

PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

VOLUME 129 INITIAL REPORTS OLD PACIFIC CRUST

Covering Leg 129 of the cruises of the Drilling Vessel *JOIDES Resolution*,
Apra Harbor, Guam, to Apra Harbor, Guam, Sites 800-802,
20 November 1989-18 January 1990

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This publication was prepared by the Ocean Drilling Program, Texas A&M University, as an account of work performed under the international Ocean Drilling Program, which is managed by Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., under contract with the National Science Foundation. Funding for the program was provided by the following agencies at the time of this cruise:

Canada/Australia Consortium for the Ocean Drilling Program, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (Canada) and Department of Primary Industries and Energy (Australia)

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Federal Republic of Germany)

European Science Foundation Consortium for the Ocean Drilling Program (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey)

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (France)

National Science Foundation (United States)

Natural Environment Research Council (United Kingdom)

University of Tokyo, Ocean Research Institute (Japan)

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation, the participating agencies, Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., Texas A&M University, or Texas A&M Research Foundation.

It is recommended that reference to the whole or to part of this volume be made in one of the following forms, as appropriate:

Lancelot, Y., Larson, R., et al. 1990. *Proc. ODP, Init. Repts.*, 129: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program).

Shipboard Scientific Party, 1990. Site 800. *In* Lancelot, Y., Larson, R., et al., *Proc. ODP, Init. Repts.*, 129: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program), 33–89.

Effective Publication Dates of ODP *Proceedings*

According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the date of publication of a work and of a contained name or statement affecting nomenclature is the date on which the publication was mailed to subscribers, placed on sale, or when the whole edition is distributed free of charge, mailed to institutions and individuals to whom free copies are distributed. The mailing date, *not the printed date*, is the correct one.

The mailing dates of recent *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program* are as follows:

Volume 126 (*Initial Reports*): August 1990
Volume 127 (*Initial Reports*): September 1990
Volume 128 (*Initial Reports*): September 1990
Volume 113 (*Scientific Results*): July 1990
Volume 115 (*Scientific Results*): September 1990
Volume 116 (*Scientific Results*): September 1990

Distribution

Copies of this publication may be obtained from Publications Distribution Center, Ocean Drilling Program, 1000 Discovery Drive, College Station, Texas 77845-9547. Orders for copies will require advance payment. See current ODP publication list for price and availability of this publication.

Printed December 1990

ISSN 0884-5883
Library of Congress 87-655-674

Foreword

By the National Science Foundation

The scientists of the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) have embarked on what could prove to be one of the most important earth science initiatives of the decade—an initiative rivaling in scope and impact the exploration of the frontiers of outer space. The program explores our planet's last frontier—the Earth's structure and history as it is revealed beneath the oceans. The scope of the program's scientific goals excites the imagination, challenges the intellect, and enhances the spirit of cooperation among peoples in countries around the world.

Between 1872 and 1876, HMS *Challenger* undertook the world's first major oceanographic expedition. That expedition greatly expanded man's knowledge of the world's oceans and revolutionized our ideas about planet Earth. From 1968 to 1983, another ship named *Challenger* logged more than 375,000 miles on 96 voyages across every ocean for the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Among the project's many remarkable discoveries were the confirmation of seafloor spreading and the establishment of the relative youth of the seafloor, thus verifying the dynamic and changing nature of the Earth's crust.

Today, the Ocean Drilling Program, which began in 1983, brings new resources to bear on scientific ocean drilling. A new drillship is in operation—the *JOIDES Resolution*—one of the world's most modern and best equipped drillships with enhanced capability for drilling and coring in polar areas and rough weather, expanded laboratory space, facilities for more scientists, and a major drill-hole logging program. The name of the ship was derived from the international scientific partnership that directs the program—the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES)—and from the flagship of Captain Cook's second voyage to the Pacific Ocean in the late 18th century. Texas A&M University is responsible for science operations in the program, and Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory is responsible for the logging program.

The Ocean Drilling Program truly has international participation. In 1975, the International Phase of Ocean Drilling began with member nations—the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, and France—all providing funds and scientific guidance for the project. Today, ODP partners include the U.S.A., the Canada/Australia Consortium for the Ocean Drilling Program, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Science Foundation, which represents Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Swit-

zerland, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. The National Science Foundation, with funds contributed by the United States and international partners, supports the scientific operations and planning for the ODP through a contract with Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. (JOI).

The information gained by the program leads to a better understanding of the Earth and its dynamic processes. Drilled sediment cores and logs reveal clues to past climatic history and tie into parallel studies of paleoclimates from glacial ice cores drilled on the continents. Understanding these sediment cores will enable scientists to complete the map of major geologically active regions of the Earth, and to identify processes that lead to dynamic change such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and mountain and continental growth. We are far from being able to predict such changes accurately now; but with the new tools and understanding, the accuracy of such predictions can be improved. This better understanding of the Earth's system(s) will allow us to identify regions of potential mineral and energy resource development, an issue of worldwide human interest. The Ocean Drilling Program is not in itself aimed at finding resources, but the knowledge of the Earth's processes that is gained through such a basic research program will inevitably provide pieces of information required for such resource discovery and exploitation.

The program is fully under way in its aim to further the understanding of the Earth's dynamic systems. People of our planet will benefit directly and indirectly from this research in both their daily living and work activities. This multinational endeavor will perhaps foster other cooperative efforts in science or among societies. The Ocean Drilling Program has distinguished ancestors in the original *Resolution* and *Challenger* expeditions and the Deep Sea Drilling Project. The National Science Foundation is proud to be playing a leading role in this program, and we are looking forward to significant and innovative science for many years to come.



Erich Bloch
Director
National Science Foundation

Washington, D.C.

Foreword

By Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.

This volume presents results from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), where scientists use a specially equipped ocean drilling ship to sample and measure the properties of the submerged part of the Earth's crust. These data are then synthesized with other information to yield new insights into earth processes.

These results address the scientific goals of the program, which include providing a global description of geological and geophysical structures and materials, studying in detail areas of major geophysical activity such as mid-ocean ridges and the associated hydrothermal circulations, and studying passive and active continental margins. In addition, the ODP data support the study of sea-level and ocean-circulation changes, the effects of the Earth's orbital variations on climate, and the study of processes and mechanisms of evolution from the biological records in the cores which are recovered from drilling.

The Ocean Drilling Program is a partnership of scientists and governments. Overall scientific policy and management guidance is provided by Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES), which consists of committees and panels made up of representatives of the participating institutions and other scientific and engineering experts. The JOIDES Executive Committee (EXCOM) provides general oversight; the JOIDES Planning Committee (PCOM) is the focal point for all scientific planning for the ODP and is key to the scientific success of the program.

The PCOM has a network of panels and working groups which screen drilling proposals, evaluate instrumentation and measurement techniques, and assess geophysical survey data and other safety and siting information. PCOM uses the recommendations of these panels and committees to select drilling targets, to specify the major scientific objectives of each two-month drilling segment or leg, and to provide the science operator with nominations for co-chief scientists. The science operator, Texas A&M University, in turn is responsible for planning the detailed ship's operations, actual drilling schedules, and final scientific rosters, which are developed in close cooperation with PCOM and the cognizant panels.

Many of the scientific goals can be met only with new technology. Thus the program has identified engineering goals, which include the ability to start a hole and to core on bare rock at mid-ocean ridge sites, to drill in high-temperature and corrosive regions typical of hydrothermal areas, and to core in high latitudes with minimum interference from high seas and sea ice. To meet these needs, the program operates a specially equipped drillship, the *JOIDES Resolution*, which contains laboratories and equipment that are state-of-the-art, and carries a major new logging program.

The ship, registered as SEDCO/BP 471 after her owners and her length in feet (144 meters), is 70 feet (21 meters) wide, and has a displacement of 16,595 long tons. Her derrick towers 200 feet (61 meters) above the waterline, and a computer-controlled dynamic-positioning system stabilizes the ship over a specific location while drilling in water depths up to 27,000 feet (8230 meters). The drilling system collects cores from beneath the seafloor with a derrick and drawworks that can handle 30,000 feet (9144 meters) of drill pipe. More than 12,000 square feet (1115 square meters) of space distributed throughout the ship is devoted to scientific laboratories and equipment. The ship sails with a scientific and technical crew of 50 and a ship's crew of 65.

Logging is a major part of the overall operation. The program provides a full suite of geochemical and geophysical measurements for every hole deeper than 1300 feet (400 meters). For each such hole, there are lowerings of basic oil-industry tools: nuclear, sonic, and electrical. In addition, a borehole televiwer is available for imaging the well-bore wall, a 12-channel logging tool provides accurate velocity and elastic property measurements as well as sonic waveforms for spectral analysis of energy propagation near the well bore, and a vertical seismic profiler records reflectors from below the total depth of the hole.

Texas A&M University serves as science operator for the Ocean Drilling Program. In this capacity, they operate and staff the drillship to collect cores from JOIDES-designated sites from around the world. The science operator also ensures that adequate scientific analyses are performed on the cores by maintaining the shipboard scientific laboratories and by providing logistical and technical support for shipboard scientific teams. Onshore, Texas A&M manages scientific activities after each leg, is curator for the cores, distributes samples, and coordinates the editing and publication of the scientific results. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory (LDGO) of Columbia University manages the program's logging operations, which include processing the data and provision of assistance to scientists in data analysis. The ODP Data Bank, a repository for geophysical data, is also managed by LDGO. Core samples from ODP and the previous Deep Sea Drilling Project are stored for future investigation at three sites: ODP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Texas A&M University, ODP and DSDP Atlantic and Antarctic cores at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, and DSDP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

International oversight and coordination are provided by the ODP Council, a governmental consultative body of partner country representatives, chaired by the United States, which periodically reviews the general progress of the program and discusses financial plans and other management issues. Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., a nonprofit consortium of U.S. oceanographic institutions, serves as the National Science Foundation's prime contractor and manages the ODP. JOI is responsible for seeing that the scientific objectives and plans are translated into scientific operations consistent with JOIDES recommendations and budgetary constraints.

Scientific achievements of the ODP already include new data on early seafloor spreading and how continents separate and their margins evolve. We have new insight into glacial cycles and the fluctuations of currents throughout geological time. Technical achievements include the first bare-rock coring, and logging data more accurate and complete than ever before. JOI is pleased to have played a facilitating role in the Ocean Drilling Program.



D. James Baker
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“The deep basin of the western Pacific still holds as its secret the earliest records remaining of the history of the Pacific basin. . . . Ultimately, another serious attempt must be made to solve these immensely important problems . . . held on, and in, the oldest oceanic crust.”

B. C. Heezen (1973)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Leg 129 marks the culmination of a very long search for the oldest rocks of the Pacific Ocean. That search began over 20 years ago and involved a long series of proposals, geophysical surveys, committee fights, beer talks, dreams, drilling cruises, successes, failures, frustrations, and faith. A great number of individuals, institutions, special interest lobbies, ship crews, technicians, and scientists took part in the adventure. Some of us were involved almost from the beginning; others came and went. All contributed, however, and we feel privileged to have been there, finally, at the right place and time to “cash in” for such a large community.

The main force behind this project was of course in the various JOIDES panels and especially the Ocean Paleoenvironment Panel in the 1970's, and its successor the Sediment and Ocean History Panel (now the Ocean History Panel). FUSOD, COSOD I, and COSOD II conferences helped keep the dream alive. Finally, the JOIDES Planning Committee showed constant support during all these years, dedicating all or parts of DSDP Legs 6, 7, 17, 20, 32, 33, 60, 61, and 89 of the *Glomar Challenger* to the search for the origins of the Pacific plate.

We are especially indebted to those who actually got “out there” on the drilling vessel and came back either empty-handed or loaded with fascinating unexpected discoveries that brought more questions than answers. Our very special thoughts naturally go to Bruce C. Heezen who did not live to see the ultimate success, after having invested so much of his time and passion in the search. Many of our friends and colleagues, who at one time or another got directly involved with the project, joined forces in the “Old Pacific Club,” and refused to give up even after repeated frustrating experiences. E. L. Winterer, S. O. Schlanger, R. Moberly, I. Premoli-Silva, W. Sliter, D. Bukry, R. G. Douglas, and H. P. Foreman are especially persistent members of this club that is led by Ralph Moberly, who sailed on five of the above legs and spent nearly a year on the *Glomar Challenger* drilling in the Mesozoic Pacific.

In the most recent years prior to Leg 129, multichannel seismic surveys played a major role in the definition of new strategies and the discovery of the most promising drilling targets. T. S. Shipley (who claims that he is not *really* a seismologist, but who is certainly better at it than any of us) was behind most of it, especially the last cruise of the *Fred H. Moore* that brought back enough evidence to convince the various JOIDES panels and committees. The combination of the results of the FM35-12 cruise of the *Fred H. Moore* and of the MESOPAC II cruise of the *Le Suroit*, which both had their share of adventures, set the final stage before the actual drilling could take place. We thank the crews, technicians, and fellow scientists who shared our excitement and frustrations during these surveys. Without their cooperation Leg 129 would never have happened.

Drilling operations on the *JOIDES Resolution* exceeded our expectations thanks to the experience of the ODP operations engineers and technicians under Glen Foss, operations superintendent, and Brad Julson, laboratory officer. Our very special thanks go to the SEDCO/FOREX engineers, technicians, and drillers led by “Jack” Tarbutton, as well as to the entire ship's crew under Captain Tom Ribbens.

Finally, we thank all the ODP staff at Texas A&M University for their help before, during, and after the cruise. Their expertise ranged from critical suggestions for scientific crew selection to photocopying. Their diligence and good humor contributed especially to making the documentation of Leg 129 both relatively error free and enjoyable.