

The workshop finished with an open discussion chaired by Helmut Weissert, who summarized the main topics presented, as well as the various approaches and tools used in Palaeoceanography. The opportunity was given to discuss new trends in the study of pre-Quaternary palaeoceanography, as well as the possible establishment of future collaborations within the framework of IGCP.

Following this workshop, one is left with the feeling that the deeper we go into geological time, the rarer palaeoceanographic studies become. Indeed, the bulk of talks and posters presented concerned Cretaceous case studies, while only two talks dealt with the Triassic System. The abundance of DSDP-ODP data and widespread interest in the Cretaceous greenhouse world, with its Oceanic Anoxic Events and the activity of Large Igneous Provinces, may explain to a large extent this particular situation.

However, our views and perceptions are currently restricted to a few relatively easily accessible outcrops (i.e. central and northern Italy, SE France). We urgently need more data from higher latitudinal regions (i.e. northern Russian platform) in order to improve

our understanding of global changes in ocean circulation patterns and deep water formation during the Mesozoic. Tethyan-Boreal communications (in terms of palaeogeography, but also in terms of human contacts amongst scientists) are a key aspect of future palaeoceanographic reconstructions. Also further attention needs to be paid to the impact of gateways on palaeoceanographic changes and better

integration of shallow and deep water realms for co-eval events.

The workshop was felt to be a timely event, especially for the many young participants (Ph.D. and post-docs), who also expressed the wish to see the development of more international collaborative networks and programmes in Palaeoceanography.

T. Danelian, F. Baudin and H. Weissert

SEDIMENT 2003 Conference Report

The annual SEDIMENT Meeting was held in Wilhelmshaven, northwestern Germany from June 10-14, 2003. 192 sedimentologists found the way to the old naval city on the southern North Sea coast to present 56 talks and more than 90 posters. Participants came (in order of abundance) from Germany, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway and Taiwan. The conference was organized in excellent teamwork by the four local institutes, namely the Senckenberg Institute, Dept. of Marine Research (Achim Wehrmann), Terramare Research Centre (Gerd Liebezeit), Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment, Marine Laboratory (Gisela Gerdes) and the Institute for Historical Coastal Research (Felix Bittmann).

Wilhelmshaven and the coast welcomed the participants with sunny and warm weather. The conference started with a pre-conference field trip to the barrier island of Spiekeroog, led by Achim Wehrmann. The intention was to give an introduction to the geology, sedimentology and actinopalaeontology of a barrier island and its related backbarrier tidal flats examined along a cross section through the entire Wadden Sea sequence from the seaward-exposed beach of the island, the aeolian dunes, the saltmarshes, and crossing the backbarrier tidal flats to the diked mainland. Special emphasis was given to the Holocene development of barrier islands in a mesotidal regime, to geomorphologic structures within the backbarrier area,

to the sedimentary units and community structure of the benthic fauna and to the dominating sedimentary processes. The participants needed to be in good physical condition for the 15 km long walk. Some of the participants temporarily came into contact with the so-called muddy channel zones characterized by intensive mud accumulation. Therefore, extensive cleaning was necessary when reaching the showers at the beach.

Additionally, two short courses about Biosedimentation (Gisela Gerdes) and Holocene sea level changes (Bianka Petzelberger) were held at Terramare Research Centre. The first day ended at the icebreaker party with BBQ and some cold drinks.

The lecture programme was located at the 'Pumpwerk', a former industrial building used for draining the wet hinterland, situated close to the harbour site of Wilhelmshaven. Each of the three days' plenary session began with a keynote lecture. Jesper Bartholdy (Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark) started with a lecture about the morphodynamics and sediment budget of an island spit of the Danish Wadden Sea, giving the audience a vivid introduction to the regional sedimentology of the North Sea. In the following sessions the research results from clastic deposits, both recent and fossil, were presented. In the evening a well illustrated public lecture was given by Antje Boetius (Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Bremen) about the role of chemosynthetic microbial communities of cold seeps. The keynote lecture of the

next day was given by Campbell Nelson (Univ. of Waikato, New Zealand). Cam whose main field of research is non-tropical carbonates, especially from the Tertiary, presented the recent carbonate deposits around New Zealand as the cool end of the shelf carbonate system. While the cold water carbonates came into focus in the last decade, his talk was of high relevance, giving a good insight into the state of the art in this topic. The talk was followed by a session dealing with the broad field of carbonates ranging from tropical to cold climates, as well as from the recent to the Palaeozoic. Fluvio-aeolian sedimentary processes were a second lecture focus of that day. On Friday morning Mario Pino from the Univ. of Valdivia, Chile gave a keynote lecture on the genesis of volcanic sedimentary deposits from the last interglacial of the south Chilean coast. A session about 3D modelling and free topics followed.

It was the intention of the organizers for both the keynote and other lectures to cover the spectrum of sedimentology in a wide range. Special emphasis was also given to the posters, which were presented in a large marquee. All of the evening events started with a special poster session and the coffee breaks also gave sufficient time for discussion of the posters. The award for the best student poster at this meeting was won by C. Vandr , C. Brandes, I. Stru  & J. Winsemann (Univ. of Hannover) entitled 'Detailed

facies and architectural analysis of deep-water channel-fills: an example from the Sandino fore-arc basin. The student group will be offered financial support by a SEPM stipend to attend the next SEPM/AAPG Meeting to present a poster.

The meeting ended with a post-conference field trip organized by G. Caspers, H. Freund and C. Schwarz. The participants got a general overview and some insights into the geological situation in the area around Wilhelmshaven with its Pleistocene and Holocene deposits and processes. Most attention was given to the differences between Pleistocene sedimentation and the Holocene deposits that were strongly influenced by Holocene sea level fluctuations.

The SEDIMENT 2003 Meeting marks the beginning of a new period since a new section of SEPM has been set up. At the annual meeting SEDIMENT 2002 at Darmstadt, the Central European Section (CES) of the Society for Sedimentary Geology was founded. Thus, the 18th Meeting of sedimentologists at Wilhelmshaven was also the 1st Regional Meeting of the new Central European Section. Nevertheless, the traditional basic idea of the SEDIMENT Meetings to be a platform for graduate and postgraduate students, as well as young scientists, was retained.

Achim Wehrmann

Report on the

FIRST AUSTRIAN REEF WORKSHOP

The "First Austrian Reef Workshop" was held at the Geocentre of the University of Vienna, Austria, from May 30-31, 2003. The focus of the meeting, organized by Martin Zuschin and Diethard Sanders, was on reef research in Austria. Most of the 55 participants therefore came from Austria, although foreign contributors included scientists from Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Slovakia, and the USA. The workshop was very successful regarding its two primary targets – to enhance scientific discussions between bio- and geoscientists and to motivate students to participate and to present the preliminary or final research results of their Masters or PhD theses.

The contributions of bioscientists dealt primarily with coral diseases, the worldwide degradation of reef ecosystems, and with the biology and ecology of reef-associated organisms. The palaeontological contributions focused mainly on the broad variety of Phanerozoic reef types (mounds, bioherms, biostromes) and their constructors (algae, sponges, corals, serpulids, molluscs, bryozoans) in Austria and adjacent countries.

Very interesting aspects of Recent and fossil reef ecology were covered in the two keynote lectures. Bob Stanton (Los Angeles) emphasized the differences in nutrient content in the environments of recent and fossil

reefs. Modern shallow-water coral reefs, dominated by highly specialized zooxanthellate corals, grow in nutrient-poor environments with high radiant energy. In ancient shallow-water reefs with predominantly heterotrophic reef constructors, an abundant nutrient supply exerted a primary control on reef growth. Bernhard Riegl (Dania, Florida) provided an overview of the complex consequences of the predicted greenhouse climate for subtropical-tropical shallow-water reefs. For example, precipitation and the destructive potential of tropical cyclones will increase and coral mass mortality will be observed with increasingly short recurrence time. Nonetheless, geographical differences are evident. In high latitude areas (e.g., Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, South Africa), refuges from strong climate-related degradation do exist.

The pre- and post-workshop excursions led to fossil reefs in the Miocene of the Vienna Basin (Badenian Leithakalk biostromes – guided by Werner Piller and Bernhard Riegl, and Sarmatian small-scale serpulid buildups – guided by Mathias Harzhauser and Werner Piller) as well as to the Upper Triassic (Rhaetian) Steinplatte reef complex (guided by Leopold Krystyn, Werner Piller and Robert Stanton). In the Leithakalk limestone the concept of biostromal coral carpets and its importance for framework building throughout the the Phanerozoic was

a primary topic. The small Sarmatian serpulid bioherms in the Vienna Basin have long been neglected, but they apparently contain a key to decipher the enigmatic water chemistry of the Sarmatian Sea. Actualistic comparisons with the extant representatives of the dominant serpulid genus *Hydroides* suggest eutrophic shallow-water conditions at that time. A fascinating discussion developed at the Steinplatte about whether the capping facies on the mound is primarily characterized by contemporaneous deposition down the ramp or whether it represents packets of sediment deposited at different times, probably depending on sea level fluctuations.

At the end of the workshop, future activities were briefly discussed. A loosely organized Austrian reef society is envisaged, which should serve as a platform for information exchange among scientists. An important aspect will be to make this platform attractive for both bio- and geoscientists.

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REEF AND CARBONATE PLATFORM SEDIMENTATION – PROCESSES AND QUANTIFICATION

32nd International Geological Congress, Florence, August 20 – 28, 2004
Session T-03.01

Convenors: André Strasser, Antonio Russo & Ali M'Rabet

Carbonate platforms have long been a focus of academic and industrial research but, through their complexity, still defy our full understanding. It is therefore timely to have specialists meet and discuss the newest results and challenges at the International Geological Congress. This session focuses on the processes and the quantification of carbonate production, distribution, and accumulation, from the Recent to the Ancient. We invite contributions concerning for example:

- shallow-water carbonate ecosystems (e.g., coral reefs, seagrass communities);
- microbial carbonate production;
- peritidal carbonate systems;
- coated grains;
- ecological controls on carbonate production (e.g., nutrients, water chemistry, temperature, competitors);
- controls on facies distribution (e.g., seafloor morphology, currents, prevailing winds);
- geometries of sedimentary bodies;
- reservoir characteristics of carbonate sand bodies and reefs;
- quantification procedures (e.g., sedimentation rates, volume estimates);
- modelling carbonate platform sedimentation.

If your research is focused on carbonate platform sediments or reefs, we would like to invite you to present your results in a talk or a poster at this Congress. Abstracts must be submitted by January 10th, 2004, at the latest. Please follow the guidelines available at <http://www.32igc.org>. If you plan to contribute to this session, please contact one of the convenors as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in Florence.

André Strasser

(andreas.strasser@unifr.ch)

Antonio Russo (russo@mail.unimo.it)

Ali M'Rabet (mrabet@etap.com.tn)

There are other sessions on carbonate shelves, which concern depositional rhythms, tectonic controls, or specifically Cretaceous platforms. Please check <http://www.32igc.org> for more details and for the addresses of the convenors.

CALENDAR

**ANALOGUE AND NUMERICAL
FORWARD MODELLING OF
SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS; FROM
UNDERSTANDING TO PREDICTION**

October 9-11, 2003

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Contact: Poppe de Boer
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P.O. Box 80.021

3508 TA Utrecht

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E-mail: basinmodelling@geo.uu.nl

Web-page: <http://basinmodelling.geo.uu.nl>

**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY**

January 13-18, 2004, THAILAND (Bangkok)

Contact: Thanawat Jarupongsakul
Department of Geology, Faculty of Science,
Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Fax: (662) 2185464-5

E-mail: thanawat@sc.chula.ac.th

Web-page: <http://www.geocities.com/geology5th>

Circular download: <http://www.gsj.jp/>

HomePage.html

**9TH FRENCH CONGRESS OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

October 14-16, 2003, FRANCE (Bordeaux)

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Web-page: <http://www.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr/ASF/asf.html>

**FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF IGCP-475
DeltaMAP**

**(Deltas in the Monsoon Asia-Pacific region:
2003-2007)**

January 15-20, 2004

Bangkok & Ayutthaya, Thailand

Contact: Dr. Yoshiki Saito

MRE, Geological Survey of Japan/AIST

Central 7, Higashi 1-1-1, Tsukuba, 305-8567

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**12TH MEETING OF SWISS
SEDIMENTOLOGISTS (SwissSed)**

January 31, 2004
 SWITZERLAND (Fribourg)
 Contact: André Strasser,
 Department of Geosciences, Geology-
 Palaeontology,
 Pérolles, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland.
 Tel : +41 26 300 89 78
 E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

**MARINE SANDWAVE AND RIVER DUNE
DYNAMICS WORKSHOP**

April 1-2, 2004
 Enschede, The Netherlands
 Contact : Déborah Idier
 University of Twente
 Faculty of Engineering Technology
 Group Water Engineering and Management
 PO Box 217
 7500 AE Enschede
 The Netherlands

**ICHNIA 2004: THE INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS ON ICHNOLOGY**

April 9-13, 2004
 Trelew (Patagonia), Argentina
 Contact: Luis Buatois
 E-mail: ichtnol@infovia.com.ar
 Web-page: www.ichnia2004.com

**LE 2ème COLLOQUE SUR LE
JURASSIQUE MAROCAIN**

April 21-22, 2004, MOROCCO (Marrakech)
 Contact: Prof. A. Ait Addi
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 B.P.: 549-Guéliz, Marrakech-Maroc
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 E-mail: aitaddi@fstg-marrakech.ac.ma
 Web-page: www.ucam.ac.ma/fssm/cjm2

TIDALITES-2004

**6th International Conference on Tidal
Sedimentology**
 August 2-5, 2004
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 Contact: Jesper Bartholdy
 Institute of Geography, University of
 Copenhagen, Oster Voldgade 10, Dk-1305
 Copenhagen K, Denmark
 E-mail: jb@geogr.ku.dk
 Web-page: www.geogr.ku.dk/tidalites
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**32nd INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL
CONGRESS**

August 20-28, 2004
 Florence, Italy
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 Phone/Fax: + 39 055 2382146
 Web-page: www.32igc.org

**23rd IAS MEETING OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

September 15-17, 2004, PORTUGAL (Coimbra)
 Contact: Rui Pena dos Reis
 Universidade de Coimbra, Dpto. Ciências da
 Terra
 Largo Marquês de Pombal, 3014 Coimbra
 (PORTUGAL)
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**2nd INTERNATIONAL MAAR
CONFERENCE**

September 15-29, 2004, HUNGARY
(Keckemet-Lajosmizse)

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Web-page: http://www.mafi.hu/2IMC_Homepage/2IMC_Homepage_Files/WelcomePagePictures/2IMC.html

24th IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

January, 10-13, 2005, OMAN, (Muscat)
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Sultan Qaboos University
P.O. Box 36, P.C. 123
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Phone: +968 515 030
Fax: +968 513 147
E-mail: homewood@squ.edu.om

**7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
THE CRETACEOUS**

September 5-9, 2005

Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Contact: Karl B. Föllmi or Thierry Adatte
Institut de Géologie, Université de Neuchâtel,
case postale 2, CH-2007 Neuchâtel, Switzerland
E-mail: karl.foellmi@unine.ch ;
thierry.adatte@unine.ch
Web-page: <http://www-geol.unine.ch/>
Fax nr.: 0041-718 26 01

GONDWANA 12 CONFERENCE

November 6-11, 2005, ARGENTINA (Mendoza)

Contact: Carlos W. Rapela & Luis A. Spalletti
Web-page: <http://cig.museo.unlp.edu.ar/gondwana>

**17TH INTERNATIONAL
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

August 27 – September 1, 2006

Fukuoka, Japan

Contact: Ryo Matsumoto
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
University of Tokyo
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Tokyo 113, Japan
E-mail: ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Web-page: <http://sediment.jp/>

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