Deformation Mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics:
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Preface

This special volume is a collection of original papers and review articles based on work presented at the Deformation mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics (DRT2001) conference, which was held in Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands in April 2001. DRT2001 was the twelfth in a series of international conferences that began in 1976 with a meeting organised by Henk Zwart, Richard Lisle, Gordon Lister and Paul Williams from the Geologisch en Mineralogisch Instituut der Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden. Special publications arising from these meetings are listed below. The Leiden meeting on Fabrics, Microtextures and Microtectonics ‘was designed to bring together as many as possible of the people active in this field; not only geologists but also material scientists from other disciplines’ (Lister et al. 1977). The topics considered in the conferences have evolved and changed but have always remained within the broad field of deformation processes. In 1999 a permanent name was adopted for the conference series, namely, ‘Deformation mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics’ (Dresen & Handy 2001). The DRT meetings are devoted to the study of deformation behaviour and the rheology of rocks and minerals and to encourage dialogue between researchers working on all scales of field, experimental and theoretical studies of rock deformation. Recent DRT meetings have aimed to provide a forum where field geologists could get state-of-the-art information on experimental and theoretical studies and where theoreticians and experimentalists could debate the problems and questions posed by natural structures and microstructures (Schmid et al. 1999). The main focus of DRT2001 in Noordwijkerhout was on the progress made in the 25 years since the original Leiden meeting and the direction that our research should take in the new millennium. Professor Henk Zwart and Professor Paul Williams were special guests at the meeting. DRT2001 was organized by an informal group from the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Utrecht University including Siese de Meer, Martyn Drury, Magda Martens, Pat Trimby, Gill Pennock, Saskia ten Grotenhuis, and Jaap Liezenberg with support from Professor Chris Spiers and Professor Stan White.


Martyn Drury, Siese de Meer, Hans de Bresser and Gill Pennock
Utrecht March 2002.
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