

**Precambrian Crustal Evolution
in the North Atlantic Region**

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Precambrian Crustal Evolution in the North Atlantic Region

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Contents

PREFACE	vii
SNYDER, D. B., LUCAS, S. B. & MCBRIDE, J. H. Crustal and mantle reflectors from Palaeoproterozoic orogens and their relation to arc–continent collisions	1
ROLLINSON, H. R. Tonalite–trondhjemite–granodiorite magmatism and the genesis of Lewisian crust during the Archaean	25
VREVSKY, A., KRIMSKY, R. & SVETOV, S. Rare earth and isotopic (Nd, O) heterogeneity of the Archaean mantle, Baltic Shield	43
BIBIKOVA, E. V., SKIÖLD, T. & BOGDANOVA, S. V. Age and geodynamic aspects of the oldest rocks in the Precambrian Belomorian Belt of the Baltic (Fennoscandian) Shield	55
BOGDANOVA, S. V. High-grade metamorphism of 2.45–2.4 Ga age in mafic intrusions of the Belomorian Belt in the northeastern Baltic Shield	69
VAN KRANENDONK, M. J. & WARDLE, R. J. Burwell domain of the Palaeoproterozoic Torngat Orogen, northeastern Canada: tilted cross-section of a magmatic arc caught between a rock and a hard place	91
RIVERS, T., MENGEL, F., SCOTT, D. J., CAMPBELL, L. M. & GOULET, N. Torngat Orogen – a Palaeoproterozoic example of a narrow doubly vergent collisional orogen	117
WARDLE, R. J. & VAN KRANENDONK, M. J. The Palaeoproterozoic Southeastern Churchill Province of Labrador–Quebec, Canada: orogenic development as a consequence of oblique collision and indentation	137
KERR, A., RYAN, B., GOWER, C. F. & WARDLE, R. J. The Makkovik Province: extension of the Ketilidian Mobile Belt in mainland North America	155
CHADWICK, B. & GARDE, A. A. Palaeoproterozoic oblique plate convergence in South Greenland: a reappraisal of the Ketilidian Orogen	179
GOWER, C. F. The evolution of the Grenville Province in eastern Labrador, Canada	197
STARMER, I. C. Accretion, rifting, rotation and collision in the North Atlantic supercontinent, 1700–950 Ma	219
WIKSTRÖM, A., SKIÖLD, T. & ÖHLANDER, B. The relationship between 1.88 Ga old magmatism and the Baltic–Bothnian shear zone in northern Sweden	249
CONNELLY, J. N. & ÅHÄLL, K.-I. The Mesoproterozoic cratonization of Baltica – new age constraints from SW Sweden	261
MENUGE, J. F. & BREWER, T. S. Mesoproterozoic anorogenic magmatism in southern Norway	275
CONNELLY, J. N., BERGLUND, J. & LARSON, S. Å. Thermotectonic evolution of the Eastern Segment of southwestern Sweden: tectonic constraints from U–Pb geochronology	297
PAGE, L. M., STEPHENS, M. B. & WAHLGREN, C.-H. ⁴⁰ Ar/ ³⁹ Ar geochronological constraints on the tectonothermal evolution of the Eastern Segment of the Sveconorwegian Orogen, south-central Sweden	315
MERTANEN, S., PESONEN, L. J. & HUUMA, H. Palaeomagnetism and Sm–Nd ages of the Neoproterozoic diabase dykes in Laanila and Kautokeino, northern Fennoscandia	331
EMMETT, T. F. The provenance of pre-Scandian continental flakes within the Caledonide Orogen of south-central Norway	359
FITCHES, W. R., PEARCE, N. J. G., EVANS, J. A. & MUIR, R. J. Provenance of late Proterozoic Dalradian tillite clasts, Inner Hebrides, Scotland	367
Index	379

Preface

Recent interest in Precambrian crustal evolution in the North Atlantic Region has, in part, been driven by IGCP project 275 'The Deep Geology of the Baltic Shield' and project 371 'Structure and Correlation of the Precambrian in North East Europe and the North Atlantic Realm (COPENA)'. Project 275 acted as a catalyst for the integration of geological, geophysical, geochemical and geochronological data across national boundaries, particularly with the former Soviet Union. During the life of project 275 the BABEL geophysical project demonstrated the advantage of large multinational projects and focused international attention on aspects of Precambrian crustal evolution. At the same time LITHOPROBE in Canada and North America was demonstrating the advantage of large scale multidisciplinary projects to the study of Precambrian crustal evolution on the opposite side of the Atlantic.

In September 1994 IGCP project 371 'Structure and Correlation of the Precambrian in North East Europe and the North Atlantic Realm (COPENA)' held its inaugural meeting in Nottingham. This project aims to bring together Earth Scientists from each side of the Atlantic to focus attention on Precambrian crustal evolution. From this approach an up-scaling from 'local' tectonic modelling to large-scale investigation of major Precambrian orogens will be possible. This should ultimately allow for the identification of how the Precambrian crust in the North Atlantic realm was created, amalgamated and reworked during the early history of the Earth.

The results in this volume provide a synthesis of papers presented during the Nottingham meeting, which spans the geographical realm of COPENA. Financial support for the Nottingham meeting was provided by the Geological Society of London, the Royal Society and the IGCP. The success of the meeting was in part due to support from Janet Baker and Ian Starmer, while numerous reviewers provided support during the development of this volume.