

Glacimarine Environments: Processes and Sediments

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Glacimarine Environments: Processes and Sediments

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Contents

DOWDESWELL, J.A. & SCOURSE, J.D. Preface	vii
DOWDESWELL, J.A. & SCOURSE, J.D. On the description and modelling of glacial marine sediments and sedimentation	1
BOULTON, G. S. Sedimentary and sea level changes during glacial cycles and their control on glacial marine facies architecture	15
POWELL, R.D. Glacial marine processes at grounding-line fans and their growth to ice-contact deltas	53
COWAN, E.A. & POWELL, R.D. Suspended sediment transport and deposition of cyclically interlaminated sediment in a temperate glacial fjord, Alaska, U.S.A.	75
DOMACK, E.W. Laminated terrigenous sediments from the Antarctic Peninsula: the role of subglacial and marine processes	91
GILBERT, R. Rafting in glacial marine environments	105
DOWDESWELL, J.A. & MURRAY, T. Modelling rates of sedimentation from icebergs	121
CARLSON, P.R., BRUNS, T.R. & FISHER, M.A. Development of slope valleys in the glacial marine environment of a complex subduction zone, Northern Gulf of Alaska	139
AITKEN, A.E. Fossilization potential of Arctic fjord and continental shelf benthic macrofaunas	155
SYVITSKI, J.P.M., LEBLANC, K.W.G. & CRANSTON, R.E. The flux and preservation of organic carbon in Baffin Island fjords	177
FAIRCHILD, I.J. & SPIRO, B. Carbonate minerals in glacial sediments: geochemical clues to palaeoenvironment	201
WOODWORTH-LYNAS, C.M.T. & GUIGNÉ, J.Y. Iceberg scours in the geological record: examples from glacial Lake Agassiz	217
BISCHOF, J., KOCH, J., KUBISCH, M., SPIELHAGEN, R.F. & THIEDE, J. Nordic Seas surface ice drift reconstructions: evidence from ice rafted coal fragments during oxygen isotope Stage 6	235
SOLHEIM, A., RUSSWURM, L., ELVERHØI, A. & NYLAND BERG, M. Glacial geomorphic features in the northern Barents Sea: direct evidence for grounded ice and implications for the pattern of deglaciation and late glacial sedimentation	253
VORREN, T.O., LEBESBYE, E. & LARSEN, K.B. Geometry and genesis of the glacial sediments in the southern Barents Sea	269
HUDDART, D. & PEACOCK, J.D. Early Holocene morainal bank sedimentology and marine ecology, Skjoldungebrae gorge, North Scoresby Land, East Greenland	289
STEVENS, R.L. Proximal and distal glacial marine deposits in southwestern Sweden: contrasts in sedimentation	307
LORD, A.R. The Pleistocene–Holocene transition in southwestern Sweden and the recognition of deglaciation effects in adjacent seas	317
SCOURSE, J.D., AUSTIN, W.E.N., BATEMAN, R.M., CATT, J.A., EVANS, C.D.R., ROBINSON, J.E. & YOUNG, J.R. Sedimentology and micropalaeontology of glacial marine sediments from the Central and Southwestern Celtic Sea	329
STOKER, M.S. Glacially-influenced sedimentation on the Hebridean slope, northwestern United Kingdom continental margin	349

EYLES, C.H. & LAGOE, M.B. Sedimentation patterns and facies geometries on a temperate glacially-influenced continental shelf: the Yakataga Formation, Middleton Island, Alaska	363
MONCRIEFF, A.C.M. & HAMBREY, M.J. Marginal-marine glacial sedimentation in the late Precambrian succession of East Greenland	387
Subject Index	411
Geographical Index	419

Preface

Convincing interpretations of many ancient glacial sequences depend on studies of analogous processes active in modern glacial environments. Studies of both ancient glacial sequences and modern glacial environments have increased in recent years. The time therefore seemed ripe to hold a meeting to bring workers on the contemporary and ancient record together, and so the meeting which generated this volume was conceived. The two-day meeting, organized on behalf of the Marine Studies Group of the Geological Society of London, in conjunction with the International Glaciological Society, and promoted under the aegis of IGCP Project 260, was held in March 1989 at Burlington House in Piccadilly, the London home of the Geological Society. Many of the papers presented at the meeting are contained within this volume.

It was a pleasure to welcome contributions from North America, and from many of the countries of continental Europe, in addition to those from Britain. A blend of papers on modern and ancient glacial environments was achieved, and we found organizing the meeting a stimulating and satisfying experience. We had initially intended dividing the volume into two more-or-less equal halves devoted to 'modern' and 'ancient', but we were pleasantly surprised by the number of contributions which transcended this boundary, and so felt that to impose such a division would have been artificial. Following an introductory paper on approaches to the study of glacial environments by the editors, Boulton's review paper is concerned with general principles in both modern and ancient environments. This is followed by a series of papers concerned largely with processes in modern glacial environments (Powell, Cowan & Powell, Domack, Gilbert, Dowdeswell & Murray, Carlson *et al.*, Aitken, and Syvitski *et al.*). The paper by Syvitski *et al.* is followed by a review by Fairchild & Spiro, as both are concerned with geochemical aspects of glacial sediments. A number of studies of ancient sequences are then organized by age and latitude; there is a paper from Canada (Woodworth-Lynas & Guigné), three concerning the Nordic and Barents Seas (Bischof *et al.*, Solheim *et al.* and Vorren *et al.*), one from Greenland (Huddart & Peacock), two from Sweden (Stevens and Lord) and two from the continental shelf to the west of the British Isles (Scourse *et al.* and Stoker). The two final papers are concerned with earlier Cenozoic (Eyles & Lagoe) and pre-Cenozoic (Moncrieff & Hambrey) glacial environments.

We would like to thank the Secretary, staff and housekeepers of the Geological Society for help in the organization of the meeting and the publication of this volume. The successful organization of the meeting also depended in large part on the very helpful advice of Dr Colin Summerhayes, Chairman of the Marine Studies Group at the time of the conception of the meeting, and on financial support from British Petroleum and the Geological Society. Dr Chris Evans of the British Geological Survey kindly organized the core workshop and poster display. Dr Mike Hambrey, Dr Judith Allen, Bill Austin, Marianne Cromack, Gordon Hamilton, Tavi Murray, David Sexton and Ruth Watkins helped organizationally in various critical ways. Evelyn Dowdeswell compiled the index.

Finally, we thank our contributors, who not only kept up a very high standard of presentation at the meeting, but also stuck (fairly closely) to deadlines imposed by us

during the course of the production of this volume. This enabled a relatively short interval between the meeting and final publication. This also reflects on our reviewers, drawn from a number of countries, who deserve considerable praise for their efforts in providing more than 50 sets of comments on the contributions quickly and fairly.

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