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ASH FALL

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

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

March, 1980

Once again, and hopefully for the last time, I will devote most of these remarks to the annual compilation of volcanology research. Results of the recent questionnaire have been compiled by Jon Scoates and are reported elsewhere in the newsletter. Some of the specific comments make interesting reading, and some forcefully reflect the viewpoints of the members.

The concensus of the membership, at least those interested enough in the problem to respond, is that the compilation should be continued but in a different format. There was a slight majority in favour of institutional reporting, with an even split between annual and biennial reporting. I stated my views on this matter in the previous newsletter and I seem to be in general agreement with the bulk of the membership (will wonders never cease?).

At the annual meeting in Halifax we will have to consider the matter again and arrive at a definite conclusion. I will be proposing that we continue with the compilation on an annual basis, after the necessary hiatus of the present year since the deadline for contributions is now past. I will propose an annual format for continuity, to fit the annual schedule of the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin, and to fit our obligations to the Canadian National Committee for the International Union of Geology and Geophysics.

I will be proposing also that we adopt an institutional method of reporting as outlined in the last newsletter. If this system is accepted at the annual meeting, then various institutional reporters can be selected over the summer and the system will be operational for 1980-81.

I visualize the format working something like this. Institutional reporters will contact individual researchers in their local area. We will be asking for a simple list of recently completed, ongoing, and planned research projects and major objectives of the research. To facilitate this we will have a short form available for respondents to fill in the appropriate data. To ensure completeness the local reporter will contact any slackers via telephone, and in fact all of the reporting could be done by phone. Researchers will have the option of writing a brief report on their research. The reporter will then compile the results for his area and forward these to the Vice-Chairman, who will have the final responsibility for the compilation.

Once the compilation is ready for submission to the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin, we can send a copy to all those who provided input and other interested members. Thus we are assured of rapid dissemination.

I would also like to draw your attention to the call for nominations presented elsewhere in the newsletter. If you are just itching to serve in some capacity, don't wait to be asked, but volunteer your services. This is a small organization, and we need all the help and ideas that we can get.

I regretfully have to announce that Jon Scoates, the current Vice-Chairman, will not be standing for election for Chairman. He has withdrawn because of pressure of other work.

COMPILATION OF VOLCANOLOGY RESEARCH

Jon Scoates

Replies to the questionnaire distributed last fall were received from 31 members. The following summarizes the answers to the various questions and presents some of the comments received from various members.

Answers to Questions

- 1) 27 out of 31 respondents believe that the compilation should be continued.
- 2) 17 out of 31 respondents would prefer institutional reporting. Only 4 would continue the present format.
- 3) Annual vs biennial compilation were evenly split at 13 apiece.
- 4) 12 would act as a coordinator or reporter; 9 would not.
- 5) 16 received the Canadian Geophysical Bulletin; 13 did not.

Selected Comments

- Existing compilation duplicates the GSC research in progress report and departmental annual reports - don't think it is widely read or has much permanent value.
- I like the Little Price!
- The compilation might help the grant-givers, but does not seem relevant to the industry.
- Cannot comment! Never received any compilation!
- I'd prefer a listing of research distributed by the GAC, through the Volcanology Division.
- The use of the compilation is very limited...; we drown in a flood of papers...; I have to write at least 7 reports per year to institutions which give me money (not always much). There must be some time left to do at least a little work.
- I've never found any need to use such a compilation, since Georef etc., are more complete and up to date.
- It's a pain in the orifice to prepare such compilations, what with all the other bureaucracy we have to put up with!
- Any chance of Geoscience Canada handling some sort of brief review?
- Would the Volcanological Division budget be sufficient to cover the cost of collecting, typing, copying and distributing biennial compilation to the Division membership?