

JAAK NOLVAK  
Mustamäe tee 147-31  
200033 Tallinn Estonia

# Ordovician NEWS

IUGS COMMISSION ON STRATIGRAPHY

SUBCOMMISSION ON ORDOVICIAN STRATIGRAPHY

NO. 7 1990

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A.V. Kanygin (USSR)

Lu Yanhao (China)

R. Männil (USSR)

F. Paris (France)

M. Robardet (France)

R.J. Ross Jr. (USA)

Wang Xiaofeng (China)

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## NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The continued health and survival of *Ordovician News* depends on **YOU** to send in items of Ordovician interest such as lists and reviews of recent publications, brief summaries of current research, notices of relevant local, national and international meetings, etc. As more geological software becomes available, details of this would also be welcomed by many of us. Also please ensure that we are notified of any changes in address or telephone number. Submissions for inclusion in the next issue of *Ordovician News* should arrive before 30 November 1990; when providing lists of recent publications, please include only fully refereed articles and books (not abstracts) published during 1990.

Contributions should be in English, typed double space and sent to: S.H. Williams, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X5, Canada. For longer contributions, it would help if a copy was sent on 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" diskette if possible (either Macintosh or IBM).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Since the last issue of *Ordovician News* appeared, I have taken over as Editor from Barry Webby, who is to be commended for running it more or less single-handedly since its inception. The major purpose of this publication is to keep Ordovician workers informed of Ordovician Subcommittee news, progress in Ordovician research, and all the latest on relocations, new publications, meetings, etc. The list of names and addresses of people receiving *Ordovician News* enclosed in this number has been substantially modified since the last issue, following circulation of the questionnaire last year. Only those workers who returned the circular have been included; I have added telephone, fax and telex numbers where given, and in a few cases electronic mail addresses, which I hope will come in handy.

If you are reading this copy over somebody else's shoulder and are wondering where yours has gone, did you return my circular? If you didn't, but still want to receive *Ordovician News*, or if you wish to be put on our mailing list for the first time, please write to me, including details of full postal address, telephone and fax numbers, etc.

Henry Williams

**MODIFIED VERSION OF 1989 ANNUAL REPORT  
FROM THE SUBCOMMISSION ON ORDOVICIAN STRATIGRAPHY  
TO IUGS**

**1. IUGS Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy**

**2. Overall Objectives:**

(a) Aims to standardize internal boundaries of the Ordovician System on a global basis (including the setting of international boundary stratotypes). As a preliminary we are preparing regional correlation charts with explanatory note and have regional chronostratigraphic appraisal of existing subdivisions and applications.

(b) To promote the development and application of stratigraphic methods of all kinds for use in Ordovician correlation, and to clarify principles of stratigraphic procedure in order to establish a unified global Ordovician time scale.

**3. Relationships to IUGS:**

These objectives fit entirely within the framework of stated goals of the IUGS Science Policy, to encourage and promote the study of geological problems requiring international and interdisciplinary cooperation. Our work requires cooperation from many specialists worldwide, and using all possible stratigraphic methods (physical, chemical and biological) to establish a unified Ordovician time scale; and to promulgate the results of this work at International Geological Congresses, and at other IUGS sponsored international meetings.

**4. Organization and Officers:**

The Subcommittee is a body of the Commission of Stratigraphy; it was established in 1974. The present Chairman Designate is B.D. Webby, the Vice Chairman I.F. Nikitin, and the Secretary Designate is S.H. Williams. Webby and Williams were nominated for election by committee chaired by the past Chairman of the Subcommittee in June 1989, and voted on by the Titular members of the Subcommittee prior to the 28th IGC (yet to be ratified by the International Commission on Stratigraphy). There are currently 20 voting members and 52 corresponding members. A number of regional chronostratigraphy working groups were established in 1983 for Britain, Baltoscandia, North America, China, Soviet Union and Australasia; the work of these groups has now been completed. Ordovician correlation charts and explanatory notes have been published regularly in a series of IUGS publications since 1980, and the newsletter, *Ordovician News*, has been produced regularly since 1983. Four new chronostratigraphy working groups were established in 1989, as well as a global facies, paleogeography and paleoceanography working group.

**5. Nature of Support:**

The Subcommittee has wide regional and global support from Ordovician stratigraphers, paleontologists, paleomagnetists and geochronologists.

**6. Interface with other global projects:**

The Subcommittee strongly supports (or has supported) the activities of the IUGS Cambrian-Ordovician, and Ordovician-Silurian boundary working groups, which have (or had) as primary aims, to standardize the boundaries at the bottom and top of the System. The former has now made substantial progress towards achieving its goal, and the latter has been disbanded now that the international boundary stratotype has been selected at Dob's Linn, Scotland. Links are also maintained with IGCP Project 216 on global bioevents.

**7. Accomplishments:**

(a) The official meeting of the Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy was held on 13 July in Washington D.C., and was attended by 38 persons. Notable achievements were the setting up of four global chronostratigraphy working groups to focus on the internal, major 'Series' subdivisions of the Ordovician System; also a global working group on facies, paleogeographic and paleoceanic maps. There were important changes in membership and the executive as outlined elsewhere.

(b) Publication and distribution in March 1989 of the sixth issue of *Ordovician News*.

(c) There was also a 'Friends of the Ordovician' meeting at the Geological Society of America meeting in St. Louis in November 1989.

**8. Problems:**

No problems were encountered. However one should comment that it seems unfortunate that the deliberations of the IUGS Cambrian-Ordovician Boundary Working Group are seemingly no nearer solution in 1989 than they were at the time of the Calgary meeting, in 1985.

**9. Publications:**

No further Ordovician correlation charts have been published in the last year, although several are in the pipeline. Also the contributed papers from the Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System held in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada in 1988 are still to be published in a Proceedings volume, as a Geological Survey of Canada Paper (C.R. Barnes and S.H. Williams as coeditors).

**11-13. Work Plan:**

(a) A first series of global chronostratigraphy discussions are scheduled to be held during the joint Ordovician-Silurian meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, in the second half of August 1990. It is hoped that convenors of the four working groups (W.B.N. Berry, D.L. Bruton/R.J. Ross Jr., S.M. Bergström and C.R. Barnes) will be able to circulate position papers in advance of the meeting in Tallinn - sessions will be scheduled for the 24 or 25 August. Formal invitations have been sent to all voting and corresponding members of the Subcommittee. Dr. D. Kaljo, Director, Institute of Geology, Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn, has also arranged Ordovician field excursions for each day from 20 August.

- (b) Efforts are being made to complete compilation of the IUGS Ordovician correlation charts and explanatory notes for Baltoscandia (D. Bruton, V. Jaanusson and others), Central Europe (B.-D. Erdtmann and others), and the USSR - East European Platform, the Urals and Taimyr (I. Nikitin, N.J. Ancygin, R. Männil and others) at least in draft form for presentation and use at the Tallinn meeting.
- (c) Some members including the Chairman Designate expect to attend the Fourth International Conference on Graptolites in Nanjing from 19 September - 5 October 1990, with field trips to important graptolite localities.
- (d) The next issue of *Ordovician News* is expected to be published in early 1990.
- (e) Publication of the proceedings volume of the Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System (Geological Survey of Canada Paper - editors C.R. Barnes and S.H. Williams) is expected.

#### 14. Communication Plans:

Planning is already well under way for the Sixth International Symposium on the Ordovician System to be held in Sydney, Australia in July 1991. The First Circular gives details of the technical program and excursions. Major themes will include Ordovician chronostratigraphy, event stratigraphy, economic deposits and paleogeographic map reconstructions. Focus of attention will again be on the work of the global chronostratigraphic working groups, and hopefully some final recommendations for 'Series' boundary stratotypes.

#### 17. Membership list:

##### (a) Titular Members

B.A. Baldis  
San Lorenzo 1742  
1636 OLIVOS  
ARGENTINA

C.R. Barnes  
Centre for Earth & Ocean Res.  
University of Victoria  
P.O. Box 1700  
Victoria, BC, V8W 2Y2  
CANADA

S.M. Bergström  
Dept. Geol. & Min.  
Ohio State University  
125 Oval Mall  
COLUMBUS OH 43210  
USA

W.B.N. Berry  
Museum of Paleont.  
University of California  
BERKELEY CA 94729  
USA

D.L. Bruton  
Paleont. Museum  
Sars gate 1  
OSLO 5, NORWAY

Chen Xu  
Nanjing Inst. Geol & Palaeont.  
Acad. Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING  
P.R. CHINA

W.T. Dean  
Dept. of Geology  
University College  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF CF1 1XL, U.K.

R.A. Fortey  
Dept. of Palaeontol.  
British Museum (Nat Hist)  
Cromwell Road  
LONDON SW7 5BD  
U.K.

J.K. Ingham  
Hunterian Museum  
The University  
GLASGOW G12 8QQ  
U.K.

V. Jaanusson  
Paleozool. sektion  
Nat. Hist. Riksmuseet  
STOCKHOLM 50  
SWEDEN

A.V. Kanygin  
Inst. Geol. Geophysics  
Siberian Branch Akad. Sci.  
NOVOSIBIRSK 630090  
USSR

Kuo Hungchun  
Geol. Dept.  
Changchun College of Geol.  
CHANGCHUN  
KIRIN  
P.R. CHINA

Lu Yanhao  
Nanjing Inst Geol. Palaeo  
Acad Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING 210028  
PR CHINA

R. Männil  
Geol Inst.  
Acad Sci. Estonian SSR  
Estonia pst. 7  
200101 TALLINN, USSR

I.F. Nikitin  
Geological Institute  
Akad Sci Kazakh SSR  
Kalinina 69  
AALMA ATA  
480100USSR

F. Paris  
Inst. de Geol.  
Univ. de Rennes  
Campus de Beaulieu  
35042 RENNES-Cedex  
FRANCE

##### (b) Corresponding:

F.G. Acenolaza  
Fac. de Ciencias Nat.  
University of Tucuman  
Miguel Lillo 205  
TUCUMAN 4000  
ARGENTINA

N.J. Ancygin  
'Uralgeologia'  
Vainera 55  
SVERDLOVSK 620021  
USSR

M.K. Apollonov  
Inst. of Geological Sciences  
Acad. Nauk Kazakh SSR  
Kalinina 69a  
480100, Alma-Ata, 100  
USSR

M.G. Bassett  
Dept. of Geology  
Nat. Museum of Wales  
CARDIFF CF1 3NP, U.K.

M.S. Beresi  
Cricyt (Pribipa)  
Casilla de Correo 131  
5500 MENDOZA  
ARGENTINA

M. Robardet  
Inst Geol Univ de Rennes  
Campus de Beaulieu  
Ave du General Leclerc  
35042 RENES-Cedex  
FRANCE

R.J. Ross Jr.  
Dept of Geology  
Colorado School of Mines  
GOLDEN CO 80401  
USA

Wang Xiaofeng  
Yichang Inst Geol  
& Min Res  
Chinese Acad of Geol Sci  
P.O. Box 502  
YICHANG Hubei  
P.R. CHINA

M. Bjerreskov  
Geological Museum  
Univ. Copenhagen  
Oster Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 KOBENHAVN K.  
DENMARK

J.W. Cowie  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Bristol  
Wills Memorial Building  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ, U.K.

Chen Junyuan  
Nanjing Inst. Geol. & Pal.  
Acad. Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING  
P.R. CHINA

L.R.M. Cocks  
Dept. of Palaeont.  
British Museum (Nat Hist)  
Cromwell Road  
LONDON SW7 5BD, U.K.

B.D. Webby  
Dept Geol & Geophys  
University of Sydney  
NSW 2006  
AUSTRALIA

S.H. Williams  
Dept of Earth Sciences  
Memorial University  
ST JOHN'S Nfld A1B 3X5  
CANADA

R.A. Cooper  
N.Z. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 30368  
LOWER HUTT  
NEW ZEALAND

R.L. Ethington  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of Missouri  
COLUMBIA  
MO 65211  
USA

O. Fatka  
Ustredni ustav geologicky  
Malostranské nám 19  
118 21 PRAHA 1  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

S. C. Finney  
Dept. Geological Sciences  
California State Univ.  
LONG BEACH CA 90840  
USA

V.J. Gupta  
Centre Adv. Study in Geol.  
Panjab University  
CHANDIGARH 160012  
INDIA

J.C. Gutierrez-Marco  
Depart. de Paleont.  
Facultad Ciencias Geol.  
Universidad Complutense  
28040 MADRID  
SPAIN

W. Hammann  
Inst. Palaont.  
Universität Würzburg  
Pleicherwall 1  
8700 WURZBURG  
W. GERMANY

A. Harris  
U.S. Geol. Survey  
U.S. Nat. Museum E-501  
WASHINGTON DC 205660  
USA

L.F. Hintze  
Dept. of Geology  
Brigham Young University  
PROVO  
UT. 84602  
USA

H. Hofmann  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Montreal  
P.O. Box 6128, Sta. "A"  
MONTREAL Que H3C 3V7  
CANADA

C.H. Holland  
Dept of Geology  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN 2  
IRELAND

C.P. Hughes  
Dept. of Earth Sciences  
Sedgwick Museum  
Downing Street  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EQ  
U.K.

D. Kaljo  
Institute of Geology  
Estonia pst. 7  
TALLINN 200101, USSR

A.I. Kim  
Tashkent Geol. Corp.  
Ministry Geol. Uzbek SSR  
ul. T. Shevchenko 11  
TASHKENT 700000  
USSR

J. Kirschvink  
Divn Geol & Planet Sci  
Caltech 170-25  
PASADENA CA 91125, USA

T.N. Koren  
VSEGEI  
Svednig Prospekt 74  
LENINGRAD 199026, USSR

J. Kovach  
Geology Dept.  
Muskingum College  
MUSKINGUM OH 43762  
USA

Lai Caigen  
Inst. of Geology  
Chinese Acad. Geol. Sci.  
Baiwanzhuang Road  
BEIJING  
P.R. CHINA

P. Legrand  
Lab. Explor. groupe (TOTAL)  
218-228 Ave Haut Levique  
33605 PESSAC Cedux  
FRANCE

V.B. Lemos  
Fac de Ciencias nat.  
Univ. de Parana  
PARANA  
BRASIL

R. Ludvigsen  
Denman Institute for Research  
4062 Wren Road  
Denman Island  
BRITISH COLUMBIA V0R 1T0  
CANADA

J.F. Miller  
Geol & Geol Dept  
SW Missouri St. Univ.  
SPRINGFIELD MO 65802  
USA

P.P. Misius  
Geological Institute.  
Akad Nauk Kirg SSR  
Dzerjinskogo 30  
FRUNZE 720481  
USSR

R.B. Neuman  
E-308  
Natural History Museum  
Smithsonian Institution  
WASHINGTON DC 20560  
USA

G.W. Nowlan  
Geol. Survey of Canada  
Institute of Sedimentary and  
Petroleum Geology  
3303 - 33rd Street  
CALGARY, Alta T2L 2A7  
CANADA

F. E. Nullo  
Servicio Géolog. Nacional  
Ave Sante Fé 1548-13  
1060 BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA

M.M. Oradovskaya  
LENINGRAD 196135t.  
Geol Surv  
ul. Basseinaya 53  
ap. 409  
USSR

A.R. Palmer  
Geol. Soc of America  
Box 9140  
BOULDER CO 80301  
USA

L.E. Popov  
VSEGEI  
Sredni prospekt 74  
LENINGRAD 199026  
USSR

J.E. Repetski  
U.S. Geol Survey  
E 501. U.S. Nat Museum  
WASHINGTON  
DC 20560  
USA

Rong Jiayu  
Nanjing Inst Geol & Palaeont  
Acad Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING 210008  
P.R. CHINA

A. Roomusoks  
Dept. of Geology  
Tartu State University  
Estonian SSR  
Vanemuise 46  
TARTU 202400  
USSR

J.R.P. Ross  
Dept of Biology  
Western Washington Univ.  
BELLINGHAM  
WA 98225  
USA

H.P. Schönlaub  
Geol. Bundesanstalt  
Rasumofskygasse 23  
A-1031 WIEN  
AUSTRIA

J.H. Shergold  
Bureau of Min Res  
GPO Box 378  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA

D. Skevington  
3 Kirklee Quadrant  
GLASGOW G12 OTR  
U.K.

B. Stait  
39 Eagle Cct  
Kambah  
ACT  
AUSTRALIA 2902

W.C. Sweet  
Dept Geol & Mineralogy  
Ohio State University  
125 S Oval Mall  
COLUMBUS  
OH 43210  
USA

M.C.E. Ulloa  
Carrera 30  
No. 50-59  
BOGOTA  
COLOMBIA

A.H.M. VandenBerg  
6 Frew Avenue  
FRANKSTON  
VIC. 3199  
AUSTRALIA

M. Wade  
Queensland Museum  
P.O. Box 300  
South Brisbane, 4101  
QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

A.D. Wright  
Department of Geology  
Queen's University  
BELFAST B17 INN  
NORTHERN IRELAND

J. Wright-Clark  
Geology Department  
University of Oregon  
EUGENE OR 97403  
USA

Barry Webby  
Chairman Designate

**SUBCOMMISSION ON ORDOVICIAN STRATIGRAPHY  
MINUTES OF MEETING AT IGC, 13 JULY 1989, ROOM 30,  
CONVENTION CENTRE, WASHINGTON D.C.**

The meeting was opened at 18.10.

1. Welcome by Chris Barnes. Apologies for absence were received from June Phillips Ross and Brian Norford. Barnes informed the meeting that Rube Ross has suffered a heart attack two nights before and was now in George Washington Hospital recuperating. A card was circulated for everyone to sign. Noel James was thanked for his help in assisting Rube to hospital in the early hours of the morning. Barnes urged, as outgoing chairman,

that Titular and Corresponding Members should try to complete business regarding definition of series and systemic boundaries within the next few years, in order to demonstrate real achievement to ICS.

2. The agenda was approved, but item 13 (future meetings) was made item 10a.

3 - 4. Webby presented the Five Year Report of the Subcommittee, as required by ICS, including the minutes of the previous meeting in St. John's. Following a short discussion, acceptance of the document was proposed by Yochelson, seconded by Erdtmann, and passed unanimously.

5. a) Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System, St. John's, August 1988. Barnes reported that about 130 people attended this successful meeting, with over 100 papers submitted, while 80-90 participants attended the evening workshops.

b) Williams reported that the field guides and abstract volume produced for VISOS had been reprinted, and were now available from him for \$CAN 20.00 per set, including postage.

c) Barnes reported that almost all manuscripts submitted for publication in the VISOS volume had been reviewed and returned to authors for revision. The volume should be published sometime during 1990.

6. Barnes gave a summary of progress for the IUGS correlation charts owing to Ross's absence. This series was established in order to provide a common data base for the principal Ordovician deposits of the world. The first produced was the Chinese chart in 1980, with Ross overseeing production of the series quickly and efficiently.

a) Charts still outstanding were those for Scandinavia (Bruton), Greenland, Central Europe (Erdtmann), Soviet Union-Baltic (Kaljo), North Africa (Legrand), South-East Asia (Burrett) and possibly a revised Chinese chart. Barnes recommended that the deadline for production of these final charts should be the Sixth Ordovician Symposium in Sydney, Australia. If any are still outstanding at this time, they should either be submitted as is, or put on hold. It would be of use to combine all the information at that time to produce a simplified global chart.

Bruton - he had promised in 1988 that the Scandinavian chart would be completed by Easter 1989. He was subsequently asked by the Norwegian Geological Survey to wait for the publication of their latest maps with formally revised lithostratigraphy. Apart from this delay, the Norwegian section was now ready for publication. The Swedish section is less complete, relying solely on contributions by Jaanusson. If the Swedish material was to be included, a further delay of at least 12 months was expected. Bergström had offered to write a good deal of the Swedish text to aid completion and allow production of a single volume for Norway and Sweden. There were still problems of which biostratigraphic and chronostratigraphic schemes to use. Bruton was unaware of what progress had been made regarding the Greenland chart, but Repetski stated that Smith had received a review and that it is now close to completion.

Erdtmann - not much progress had been made recently. He considered that the

Central Europe chart should include West and East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Italy and other countries. Reports for Czechoslovakia and Belgium had been received in part, but nothing from the DDR. He hoped that the chart might be completed in 12 months, but to achieve this, some areas (e.g. DDR) might have to be dropped. Kaljo asked about Poland; Erdtmann suggested that it be included in an Estonian/Baltic or the Soviet chart. Kaljo considered it was best included in a Baltic-Soviet chart, but no discussion had been held with the Polish up to now. Barnes asked Erdtmann and Kaljo to come to some agreement during the IGS.

Kaljo - Männil had promised his part by the summer, but he now hopes to have it by the end of 1989. Barnes commented that there was no chart of the Urals. Could this be made into a Soviet Union chart III?

North Africa - nobody was present at the meeting to report on the status of the chart.

SE Asia - Webby reported that Clive Burrett had agreed to produce this chart, but no time frame had yet been fixed. Webby will request an outline and schedule from Burrett in view of the 1991 deadline.

China - Barnes suggested that the three voting members be contacted and asked for a revised chart by the 1991 deadline. Erdtmann agreed that a revised version was necessary.

Item 7 "Chronostratigraphy Working Groups", was moved to Item 12.

8. Ordovician News. Williams reported that he had taken over from Webby as Editor, and thanked Webby for his work in efficiently producing all issues up to that time. Circulation now stood at over 550 names, and both printing and mailing costs had risen to critical limits, despite the assistance of June Phillips Ross in mailing all North American copies. Williams therefore proposed that a questionnaire be sent to all individuals currently receiving Ordovician News, requesting confirmation of their wish to receive it and details of recent publications, etc. If these questionnaires are not returned, it will be assumed that those individuals are no longer interested in receiving Ordovician News, and their names will automatically be struck from the mailing list. The next issue of Ordovician News should be ready for circulation by January 1990.

9. Ordovician boundaries.

a) Cambrian Ordovician Boundary Working Group. Miller reported on the meeting held at IGC, owing to the absence of Norford who sent his apologies. He first summarised work completed to date. Two major volumes and 25 Working Group circulars had been published, the main sections had been visited, and several major resolutions passed namely: 1. The systemic boundary should be placed near the base of the Tremadoc, 2. The boundary should be based on conodonts and be close to or below the first occurrence of nematophorous graptolites, 3. The stratotype section should have potential for magnetostratigraphy, chemostratigraphy, etc. The two sections concentrated on were Dayangcha, China and Green Point, Canada. Three conodont horizons were under consideration, namely the bases of the *C. lindstromi*, *C. intermedius* and *C. proavus* zones. After 15 years' work, the publication of the Geological Magazine volume in 1988

finally allowed correlation between various continental successions.

Outstanding work must include the resolution of several major points of disagreement: first, the refinement of conodont taxonomy, and agreement of conodont workers regarding identification and taxonomy of taxa. The most suitable horizon must be decided; the Working Group is currently rather polarised in opinion regarding the suitability of horizons, and the application of magnetostratigraphy and chemostratigraphy must be further evaluated. Neither Green Point nor Dyangcha seem particularly suited as stratotype in the opinion of some Working Group members; Dyangcha has problems with access, limited exposure, and few conodonts have been recovered from the critical intervals. Green Point has few trilobites, while conodonts may have been reworked and are rare below the boundary interval.

The meeting on 10 July 1989 lasted four hours. That meeting proposed that discussion of sections considered previously for stratotype should be reopened; this proposal would be submitted to Voting Members for formal approval.

Barnes commented that in reply to the criticism written by Miller and for the information of Working Group members, himself, John Repetski and Felicity O'Brien had studied the types of Bruce and Jones, and all were in agreement that the specimens of *C. lindstromi* from Green Point were synonymous with the types from Australia. They had also checked the supposed specimen of *C. lindstromi* collected by Harris 1.6 m below the base of the *lindstromi* Zone at Green Point, which turned out to be an example of *C. proavus*. Repetski said that he would still be inclined to place that specimen within *C. lindstromi*, but further study of type material was needed first.

b) Ordovician-Silurian boundary. Kaljo reported on the meeting held during the Murchison Symposium at Keels, U.K. in April 1989. Dob's Linn had been ratified as Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Stratotype by IUGS in 1985. Since that time, a letter had been sent by the Canadian National Committee of IUGS expressing concern that the section at Dob's Linn did not fulfill many of the accepted stratotype criteria and suggesting that the decision be reconsidered. A reply from John Cowie noted that according to the rules of ICS, matters concerning this boundary are now the responsibility of the Silurian Subcommittee following the disbanding of the Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Working Group. A long discussion was held in Keels, during which two points appeared, namely what rules should be used to make the decision regarding global stratotypes, and secondly the scientific problems associated with such points. Nowlan proposed the motion that "In the absence of clearly identified alternative sections or levels for the Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Stratotype, that formal reconsideration should be withheld until 1994". The motion was seconded by Holland and passed unanimously. This motion followed the guidelines that once a decision regarding a global stratotype is made, it may only be reconsidered after 8 years (two IGC's). There is clearly no point in formal discussion before this time, but it is suggested that new data is collected beforehand so that speedy reconsideration can be given after 1994 if deemed necessary.

10. During the VISOS at St. John's, Webby had proposed that the Sixth Ordovician Symposium should be held in Sydney, Australia, and this proposal had been adopted by the meeting. An organising committee had been set up, three of which (Webby,

Shergold, VandenBerg) were present at the meeting. The dates proposed for the scientific sessions were Sunday 14 July to Saturday 20 July 1991. This part of the meeting would be held at the University of Sydney, where residence accommodation for 100 people had already been reserved. Webby hopes to receive sponsorship by the Australian Academy of Science and Earth Resource Foundation among others. Webby proposed the technical sessions be divided into four major themes, two held on Monday and Tuesday, followed by a one day local geological/tourist trip around Sydney, then the final two themes on Thursday and Friday. Themes under consideration included chronostratigraphy, with particular emphasis on the proposed series working groups, economic deposits (global), environmental and paleogeographic reconstructions (global), and event stratigraphy and tectonics with concentration on the Lachlan Fold Belt in eastern Australia. In addition, general sessions would be held in the afternoons as needed.

Tentative proposals for field excursions were outlined by Shergold. It was hoped to offer two pre- and two post-session trips, each of which would last about one week. The first pre-session trip would be a central Australia excursion, including the Georgian and Amadeus basins, and possibly coordinated to be run with a Great Barrier Reef excursion led by Jell immediately beforehand. Shergold would lead the central Australia trip, which would be run safari-style, with 4x4 vehicles, etc. The second would be a central NSW excursion led by Webby. Post-session trips would include one to visit the Tasmanian platform sequences, led by Burrett, and one to study the type Victorian sequences, led by VandenBerg, which could be either pre- or post-session. In addition, Roger Cooper would be willing to take people around New Zealand in a tourist capacity, but pointed out that as most of the Ordovician sequences are in high mountainous terrain, it was unlikely that they would be accessible at that time of year.

Bruton asked whether Burrett might organise an excursion to Thailand and Malaysia; Shergold replied that Burrett is prepared to do so if sufficient interest is expressed. He would actually prefer such a trip over that proposed to Tasmania. VandenBerg offered to arrange visits to the Victoria Museum if anybody wishes to study their graptolite type collections. Shergold warned that the central Australia excursion would be run as a commercial trip, and would thus likely prove expensive.

#### 11. Election of Officers.

a) The nominating committee (Ross/Bruton/Berry) had proposed new officers for the Subcommittee, namely B.D. Webby (Chairman), I.F. Nikitin (Vice-Chairman) and S.H. Williams (Secretary). The ballot had been mailed and those received by Cowie indicated unanimous approval (14 for, 0 against). These officers were thus duly elected and would take over following the end of the IGC at Washington.

b) No further approval was needed for the nominations of new Titular Members made at the VISOS in St. John's and recorded on p. 6 of Ordovician News No. 6. R.A. Fortey, A.V. Kanygin, F. Paris and S.H. Williams are now, therefore, Voting Members of the Subcommittee, while M.J. Destombes and H.B. Whittington have both requested to retire as Titular Members.

c) New Corresponding Members, as listed in Ordovician News, No. 6 include M. Bjerrreskov, Chen Junyuan, O. Fatka and J. Kirschvinck.

12 a) (originally 7). Chronostratigraphy Working Groups. Barnes recorded that these groups were established following the mandate suggested in Oslo 1982, with an aim to (i) establishing regional series terminology, (ii) identifying important zonal boundaries (i.e. possible bioevents), and (iii) presenting considered reports documenting details from most regions at the VISOS. Their work was concluded formally at St. John's.

The Subcommittee should now set up a series of subcommittees to (i) examine these zonal levels as potential series boundaries, (ii) consider the most suitable for use as global series, (iii) propose a principal Ordovician series classification, (iv) identify boundary stratotypes for each series (v) organize discussion of the proposals at or before the Sixth Ordovician Symposium with Titular and Corresponding Members, and (vi) if possible, make final recommendations to the ICS in 1992.

b) (originally 12). Webby circulated a document proposing the establishment of informal working groups of the Subcommittee as discussed in 12a (attached). He suggested that four groups should be established, with hopefully neutral convenors, to examine possible horizons near the bases of the Arenig (Berry), Llanvirn (Bruton and Ross), Caradoc (Bergström) and Ashgill (Barnes). All interested Titular and Corresponding Members should contact convenors of groups in which they wish to actively participate, and advise the Chairman and Secretary of the Subcommittee of their intentions. Each group must make an effort to have representation from researchers involved in paleomagnetism, chemostratigraphy, geochronology, all fossil groups etc. in addition to the usual plethora of conodont, graptolite and trilobite specialists. Webby proposed that preliminary statements from each group should be ready in one year; these could be given at the meeting in Tallin during August 1990 suggested by Kaljo and Barnes (Item 13), should this go ahead. Major statements from each group would be presented at Sydney in 1991, then decisions forwarded to IGC for ratification in Japan, 1992. The working groups' results would be published within the Sydney symposium volume.

Following some discussion, where it was made clear that the working group divisions need not bear any relationship to the final series of the Ordovician, Barnes proposed the motion as circulated, establishing the series working groups. This was moved by Williams, seconded by Miller and carried unanimously.

c) Bergström outlined his proposal to establish a long-term project involving the compilation of global paleogeographic maps, including details of biogeography, facies, etc. This was supported by Kirschvink and Berry, although Kaljo questioned whether the Ordovician Subcommittee was the correct organisation to coordinate such a project. Fortey asked where the money would come from for publication of maps; Barnes replied that funding would have to come as special projects from IUGS, or they could be published in standard scientific outlets (e.g. *Geol. Mag.*, etc.). Webby considered it important to first discuss the project with the IUGS Subcommittee on Sedimentary Geology regarding cooperation, and pointed out this had already been achieved for the Cretaceous. Barnes however felt that cooperation would be unlikely, and that it was best kept under the auspices of SOS. Bergström suggested that a new working group be established for the project; Barnes requested that anyone interested in the project should contact Bergström at the proposed meeting in Tallin. Webby asked for suggestions

regarding a convenor for the group; Bergström proposed Fortey, who agreed to coordinate the project but considered that the series of the Ordovician should be defined first to give a basic framework. Both Fortey and Bergström were asked to prepare a formal proposal for consideration at Tallin.

d-e). The SOS executive considered that the subject matter given for the two working groups proposed by Erdtmann would be covered at least in a preliminary fashion by the series working groups. Erdtmann pointed out the vast body of data available that could be checked by computer. He agreed that these topics could be covered by the series working groups, so long as they were aware of the complexities and partial independence from chronostratigraphic events. Copper asked why the Llandeilo was being ignored as a separate interval by the groups, as it was a time of significant brachiopod radiation; Barnes and Fortey responded that this was a British decision as the Llandeilo was short and often difficult to recognise compared with the other series.

13. Future meetings. Barnes noted that at St. John's interest had been shown in Estonia, China and South America, although the majority wanted the Sixth Ordovician Symposium in Australia. In September 1990 there would be a Cambrian meeting in Tallin, and it was planned to include a small meeting of Silurian Subcommittee members. He and Kaljo suggested that this might be an appropriate time for Titular and a few Corresponding Members of SOS to meet, in order to check the progress of series working groups and give an opportunity to visit Estonian sections. At Keels, Chen Xu had given an invitation to SOS to visit W. China; Barnes considered 1993 would be the best time for this, with perhaps another small meeting in Argentina during 1994/95.

Kaljo proposed about 5 days of Ordovician day excursions, based in Tallin, followed by 3 days of Technical meetings on both Ordovician and Silurian matters, including a bioevents report, then 5 days of Silurian excursions. This program would start soon after the end of the Cambrian excursion. Erdtmann pointed out that the next Graptolite Conference would be in Nanjing during late September/early October, and could result in problems of attendance. An informal count showed that about half the Titular Members present could attend; Webby will contact others, then continue discussion with Kaljo. Kaljo then highlighted the possibility of an excursion travelling from China to Kazakhstan on the new railway. With regards to the other possible meetings, about 10 people were interested in both China and Argentina. Barnes reminded members of a "Friends of the Ordovician" meeting at GSA in St. Louis this November; this could provide another forum for discussion of the new working groups.

14. Other business. Webby pointed out that on the new international correlation chart by Cowie and Bassett that the lower Ordovician had lost out; for instance, the Arenig was squashed into a space about 1/10 of that for the Ashgill and Caradoc! SOS should respond. Also the two proposed British stages for the Arenig are accepted without comment.

The meeting adjourned at 21.00.

Henry Williams

**FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ORDOVICIAN SUBCOMMISSION****1. Tallinn, 19 - 25 August, 1990.**

Following an invitation by Dim Kaljo, the Ordovician Subcommission is intending to meet in Tallinn later this year for several days of excursions and workshops, partly in conjunction with the Silurian Subcommission. One of the main items on the agenda will be discussion of initial feedback from the Working Groups on Ordovician Series established during IGC in Washington. All Voting and Corresponding Members should have received their invitations from Dim Kaljo some time ago. Any other Ordovician worker who is interested in participating should contact Dim immediately. It should be noted that at time of going to press, we have yet to receive final confirmation of arrangements for this meeting.

**2. Sydney, 15 - 19 July, 1991.**

The Sixth International Symposium on the Ordovician System will be held in Sydney, Australia during July next year, with Barry Webby as Chairman. For those people who have not yet received the First Circular direct from Barry, a copy is enclosed on the centre page of this issue of *Ordovician News*. A major theme for the meeting will be "Chronostratigraphy" (in all its aspects, including biostratigraphy, geochronology, magnetostratigraphy and chemostratigraphy). In addition to the technical sessions, a number of excursions are being offered to sites of Ordovician interest, plus there will be meetings and workshops for the Ordovician Subcommission and all Ordovician Working Groups of IUGS Commission on Stratigraphy. Position papers from the chronostratigraphy working groups will be published; hopefully some positive results will have been achieved by that time, and there will be some firm proposals for definitions of one or more revised global Series boundaries based on globally applicable and accepted biohorizons (with accompanying magnetic, geochronologic and/or chemical control. Hope to see you there!

**ORDOVICIAN SUBCOMMISSION WORKING GROUPS ON GLOBAL CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHY**

Four new global chronostratigraphy working groups were established at the official meeting of the Ordovician Subcommission on 13 July 1989 during the International Geological Congress in Washington D.C. They will focus attention on zonal levels which represent significant bioevents and/or exhibit excellent correlation potential within the System, and are relatively close to existing historical conceptions of the Series divisions. The aims will be to:

1. Identify the most significant biohorizons for global correlation.
2. Use these in proposals for revised series boundaries.
3. Find the best boundary stratotype for each of these revised Series.
4. Have these Series subdivisions adopted by the Subcommission, as a first stage towards ratification by the International Commission on Stratigraphy.

Attention will be concentrated on levels with particularly good global ties, near the base of the 'Arenig', 'Llanvirn', 'Caradoc' and 'Ashgill', although it must be emphasized that

these working group divisions are arbitrary, and may bear no similarity to the final Series decided upon. The heads of the working groups are:

1. 'Arenig' group - W.B.N. Berry
2. 'Llanvirn' group - D.L. Bruton and R.J. Ross Jr.
3. 'Caradoc' group - S.M. Bergström
4. 'Ashgill' group - C.R. Barnes

Any Ordovician workers who wish to provide discussion documents are asked to send them to the relevant convenor, and to mail copies to Barry Webby and Henry Williams. It is planned to hold initial meetings of these groups during the Subcommission meeting at Tallinn this August.

**WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL MAPS OF THE ORDOVICIAN**

During IGC in Washington, in addition to the working groups outlined above, it was resolved to establish a long-term project involving the compilation of global maps of Ordovician facies, biogeography and paleoceanography. R.A. Fortey agreed to be convenor of this working group, assisted by S.M. Bergström, P. Wilde, J. Wright, J. Kirschvink, and others. Anybody interested in actively participating in the group should contact Richard Fortey.

**NEW CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The following people have been made Corresponding Members of the Ordovician Subcommission in recognition of their expertise and contribution to Ordovician research: Clive Burrett (Australia), Richard Davies (USA), Francine Martin (Belgium), Bob Nicoll (Australia), Michael Taylor (USA), Robert Tucker (Canada).

**WHO'S WHO IN THE ORDOVICIAN - KNOW YOUR SUBCOMMISSION MEMBERS**

Enclosed with the last circular was an addendum to all Voting and Corresponding Members asking for a brief summary of their contribution to Ordovician research, and a list of their most significant publications in this field. Only a small number responded, but their summaries are given here. Unfortunately most members provided only a full bibliography which would have produced several hundred references in this section alone. I have not, therefore included these as originally intended, but will keep them on file for future use by the Subcommission.

For all those Voting and Corresponding Members who aren't included below: I hope that this section will become a regular feature in future editions of *Ordovician News*, so please send me a summary paragraph of your work (e.g. see those below for David Bruton and Richard Fortey) and a short list of publications (maximum of FIVE) that you consider to be your major contributions towards Ordovician research.

a) Voting Members**David Bruton (Norway)**

For the past ten years, David has coordinated research on Ordovician stratigraphy and faunas in Norway. This has included supervision of more than 20 research theses submitted by students from Norway, Great Britain, Ireland and Germany. Personal interests have been in Ordovician trilobites occurring in the Oslo Region and in the Caledonide fold belt. As secretary of the International Correlation Programme (IGCP) project on the Caledonide Orogen, he has also helped organise or coordinate paleontology and stratigraphy, especially Ordovician, at numerous international symposia from 1975 to 1985.

Interest in problems around the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary led David to clear the Nærnes section near Oslo and propose this as a candidate for a possible stratotype section. He has been a Corresponding Member of the Cambrian-Ordovician Boundary Working Group since its inception in 1974, and has joined the group on visits to sections in China in 1983 and 1986, as well as to those in Canada in 1984 and 1988; he organised the visit of the group to Norway in 1980. In 1980 David was elected a Voting Member of the Ordovician Subcommittee and has contributed to groups involved with correlation and chronostratigraphy. In 1982 he organised the Fourth International Symposium on the Ordovician System in Norway and edited the resulting proceedings.

**Richard Fortey (U.K.)**

Richard has specialised on trilobites and graptolites, particularly from the early Ordovician. His major monograph (1974-1980) on *The Ordovician Trilobites of Spitsbergen*, published in several parts by the Norsk Polarinstitut, recorded in detail one of the richest faunas ever discovered from the earlier Ordovician. Quantitative work on these collections also established the environmental control of trilobite faunas, which has had implications both for paleocontinental reconstructions and for problems of international correlation. In 1982 the graptolites from Spitsbergen were also described (jointly with R.A. Cooper), and the outstanding preservation of this material led to some important conclusions concerning the classification of the group as a whole.

Richard has also completed a long term study of the Arenig of the type area of Wales (jointly with R.M. Owens), which has revealed an unsuspected variety of faunas and a full biostratigraphical succession. This has been described in a major monograph of the British Museum, published in 1987. Extending from this work are studies of Ordovician faunas from many parts of the world, including Newfoundland, Australia, Greenland and South Africa. This has led to an extensive interest in the problems of paleobiogeography, particularly of the less studied marginal biofacies. Current Ordovician concerns include the international correlation of the standard Series, as based on the Anglo-Welsh succession, and a revision of the Tremadoc faunas. Richard is also in demand to produce general reviews on matters trilobitic, graptolitic and Ordovician (for example, the evidence for eustatic controls on faunal shifts in the Ordovician, 1984). He and his co-workers published the initial accounts of the western Newfoundland sections at the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary that contributed to the international correlation at this horizon. Richard has been a Corresponding Member of the Ordovician Subcommittee

for several years, and was elected a Voting Member in 1989.

**Lu Yanhao (China)**

In the past ten years, Yanhao has paid particular attention to the following five topics:

1. The Cambrian and Ordovician biostratigraphy and trilobite faunas of southeast, southwest and central China.
2. Use of the bioenvironmental control hypothesis to search the Lower Cambrian phosphatic and polyelemental mineral deposits of China.
3. The provincialism, dispersion, development and phylogeny of trilobites.
4. The Cambrian-Ordovician boundary potential stratotype sections of China.
5. The ontogeny of the Ordovician trilobites *Playcoryphus sinensis* and *Dalmanitina nanchengensis*.

**Wang Xiaofeng (China)**

Xiaofeng's principal field of research concerns Ordovician and Silurian graptolites and biostratigraphy. He has been dealing with the Ordovician since 1961, his major contributions to Ordovician research being work on Ordovician graptolite taxonomy and biostratigraphy, the Ordovician-Silurian and Cambrian-Ordovician boundaries, paleogeography, and biological and geological events, particularly in China. Xiaofeng was elected Voting Member of the Ordovician Subcommittee in 1989.

**Barry Webby (Australia)**

Barry's interests have been concentrated in areas of Ordovician paleontology and stratigraphy, in particular:

1. Global patterns of distributions of corals, sponges and stromatoporoids (biogeographic and temporal).
2. Australian Ordovician communities, especially coralline spongiomorphs as well as trace fossils, trilobites, brachiopods and nautiloids.
3. Ordovician boundaries and correlation, particularly in the context of the use of Australian biostratigraphic subdivisions.

Barry has been an active member of the Ordovician Subcommittee for some time, and was Secretary and Editor of Ordovician News for several years until 1989 when he was elected Chairman.

**Henry Williams (Canada)**

Henry's research interests centre on Ordovician graptolite taxonomy and biostratigraphy, particularly their use in both local and global correlation and definition of chronostratigraphic boundaries. His early work was on the late Ordovician and early Silurian graptolites of Dob's Linn, Scotland, the data from which has been quoted widely since Dob's Linn was voted international Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Stratotype. Following completion of this research, he spent 1 1/2 years in Norway, working on Upper Ordovician graptolites from the Oslo Region and other topics with David Bruton, and was Secretary of the Fourth International Symposium on the Ordovician System in Norway.

Since 1983, Henry has been based in Newfoundland, Canada, where he initially spent three years describing the spectacularly-preserved Arenig graptolites from the Cow Head Group (with Bob Stevens), published as a monograph in 1988. Ongoing studies are concentrating on Lower and Upper Ordovician graptolites from central Newfoundland; despite intense disruption and deformation of both strata and graptolites, the fossils are providing a high resolution framework for a variety of structural, mineralogical and other studies, and supporting the hypothesis which correlates the area with the Midland Valley and Southern Uplands of Scotland. In 1988 he was Local Chairman for the Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System in Newfoundland, and is editing the proceedings (currently in press) together with Chris Barnes. In 1989, Henry was elected Voting Member and Secretary of the Ordovician Subcommittee.

#### b) Corresponding Members

##### Mikhail Appollonov (USSR)

Major contributions to Ordovician research have included:

1. The study (with I.F. Nikitin, T.N. Koren, and others) of sections through the *D. mucronata* trilobite Zone, *Hirnantia* brachiopod beds and *G. persculptus* graptolite Zone in southern Kazakhstan.
2. The Cambrian-Ordovician boundary interval in southern Kazakhstan, and proposal of the Batyrbay section as global stratotype.
3. The evolution of paleo-Kazakhstan in the Ordovician (with Patalakha).
4. Compilation of the correlation chart for the Ordovician of Kazakhstan and Kirgizia (with Nikitin and others).
5. Study of the Ordovician of the Balkhash region (with Zhemchuzhnikov).

##### Matilda S. Beresi (Argentina)

Matilda's major contribution to Ordovician research is the biostratigraphy, including microfacies and biofacies determinations and interpretation of depositional environments, of the San Juan Formation limestones (Arenig-lower Llanvirn) in the area of the Precordillera, Argentina, in particular:

1. Study of calcareous microalgae such as *Nuia* in Lower Ordovician sections.
2. Biofacies integration from the upper part of the marine, calcareous sediments of Ordovician age and a transitional section to the graptolite bearing lutites, and comparison with similar biofacies in Europe, North America and Australia.
3. Correlation on the basis of conodont biozones.
4. The macro- and micro-fauna and its paleoecological significance.
5. Origin and evolution of the conditions of deposition of the Ordovician Precordillera carbonate basin, and its paleoenvironmental interpretation.

##### Robin Cocks (U.K.)

Major Ordovician contributions have included:

1. Ordovician-Silurian boundary studies (Robin was Secretary of the Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Working Group from 1974 to 1984)
2. Global paleogeographic reconstructions (with Richard Fortey).

3. Brachiopods and paleoecology of the Ashgill of Norway (with Pat Brenchley).
4. Study of selected brachiopod faunas and groups, notably a review of the Plectambonitacea genera and species, and *Foliomena* fauna (with Rong Jia-yu).

##### Roger Cooper (New Zealand)

Ordovician work has included:

1. Ordovician stratigraphy and biostratigraphy of New Zealand.
2. Graptolite biostratigraphy of Australasia and Spitsbergen (including joint work with Ian Stewart, Richard Fortey and Fons VandenBerg).
3. Graptolite taxonomy, evolution and classification (with Richard Fortey and Ni Yunan).
4. Precise world correlation of graptolite sequences, and graptolite paleoecology (both projects in prep.)
5. Tectonostratigraphy of New Zealand Lower Paleozoic.
6. Lower Paleozoic relationships between New Zealand, Australia and Antarctica.

##### Ray Ethington (USA)

Major contributions to Ordovician research include:

1. Taxonomy and biostratigraphy of Lower Ordovician conodonts of central and western United States.
2. Definition of the base of the Whiterockian Series in the type area in central Nevada using conodonts to supplement the traditional invertebrate fossils of the original definition. This effort is on-going, with new collections made in May 1989 with the assistance of Rube Ross.

##### Stanley Finney (USA)

Major contributions on Ordovician work:

1. Graptolites: taxonomy, evolution, biostratigraphy, biogeography: in particular, description of isolated material of which there is much still to be done (e.g. several groups from the Athens Shale of Alabama represented by isolated specimens); Middle to Upper Ordovician biostratigraphy of Appalachians, Arbuckles, Ouachitas, and Cordillera.
2. Use of graptolite biostratigraphy to solve geologic problems. Work has involved: a) dating base of Middle Ordovician shales in southern Appalachians in order to determine the timing of subsidence and migration of the Taconic Foreland basin as a means of investigating the onset of the Taconic Orogeny; b) precise correlation of Middle to Upper Ordovician sequences in Arbuckle and Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma and Arkansas in order to relate the depositional histories of these areas to each other and to the rest of North America; c) precise correlation of sandstones in Roberts Mountains Allochthon at many localities in Nevada in order to determine the depositional history and source area of these sands. Determination of the source area has significant bearing on understanding the geological evolution of western North America in the Lower Paleozoic. This project recently initiated will be the focus of his research for the next few years.

**Chris Hughes (UK)**

Chris' contribution to Ordovician research over the last decade has consisted mainly of studies of trilobite faunas and stratigraphy of the Lower Ordovician, particularly in Britain and South America.

**Rolf Ludvigsen (Canada)**

Rolf's main research effort over the past fifteen years has been directed towards the establishment of trilobite-based biostratigraphic schemes for key outcrop areas of Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian rocks in Canada (Rockie Mountains, Mackenzie Mountains, Newfoundland and Anticosti Island).

**Robert Neuman (USA)**

Major contributions to Ordovician research have included the description and revision of Arenig/Llanvirn brachiopods in "suspect terranes" around the North Atlantic Ocean, leading to tectonic and paleogeographic interpretations.

**Godfrey Nowlan (Canada)**

Godfrey has worked on Ordovician conodont biostratigraphy in many regions of Canada, including the Arctic Islands, Northwest Territories, Williston Basin, Hudson Bay Lowlands and the Appalachian Orogen. Most of his effort in the past ten years has been on obtaining conodonts from deformed strata in the Appalachian region and attempting to interpret them in terms of the history of the orogen. Monographic works have been completed on Early Ordovician conodonts of the Arctic, late Ordovician conodonts of the Northwest Territories and of Anticosti Island. Current work focuses on the paleontology and geochemistry of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary.

**Hans Schönlaub (Austria)**

Interest in Ordovician research has been focused on Upper Ordovician biostratigraphy in the Circum-Mediterranean region with special reference to conodonts, trilobites and brachiopods. In addition Hans' interests concern tectonic-magmatic evolution of Central Europe in terms of plate tectonic concepts, and its integration into the global evolution of the Earth. Special interest has also been developed on mass extinction events, including that associated with the Ordovician-Silurian boundary.

**John Shergold (Australia)**

Since the late 1960's, John has been actively involved with Late Cambrian-Early Ordovician biostratigraphy, latterly concentrating on the systemic boundary interval. Consequently, he has contributed to both the Cambrian and Ordovician Subcommissions and to the Cambrian-Ordovician Boundary Working Group. John's main contribution to the Ordovician has been associated with the stratigraphy of the Georgina Basin of northern Australia in particular, and earliest Ordovician trilobite systematics and biostratigraphy.

**Mary Wade (Australia)**

Mary's contributions have been mainly in nautiloid taxonomy, which since nautiloids diversified largely in the Ordovician, is largely Ordovician nautiloid taxonomy. This has also produced spin-offs in understanding and correlation of marine faunal provinces, and increasing accuracy in zonations.

**Anthony Wright (Northern Ireland, UK)**

Tony's main Ordovician research has been concerned with Upper Ordovician brachiopods in north-west Europe, the Ashgill Series in northern England, Hirnatian faunas, and the Ordovician-Silurian boundary.

**PROCEEDINGS OF VISOS, ST. JOHN'S, AUGUST 1988**

All revised manuscripts have now been received and accepted by the editors, and have been passed to the publications office of the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa for final technical editing and typesetting. The publication schedule is thus now dependent on the G.S.C., but we hope to have galley proofs sent to authors within the next couple of months and final publication this summer. All those who were registered participants at the Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System will receive details of publication, cost, etc. once we receive such information from the G.S.C. Details concerning ordering and purchase of the volume for non-participants at St. John's will be circulated in the next issue of *Ordovician News*, and in other publication outlets.

Chris Barnes, Henry Williams  
Editors, VISOS proceedings volume

**NEWFOUNDLAND FIELD GUIDES FROM VISOS**

Following several requests, we have had the three field guides from the Fifth International Symposium reprinted. These invaluable, state-of-the-art summaries of Newfoundland Ordovician geology are not available at any book store! They may, however be ordered for the bargain price of 20 Canadian Dollars (including postage) from Henry Williams. Please send cheque or money order made out to "Fifth International Symposium on the Ordovician System".

**HOT OFF (AND ALMOST OFF) THE PRESS!**

Ludvigsen, R., Westrop, S.R. and Kindle, C.H. 1989. Sunwaptan (Upper Cambrian) trilobites of the Cow Head Group, western Newfoundland. *Palaeontographica Canadiana* No. 6. Price \$(Can) 33.00 plus postage and handling. Order from: Geological Association of Canada Publications, Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X5, Canada. Copies of *Palaeontographica Canadiana* Nos. 1 to 5 also available at same address.

'Graptolites: Writing in the Rocks', edited by Palmer, C. and Rickards, R.B. To be published in June 1990. c. 130 plates, 250 pp, approx. £35 (\$67). Details of special pre-publication offer from: Boydell and Brewer Ltd., P.O. Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF, U.K.

### CAMBRIAN NEWSLETTER

The Institute for Cambrian Studies plans to publish a newsletter beginning this winter, patterned on a similar style to *Ordovician News*. Anybody interested in contributing items of interest, or in receiving the newsletter, should contact Michael E. Taylor in Denver (Mike's full address is given in the *Ordovician News* mailing list).

### THE TRILOBITE PAPERS

The first issue of this annual newsletter was published in October 1989. It should serve as an informative and lively medium for the exchange of data and ideas among trilobite workers. The first issue includes research reports from 65 paleontologists as well as news items and short articles. For further information contact the editor: Rolf Ludvigsen, Denman Institute for Research on Trilobites, 4062 Wren Road, Denman Island, B.C., CANADA V0R 1T0.

### EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

Ellis Yochelson informs me that Volume 8 (Part 2) of this journal will be devoted to the concept of geological time. If you don't already have a subscription but are interested in this issue, contact Ellis in Washington D.C. (his full address is in the *Ordovician News* mailing list).

### A BYTE OUT OF THE APPLE

Bob Sloan has now produced a program for the Macintosh which facilitates identifications for 95% of North American Ordovician trilobites. It includes information on some 770 North American genera from Cambrian to Permian, with both descriptions and scanned images from the entire body of North American literature published in and since the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology* Volume O. The program requires a Mac Plus or greater and Hypercard, and is available from Bob Sloan to any Ordovician worker providing three 3 1/2" 800K disks (for Bob's address, see mailing list in this volume of *Ordovician News*).

### NEWS AND CURRENT RESEARCH OF ORDOVICIAN WORKERS

#### Ricardo Astini (Argentina)

Clastic sedimentary paleoenvironments and depositional sequences of the Precordillera Basin, western Argentina (Ph.D. thesis).

#### Derek Briggs (UK)

"Beecher's Trilobite Bed" in the late Ordovician Frankfort Shale north of Rome, New York State, has become the subject of a field study and extensive sampling programme (in collaboration with R. Raiswell and S. Bottrell of the University of Leeds). This locality is of prime importance as the only significant exceptionally preserved biota known from the Ordovician, and one of only two examples of extensive soft-part preservation in pyrite. Our sampling was made possible by the rediscovery of the locality and a new excavation (in August 1989) by the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History.

#### David Bruton (Norway)

In addition to general work on Ordovician trilobites and revision of certain sections for the new Trilobite Treatise, I am completing a monograph of illaenid trilobites from Morocco, and drafting the Norwegian Ordovician correlation chart. A revision of the Norwegian Ordovician lithostratigraphy, jointly with A.W. Owen and J.F. and T.G. Bocklelie is complete and will be submitted for publication by the end of 1989.

#### Roger Cooper (New Zealand)

A recent project (with K. Lindholm) on the Early Ordovician (Tremadoc-Llanvirn inclusive) graptolite sequences of the world reveals the remarkable precision in correlation achievable with graptolites. A modified graphic correlation technique was used to reveal a sequence of 72 discrete bioevents (first and last appearance events) in the Early Ordovician (ca. 50 Ma), based on sequences in Australia, North America and Scandinavia. This gives an average duration per event of only 0.7 Ma. A precise correlation of 14 Early Ordovician graptolite sequences around the world has been prepared.

A second project (with R.A. Fortey and K. Lindholm) on the effects of latitudinal and depth zonation on the distribution of Early Ordovician graptolites reveals that depth has the greatest influence, but that most graptolites were eurythermic and not restricted to particular depth facies (i.e. lived in the epipelagic zone). The "deepwater" graptolite biotope lay below the 150-200 m depth level.

#### Ray Ethington (USA)

Research on the distribution of conodonts in the Lower Ordovician part of the Arbuckle Group in the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma is nearly complete and has been reported orally at recent meetings; it will be presented in a field trip of the Pander Society in March 1990; collections of conodonts from graptolite facies of Early and Middle Ordovician age in the Ouachita Mountains, west central Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma is continuing.

#### Yngve Grahn (Sweden)

At present I am working with Ordovician to Devonian stratigraphy of Paleozoic basins in Brazil. The biostratigraphy is based on chitinozoans, and the results will be published in due time.

**Marcus Johnson (USA)**

My major interests have shifted to the description of ancient rocky shores (both in terms of physical features and paleontological features, i.e. encrusting and boring organisms). I would be grateful for any information leading to interesting unconformities representing Ordovician rocky shores, in particular bibliographic information.

**Rossitsa Kalvacheva (Bulgaria)**

Current research involves the acritarch dating of low-grade metamorphic rocks (Early Ordovician) in Bulgaria and South Italy.

**Kuo Hungchun (China)**

New data on stratigraphy and paleontology of Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician strata have been obtained in southern Jilin. There we continue to study trilobites (Kuo Hungchun, Zhang Meisheng, Ding Xuan) and conodonts (Zhao Da), together with supplementary and special studies.

**Ed Landing (USA)**

Field and laboratory work on conodont-trilobite biostratigraphy and depositional environments of the Highgate Formation, northwestern Vermont and adjacent Quebec has been completed (collaborative project with S.R. Westrop), the project has led to recognition of a relatively continuous uppermost Cambrian through uppermost Canadian faunal sequence in these upper slope deposits; Early Ordovician (Tremadocian-lowermost Arenigian) trilobites, conodonts, chitinozoans and rare graptolites of the Macleod Brook Formation, Cape Breton Island are under study with R.A. Fortey.

**Sandy McCracken (Canada)**

Work on conodonts from northern Canada (Yukon: Ordovician-Silurian, Baffin Island: Late Ordovician) continues. In the Arctic Islands we have recognised the latest Ordovician *G. ensifer* and the earliest Silurian *O. nathani* zones, among others. These are associated with good graptolite faunas. Geochemical studies with G.S. Nowlan, W. Goodfellow and A.C. Lenz continue, with a short manuscript in progress. CAI and MVT fluid inclusion work with D. Sangster, G.S. Nowlan and C.R. Barnes also continues.

**Richard Owens (UK)**

With Richard Fortey, work continues on the Tremadoc of south Shropshire. A new well-preserved trilobite fauna is being described from high in the Shineton Shales in their type area; in addition to the well-known *Conophrys salopiensis* (*Shumardia pusilla* of many publications) and *Asaphellus homfrayi*, it includes new species of *Rhabdinopleura* and *Leiagnostus*. A diverse calcichordate fauna, the first from the British Tremadoc, has also been recovered, and is to be described by Dick Jeffries.

Farther west, in the Shelve inlier we have been able to demonstrate that the Habberley Shales are younger than the Shineton Shales, and are not their lateral equivalents as was formerly supposed. They represent the highest Tremadoc, and are overlain, apparently conformably, by the Stiperstones Quartzite; if there is a break, it is

unlikely to be of any great magnitude. Unfortunately fossils are sparse, the commonest being the trilobite *Asaphellus* cf. *graffi* and lingulacean brachiopods. Further fieldwork is planned at Shelve, with the hope (probably vain!) of recovering further faunas.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE ORDOVICIAN**

The following bibliography was compiled from lists returned in the *Ordovician News* circular. Due to lack of space I have not included references in press, any listed in previous bibliographies of *Ordovician News* or published before 1988, or any abstracts. I hope it will, however, prove a useful source of data.

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## REVISED ORDOVICIAN NEWS MAILING LIST

The following list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. was compiled through returned copies of the Circular sent out last year. It is 50% shorter than for the last volume of *Ordovician News*, owing to the large number of people failing to reply. I expect to hear from many of these Ordovician workers following publication of this issue, and their names and addresses will be included in the next volume. Please let me know of any errors or changes in the present list by 30 November 1990 for inclusion in the next issue of *Ordovician News*.

G.P.Abaimova  
SNIGGIMS  
Krasnyi Prospekt 67  
NOVOSIBIRSK-104  
630104 USSR  
Tel: 8-383-20-54-77

A. Achab  
Centre geoscientifique de Quebec  
2700 Einstein  
Sainte-Foy  
QUEBEC G1V 4C7  
CANADA  
Tel: (418) 654-2603  
Fax: (418) 654-2615  
Telex: 051-31623

P. Ahlberg  
Dept. Hist. Geol. & Palaeont.  
Solvegatan 13  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 46 46 - 107870

L.P. Alberstadt  
Dept. of Geology  
Vanderbilt University  
NASHVILLE TN 37203  
USA  
Tel: 615/ 322-2976

R. Aldridge  
Dept. of Geology  
University  
NOTTINGHAM NG7 2RD  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0602 484848 x 3164  
Fax: 0602 420825  
Telex: 37346 (UNINOT G)

E.C. Alexander Jr.  
Dept. Geology & Geophysics  
Univ. of Minnesota  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55455  
USA  
Tel: (612) 624-3517

R.L. Anstey  
Dept. Geol. Sciences  
Michigan State University  
EAST LANSING MI 48824  
USA  
Tel: (517) 353-9009

M.K. Apollonov  
Inst. of Geological Sciences  
Acad. Nauk Kazakh SSR  
Kalinina 69a  
480100, Alma-Ata, 100, USSR  
Tel: 8-327-261-46-69

C. Aramburu  
Departamento De Geologia  
Area De Estratigrafia  
Facultad De Geologia  
Universidad De Oviedo  
33005 - Oviedo, SPAIN  
Tel: 3485-233200 ext 131  
Fax: 3485-233911

C. Armella  
Museo Argentino de Ciencias  
Naturales  
Division Paleoinvertebrados  
Av. Angel Gallardo 470  
1405 - BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: (01) 982-6595  
Telex: 25517 BZI AR

H. Aru  
Institute of Geology  
Acad. Sciences Estonian SSR  
Estonia pst 7  
TALLINN 200101, USSR

A. Astini  
Cat. Estratigrafia y Geol Hist.  
Dept. Geologia Basica  
Universidad Nacional de Cordoba  
Av. Velez Sarsfield 299  
5000 CORDOBA  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: (051) 222284 int. 50

C. Babin  
Dept. Sci. de la Terre  
Université Claude Bernard-Lyon I  
27-43 Blvd du 11 Novembre  
69622 VILLEURBANNE Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: (33) 78 89 81 24  
Telex: 330208

H. Bahlburg  
Inst. Geol. Paläont.  
Technische Universität  
Ernst-Reuter Platz 1  
D-1000 BERLIN 10  
West Germany  
Tel: 030-314-23595

P. Baillie  
Dept. of Mines  
P.O. Box 56  
ROSNY PARK Tas. 7018  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 02-308334  
Fax: 02-442117

C.R. Barnes  
Centre for Earth & Ocean Research  
University of Victoria  
P.O. Box 1700  
Victoria, BC, V8W 2Y2  
CANADA  
Tel: 604-721-8848  
Fax: 604-721-7715  
Telex: 049-7347 VIC

H.F. Barron  
Biostratigraphy Research Group  
British Geological Survey  
Nottingham NG12 5GG  
UK  
Tel: 06077 611 x 3446  
Fax: 06077 6602  
Telex: 378173 BGSKEY G  
Elec: K - HFB @ NKW.VA

D.E.B. Bates  
Dept. of Geology  
University College of Wales  
Alexandra Road  
ABERYSTWYTH  
WALES  
Tel: 0970-622639  
Fax: 0970 617122  
Telex: 3581 ABYUCWG

J.A. Bauer  
Dept. of Math and Sciences  
Shawnee State University  
940 Second St.  
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662  
USA  
Tel: (614) 355-2421

G. & H. Bauert  
Institute of Geology  
Acad. Sci. Estonian  
Estonian pst. 7  
200101 TALLINN  
USSR  
Tel: 605-581

W. Bednarczyk  
Pracownia Strat. Paleozoiku  
Inst. Nauk. Geol.  
Polska Akad. Nauk  
Al Zwirki i Wigury 93  
02-089 WARSZAWA  
POLAND  
Tel: 22-10-65

S. Bengtson  
Paleontologiska Institutionen  
Uppsala Universitet  
Box 558  
S-751 22 UPPSALA  
SWEDEN  
Tel: +46 18182762  
Elec: STEFANB @ SEMAX51

D.J. Benson  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Victoria  
P.O. Box 870338  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0338  
USA  
Tel: (205) 348-1876  
Fax: (205) 348-6544

M. S. Beresi  
Cricyt (Pribipa)  
Casilla de Correo 131  
5500 MENDOZA  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: 061-241029  
Fax: 54 - 61 - 241029  
Telex: 55438 CYTME

M. Bjerrekov  
Geological Museum  
Univ. Copenhagen  
Oster Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 KOBENHAVN K.  
DENMARK  
Tel: (45) 33135001  
Fax: (45) 33114637

D. Blake  
Geology Rm 245 NHB  
University of Illinois  
1301 W. Green St.  
URBANA IL 61801, USA  
Tel: (217) 333-3833  
Fax: (217) 244-4996

A. Blicek  
Université Sci. Techn.  
Lille Flandre Artois  
Sci de la Terre  
59655 VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ  
Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: 33-20434140  
Fax: 33-20434995  
Telex: 136 339F

R. Blodgett  
U.S. Geol. Survey  
National Center/MS 970  
RESTON VA 22092, USA

J.F. Bockelie  
Norsk Hydro Exploration  
P.O. Box 200  
N-1321 Stabekk  
NORWAY  
Tel: 47-2-73-98-76  
Fax: 72948 hydro n

T.E. Bolton  
Geol. Surv. of Canada  
601 Booth Street  
OTTAWA Ont. K1A 0E8  
CANADA  
Tel: 613/996-6403  
Fax: 613/996-9990

A.J. Boucot  
Dept. of Zoology  
Oregon State Univ.  
Cordley Hall 3029  
CORVALLIS  
OREGON 97331-2914, USA  
Tel: (503) 754-3705  
Fax: (503) 754-2400  
Telex: 5105960682 OSU COVS

W.D. Boyce  
Nfld. Dept. Mines and Energy  
Geological Survey Branch  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
CANADA  
Tel: (709) 576-2163  
Fax: (709) 576-3493  
Telex: 016-4724

M.D. Brasier  
Dept. of Geology & Mineralogy  
Parks Road  
OXFORD OX1 3PR  
ENGLAND

P.J. Brenchley  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Liverpool  
LIVERPOOL L6Q 3BX  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 051-794-5178  
Fax: 051-708-6502  
Telex: 627095 UNILPLG

D.E.G. Briggs  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Bristol  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0272-873454  
Fax: 0272-253385

R. Brocke  
Inst. Geol. Paläont.  
Techn. Univ. Berlin  
Hardenberg Str. 42  
D-1000 BERLIN 12  
W. GERMANY  
Tel: (0049) 30-314-23582  
Fax: (0049) 30-314-23222  
Telex: 184 262 tubln-d

M.E. Brookfield  
Univ. Guelph  
Land Resource Science  
GUELPH Ont. N1G 2W1  
CANADA

A. Brouwer  
Nat. Natuurhist. Mus.  
Postbus 9517  
Garenmarkt 1-B  
2300 RA Leiden  
NETHERLANDS  
Tel: 071-143844 x. 303

D. L. Bruton  
Paleont. Museum  
Sars gate 1  
N-0562 OSLO 5  
NORWAY  
Tel: 47-2-686960  
Fax: 47-2-571437

C. Burrett  
Geol. Department  
Univ. of Tasmania  
Box 252C GPO  
HOBART Tas. 7001  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (002) 202476  
Fax: (002) 232547  
Telex: AA 58150

R. Buyce  
Geology Dept.  
Mercyhurst College  
Glenwood Hills  
ERIE PA 16546, USA  
Tel: (814) 825-0381  
Fax: (814) 825-0438

N. Calaberi  
MACN "Bernardino Rivadavia"  
Avda Angel Gallardo 470  
1405 BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: (01) 982-6595/ 1154  
Telex: 25517 BZI AR

M.P. Carlson  
Nebraska Geol. Survey  
113 NH. Univ. of Nebraska  
LINCOLN NE 68588-0517  
USA  
Tel: 402/472-7549  
Fax: 402/472-2410

J.A. Catalani  
High School Distr. 99 - S. Campus  
1436 Norfolk St.  
DOWNERS GROVE IL 60516  
USA  
Tel: 708/852-0600, Ext. 375

B. Chatterton  
Dept. Geology  
Univ. of Alberta  
EDMONTON Alta T6G 2E3  
CANADA  
Tel: 403/492-3265  
Fax: 403/492-2030  
Telex: U of A Telex: 037-2979

Chen Xu  
Nanjing Inst. Geol & Pal.  
Acad. Sinica, Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING, P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 0086-25-713239  
Fax: c/o Chen Zhen 011 86 25  
639624  
Telex: 34025 ISSAS CN

L. Cherns  
Dept. Geology  
Univ. Wales Coll. Cardiff  
P.O. Box 914  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF CF1 3YE  
U.K.

W.R. Church  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of West. Ontario  
LONDON Ont. N6A 5B7  
CANADA  
Tel: 519-661  
Fax: 519-661-3292  
Telex: 0647134

A. Cingolani  
Cent. De Invest. Geológicas  
Fac. Ciencias Naturales y Museo  
Calle 1 No 644  
1900 - LA PLATA  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: 0054-021-215677, 249827  
Telex: 31216 CESLA-AR

L.R.M. Cocks  
Dept. of Palaeont.  
British Museum (Nat Hist)  
Cromwell Road  
LONDON SW7 5BD  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 01-938 8845  
Fax: 01-938 8754

D. Collins  
Dept. of Invert. Paleont  
Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queens Park  
TORONTO Ont. M5S 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: 416-586-5593  
Fax: 416-586-5863

S. Conway Morris  
Dept. Earth Sciences  
Sedgwick Museum  
Downing Street  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EQ  
ENGLAND

Tel: (44) 223 333414/333400  
Fax: (44) 223 333450  
Telex: 81240 CAMSPL G  
Elec: SC113@uk.ac.Cambridge.  
phoenix

A.H. Cooper  
British Geol. Survey  
Windsor Court  
Windsor Terrace  
NEWCASTLE NE2 4HB  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 091/2817088  
Fax: 091/2819016

B. Cooper  
Dept. Mines & Energy  
P.O. Box 151  
EASTWOOD S.A. 5063  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (08) 226-1802  
Fax: (08) 212-3072

R.A. Cooper  
N.Z. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 30368  
LOWER HUTT  
NEW ZEALAND  
Tel: (04) 699059  
Fax: 00964 (4) 691 47

J.C.W. Cope  
Department of Geology  
Univ. of Wales College of Cardiff  
P.O. Box 914  
Cardiff CF1 3YE  
WALES UK  
Tel: 0222-874000

P. Copper  
Dept. of Geology  
Laurentian Univ.  
SUDBURY P3E 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: (705) 675-1152  
Fax: (705) 673-6532

J.W. Cowie  
Dept. Geology  
Univ. of Bristol  
Wills Memorial Building  
BRISTOL BS8 1TR  
ENGLAND U.K.  
Tel: 44 303030 ext 3901  
Fax: 44 272 253385  
Telex: 445938

P.R. Crowther  
City of Bristol Museum  
Queen's Rd.  
BRISTOL BS8 1RL  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0272 223592  
Fax: 0272 222047

R.J. Cuffey  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Penn. State University  
UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802  
USA  
Tel: 814/865-1293

D. Dathe  
Dept. of Geology  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKALB IL. 60115  
USA  
Tel: 815-753-7942

R.A. Davis  
Cincinnati Museum of Nat Hist  
1720 Gilbert Ave  
CINCINNATI  
OHIO 45202  
USA  
Tel: (513) 621-3889

W.T. Dean  
Dept. of Geology  
University College  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF CF1 1XL  
WALES

J.R. Derby  
Derby & Assoc. Consultants  
P.O. Box 35306  
TULSA  
OK 74153  
USA  
Tel: 918 749-6908  
Fax: 918 665-6576

J. Destombes  
Goudou-Boussan  
31420 Aurignac  
FRANCE  
Tel: 61989189

R.J. Diecchio  
Dept. of Geology  
George Mason Univ.  
FAIRFAX VA 22030  
USA  
Tel: (703) 323-2937  
Fax: (703) 323-3849

M. L. Droser  
Dept. of Earth Sciences  
Univ. of Southern California  
RIVERSIDE  
CALIFORNIA 92521  
USA  
Tel: (714) 787-3797  
Fax: (714) 787-4324

G.R. Dunning  
Dept. Earth Sciences  
Memorial University  
ST JOHN'S Nfld A1B 3X5  
CANADA  
Tel: 709/737-8481  
Fax: 709/737-2589

R.J. Elias  
Dept. of Earth Sciences  
Univ. of Manitoba  
WINNIPEG  
MANITOBA  
CANADA R3T 2N2  
Tel: (204) 261-3136  
Fax: (204) 261-7581

B.-D. Erdtmann  
Inst. Geol. Paläont.  
EB 10  
Techn. Univ. Berlin  
Straße des 17. Juni 145  
D-1000 BERLIN 12  
W. GERMANY  
Tel: (0049) 30-314-23583  
Fax: (0049) 30-314-23222  
(EB 10)  
Telex: 184 262 tubln-d

R.L. Ethington  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of Missouri  
COLUMBIA  
MO 65211  
USA  
Tel: 314 882-6470  
Fax: 314 882-7584

F.R. Ettensohn  
Dept. of Geological Sci.  
Univ. of Kentucky  
LEXINGTON  
KY. 40506-0059  
USA  
Tel: 606/257-1401  
Fax: 606/257-4000  
Telex: 606/257-4000

O. Fatka  
Ustredni ustav geologicky  
Malostranské nám 19  
118 21 PRAHA 1  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

D. Fillion  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of Ottawa  
Ottawa  
ONTARIO K1N 6N5  
CANADA  
Tel: (613) 564-5751  
Fax: (613) 564-7681

S. C. Finney  
Dept. Geological Sciences  
California State Univ.  
LONG BEACH CA 90840  
USA  
Tel: (213) 985-8637 or 4809

J.D. Floyd  
Brit. Geol. Surv.  
Murchison House  
West Mains Road  
EDINBURGH EH9 3 LA  
SCOTLAND  
Tel: 031-667-1000  
Fax: 031-668-2683  
Telex: 727343 SEISED G

R.A. Fortey  
Dept. of Palaeontol.  
British Museum (Nat Hist)  
Cromwell Road  
LONDON SW7 5BD  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 01 938 9224  
Telex: NAT HISMUJ,  
LONDON SW7

G.M. Friedman  
Dept. of Geology  
Brooklyn College - CUNY  
c/o P.O. Box 746  
Troy, NY 12181-0746  
USA  
Tel: 518-274-2744

J.K. Frost  
Illinois Geol. Survey  
Natural Resources Bldg.  
615 East Peabody Dr.  
CHAMPAIGN IL. 61820  
USA  
Tel: 217/244-2530  
Fax: 217/244-7004

Y. Grahn  
Sver. geol. Unders.  
Box 670  
S-751 28 UPPSALA  
SWEDEN

V.J. Gupta  
Centre Adv. Study in Geol.  
Panjab University  
CHANDIGARH 160012  
INDIA  
Tel: (0177) 22740

W. Hammann  
Inst. Palaont.  
Universität Würzburg  
Pleicherwall 1  
8700 WÜRZBURG  
W. GERMANY

Han Nairen  
Dept. of Geology  
Guilin College of Geology  
GUILIN Guangxi  
P.R. CHINA

N-M Hanken  
Inst. Biol. & Geol.  
Univ. of Tromsø  
Box 3085  
9001 TROMSØ  
NORWAY  
Tel: 83-44407  
Fax: 83-71961

T.L. Harland  
Geochem Group  
Trinity College  
Chester Street  
Saltney  
CHESTER CH4 8RD  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0244 677626  
Fax: 0244 683306  
Telex: 61297 GEOCHM G

D.A.T. Harper  
Dept. of Geology  
University College  
GALWAY  
IRELAND  
Tel: 091 24411 (ext. 2351)  
Fax: 091-25700  
Telex: 50023 UCO EI

V. Havlicek  
Ustredni ustav geologicky  
Malostranke nam. 19  
118 21 Praha 1, Mala Strana  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

R.A. Heath  
Vine Cottage  
High Street  
NORTON, DONCASTER  
S. YORKS. DN6 9EH, U.K.  
Tel: (0302) 701178

G. Henningsmoen  
Paleont. Mus.  
Sars gate 1  
N-0562 OSLO 5  
NORWAY  
Tel: 02 68.69.60

J-L Henry  
Inst. Geol. Univ. Rennes I  
Ave du General Leclerc, campus de  
Beaulieu  
35042 RENNES-Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: 99 28 (poste 50 88)

N. Hiller  
Dept. of Geology  
Rhodes University  
GRAHAMSTOWN 6140  
S. AFRICA  
Tel: 0461-22023  
Fax: 0461-25049  
Telex: 0461-244219

H. Hofmann  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Montreal  
P.O. Box 6128, Sta. "A"  
MONTREAL Que H3C 3V7  
CANADA  
Tel: 514-343-7699  
Telex: 05-24146  
Elec: BITNET:  
2551@UMTLVR

C.H. Holland  
Dept of Geology  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN 2  
IRELAND  
Tel: (01) 772941  
ext. 1704 or 1255  
Fax: (01) 772694  
Telex: 93782

F.D. Holland Jr.  
Geology & Geol. Engr.  
Univ of North Dakota  
GRAND FORKS ND 58202, USA  
Tel: (701) 777-2531

S. Holland  
Dept. of Geophys. Sci.  
Univ. of Chicago  
5734 S. Ellis Ave.  
CHICAGO IL. 60637, USA  
Tel: 312/702-7506

L. Holmer  
Inst. of Palaeont.  
Box 558  
S-751 22 UPPSALA  
SWEDEN  
Tel: (18) 18 27 64  
Fax: (18) 18 27 49  
Elec: STEFANB  
(at) SEMAX51

W. D. Huff  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Cincinnati  
CINCINNATI  
OH 45221, USA  
Tel: (513) 556-3731  
Fax: (513) 556-6931

C.P. Hughes  
Dept. of Earth Sciences  
Sedgwick Museum  
Downing Street  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EQ  
ENGLAND  
Tel: (0) 223-333417  
Fax: (0) 223-464806  
Telex: 81420 CAMSPL G

R.A. Hughes  
British Geological Survey  
Windsor Court  
Windsor Terrace  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HB  
Tel: 091 281 7088  
Fax: 091 281 9016

P. Hüttel  
EB10/Inst. für Geol. & Paläontol.  
Technische Universität Berlin  
Straße des 17 Juni 135  
D-1000 BERLIN 12  
WEST GERMANY  
Tel: 030/314-25532

H. Jaeger  
Humboldt-Universität  
Museum für Naturkunde  
Paläontologisches Museum  
Invalidenstr. 43  
1040 Berlin  
DDR  
Tel: 2897580

N.P. James  
Dept of Geol. Sci.  
Queen's University  
KINGSTON Ont. K7L 3N6  
CANADA  
Tel: (613) 545-6170  
Fax: (613) 545-6592

Ji Zailing  
Centre for Earth &  
Ocean Research  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2  
CANADA  
Tel: (604) 721-7328  
Fax: (604) 721-7715  
Telex: 049-7347

J. Johansson  
Knillinge  
S-690 72 SKOLLERSTA  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 019-230411

M. Johnson  
Dept. of Geology  
Clark Hall  
Williams Coll.  
WILLIAMSTOWN  
MA 01267  
USA  
Tel: (413) 597-2329  
Fax: (413) 458-2158

D. Kaljo  
Institute of Geology  
Estonia pst. 7  
TALLINN 200101  
USSR  
Tel: (0142) 605120

R. Kalvacheva  
Geological Institute  
Bulgarian Acad Sci.  
ul. "Acad. G. Bonchev" block 24  
SOFIA 1113  
BULGARIA  
Tel: 0359-02-71-31  
(room 36-65)  
Telex: Kalvacheva  
Geol. Inst. 22-424

D. J. Kennedy  
P.O. Box 548  
Thorold  
ONTARIO L2V 4W1  
CANADA

L.G. Kessler  
Marathon Oil Co.  
LITTLETON CO. 80160-0269  
USA  
Tel: 303/794-2601 xt 435  
Fax: 303/794-2601 xt 501  
Telex: 910-935-0700

M. M. Key, Jr.  
Dickinson College  
Carlisle  
PENNSYLVANIA 17013-2896  
USA

T. Kobayashi  
No. 50-18 Yoyogi 5-chome  
Shibuyaku  
TOKYO 151  
JAPAN

D.R. Kobluk  
Geological Sciences  
Erindale Campus  
Univ. Toronto  
MISSISSAUGA  
Ont. L5L 1C6  
CANADA  
Tel: 416/828-5335  
Fax: 416/828-5328

Dennis R. Kolata  
Illinois State Geol. Survey  
Nat. Resources Bldg.  
615 East Peabody Dr.  
CHAMPAIGN IL. 61820  
USA  
Tel: 217/244-2189  
Fax: 217/244-7004  
Elec: KOLATA @  
UI UC DENR

T.N. Koren  
VSEGEI  
Svednig Prospekt 74  
LENINGRAD 199026  
USSR  
Tel: 8-812 2-18-91-33

Kuo Hungchun  
Geol. Dept.  
Changchun College of Geol.  
CHANGCHUN  
JILIN  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: (0431) 24781

Lai Caigen  
Inst. of Geology  
Chinese Acad. Geol. Sci.  
Baiwanzhuang Road  
BEIJING  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 831.1133-393

E. Landing  
N.Y.S. Geological Survey  
State Education Dept  
ALBANY NY. 12230  
USA

K. Larsson  
Dept. Hist. Geol. Paleont.  
University of Lund  
Sölvegatan 13  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 46-107871  
Fax: 46-107871  
Telex: 33533

R.S. Laub  
Buffalo Museum of Sci.  
Humboldt Parkway  
BUFFALO NY. 14211  
USA

S. Laufeld  
Ji Sari Endah 1  
BANDUNG 40151  
INDONESIA  
Tel: 62/22 85504  
Fax: 62/22 433208

J. Laurie  
Bureau of Min. Resources  
GPO Box 378  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (062) 499412  
Fax: (062) 488178  
Telex: AA62109

A. Lenz  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of W. Ontario  
LONDON  
Ont. N6A 5B7  
CANADA  
Tel: 519/661-3195  
Fax: 519/661-3292  
Telex: 064 7134

P.J. Lesperance  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Montreal  
CP 6128  
MONTREAL H3C 3J7  
CANADA  
Tel: (514) 343-5876  
Telex: 343-5876

Lin Baoyu  
Inst. Geology  
Chinese Acad. Geol. Sci.  
Baiwanzhuang Rd  
BEIJING 100037  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 831-1133-393  
Telex: 222721

K. Lindholm  
Lund University  
Dept. Hist. Geol. & Pal  
Sölvegatan 13  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 046-147922  
Fax: 046-104720

F.K. Lobbell  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Wisconsin  
OSHKOSH WI 54901  
USA  
Tel: (414) 424-4460

J.D. Loch  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of Missouri  
COLUMBIA MO 65211  
USA  
Tel: (314) 882-0786

M.G. Lockley  
Dept. of Geology  
Box 172  
Univ. Colorado-Denver  
1200 Larimer Street  
DENVER CO. 80204  
USA  
Tel: 303/556-3456

A. Lofgren  
Dept. Hist. Geol. Paleont  
University of Lund  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 046-1078 68

D.G.F. Long  
Dept. of Geology  
Laurentian University  
SUDBURY Ont. P3E 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: 705/673-7164  
Fax: 705/673-6532

M. Longman  
701 Harlan E-69  
LAKEWOOD  
CO 80214  
USA  
Tel: (303) 237-5811

Lu Yanhao  
Nanjing Inst. Geol. Paleont  
Acad Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING 210028  
PR CHINA  
Tel: (025) 637630 (office)  
Fax: (025) 637194 (home)

R. Ludvigsen  
Denman Institute for Research  
4062 Wren Road  
Denman Island  
BRITISH COLUMBIA V0R 1T0  
CANADA  
Tel: (604) 335-1275

S. Magi  
Geol. Inst.  
Acad. Sci. Estonian SSR  
Estonia pst. 7  
TALLINN 200101  
USSR

S. Malanca  
UNS Dept de Geologia  
Ruta 9 Campo Castanares  
4400 SALTA  
Prov. de Salta, ARGENTINA  
Tel: 087 - 250796  
Fax: 54 - 87 -250993  
Telex: UNSAT - AR -65 121

J. Maletz  
Inst. Geologie u. Paläont.  
Techn. Universität Berlin  
Hardenbergstr. 42 EB 10  
D-1000 BERLIN 12  
WEST GERMANY  
Tel: 030/314-24598

F. Martin  
Dept de Paleont  
Inst Roy Sci Nat Belg  
Rue Vautier  
B-1040 BRUXELLES  
BELGIUM  
Tel: 02/648.04.75  
Fax: 00-32-2-6464433  
Telex: INSNAT

W.D. Martin  
Dept. of Geology  
Miami University  
OXFORD OH. 45056, USA  
Tel: (513) 529-1361

K.M. Massie-Ferch  
W. G. & N. H. S.  
3817 Mineral Point Rd.  
MADISON WI. 53705, USA  
Tel: (608) 262-9468

U. Mayr  
Geological Surv. of Canada  
3303 33rd St NW  
CALGARY Alta. T2L 2A7  
CANADA  
Tel: 403/284-0333  
Fax: 403/292-5377

A.D. McCracken  
Geological Survey of Canada  
601 Booth Street  
OTTAWA, Ont. K1A 0E8  
CANADA  
Tel: (613) 995-2329  
Fax: (613) 996-9990

T. Meidla  
Institute of Geology  
Acad. Sci. Estonia  
Estonia pst. 7  
200101 TALLINN, USSR

C. Mendelsohn  
Department of Geology  
Beloit College  
700 College Street  
BELOIT, WI 53511, USA  
Tel: 608/365-3391 ext. 223  
Fax: 608/365-0806

M. Mergl  
Dept. of Biology  
Pedagogická Fakulta  
Trida 1. maja 51  
306 19 PLZEN  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
Tel: 019-270253

P.J. Mihajlovic  
Milena Mihajlovic Pavlovic  
11000 Beograd Mus. Nat. Hist.  
NJEGOSEVA 51  
YUGOSLAVIA  
Tel: 011 444 22 39

P.P. Misius  
Geological Institute.  
Akad Nauk Kirg SSR  
Dzejjinskogo 30  
FRUNZE 720481  
USSR  
Tel: office 26-27-08  
Fax: home 22-65-94 code  
FRUNZE 331-2

C.E. Mitchell  
Dept. of Geology  
State Univ. N.Y.-Buffalo  
4240 Ridge Lea Rd.  
AMHERST NY 14226  
USA

S. G. Molyneux  
British Geological Survey  
Nicker Hill, Keyworth  
NOTTINGHAM NG12 5GG  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 06077 6111  
Fax: 06077 6602  
Telex: 378173 BGSKEY G

R. Moore  
Department of Earth Sciences  
University of Leeds, LEEDS  
U.K. LS2 9JT  
Tel: 0532 431751  
Fax: 0532 3320232  
Telex: 556473 UNILDS G

T.A. Moskalenko  
Inst. Geology & Geophys  
Sib. Branch USSR Acad Sci  
NOVOSIBIRSK 630090  
USSR

K.J. Müller  
Inst. f. Paläontologie  
Nassallee 8  
5300 BONN 1  
W. GERMANY  
Tel: 0228/733509

H. Mutvei  
Paleozool sektion  
Nat Hist Riksmuseet  
STOCKHOLM 50  
SWEDEN  
Telex: 08/6664187

L.V. Nekhorosheva  
Vniiokeangeologia  
Mioka 120  
LENINGRAD 190121  
USSR

R.B. Neuman  
E-308 Natural History Museum  
Smithsonian Institution  
WASHINGTON DC 20560  
USA  
Tel: (202) 343-3448  
Fax: (202) 786-2832

A. T. Nielsen  
Inst. Hist. Geol. & Paleont  
Univ. Copenhagen  
Oster-Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 COPENHAGEN K  
DENMARK  
Tel: 45 33 11 22 32 (ext. 249)  
Fax: 45 33 11 46 37

I.F. Nikitin  
Geological Institute  
Akad Sci Kazakh SSR  
Kalinina 69A  
ALMA ATA 480100  
USSR  
Tel: 61-46-69

R. Nilsson  
Dept Hist Geol & Paleont  
Sölvegatan 13  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN

M. Nitecki  
Dept. of Geology  
Field Museum Nat. Hist  
CHICAGO, IL 60605, USA  
Tel: 312/922-9410

H.C. Noltmier  
Dept. Geol. & Mineralogy  
Ohio State University  
125 S. Oval Mall  
COLUMBUS OH 43210  
USA  
Tel: 614-292-9796  
Fax: 614-292-7688  
Telex: 5106003010

J. Noivak  
Institute of Geology  
Acad. Sci. Estonia  
Estonia pst. 7  
200101 TALLINN  
USSR  
Tel: 605-193

U. Nordlund  
The Petroleum Center  
S.P. Andersens v. 15  
N-7034 TRONDHEIM-NTH  
NORWAY  
Tel: 47 7 597140  
Fax: 47 7 944472

B. Norford  
Geol. Survey of Canada  
3303 33rd Street  
CALGARY NW  
Alta T2L 2A7  
CANADA  
Tel: 403/284-0414  
Fax: 403/292-5377  
Telex: 038 25686

G.W. Nowlan  
Geol. Survey of Canada  
Inst. of Sed. and Petrol. Geology  
3303 - 33rd Street  
CALGARY  
ALBERTA T2L 2A7  
CANADA  
Tel: (403) 292-7000  
Fax: (403) 292-5377  
Telex: 03-825686

F. E. Nullo  
Servicio Géolog. Nacional  
Ave Sante Fé 1548-13  
1060 BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA

F. O'Brien  
Dept. of Earth Sci.  
Memorial University  
ST JOHN'S Nfld A1B 3X5  
CANADA  
Tel: 709/737-8198

T. Oja  
Institute of Geology  
Estonian Academy of Sciences  
Estonia pst 7  
200101 TALLINN  
USSR  
Tel: TALLINN 605-581

W.A. Oliver Jr  
U.S. Geological Survey  
E-305 Nat Hist Bldg  
WASHINGTON DC 20560  
USA  
Tel: (202) 343-3523  
Fax: (202) 357-1896

M.M. Oradovskaya  
LENINGRAD 196135  
ul. Basseinaya 53  
ap. 409  
USSR  
Tel: 291-42-48

A. W. Owen  
Dept. of Geology & Applied  
Geology  
The University  
GLASGOW G12 8QQ  
SCOTLAND  
Tel: 041-339-8855 Ext. 5461  
Fax: 041-330-4808  
Telex: 77707OUNIGLA

R.M. Owens  
Dept. of Geology  
National Museum of Wales  
CARDIFF CF1 3NP  
WALES  
Tel: (0222) 397951  
Fax: (0222) 373219

J.F. Pachut  
Dept. of Geology (CA436)  
Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ.  
425 Univ. Blvd.  
INDIANAPOLIS  
IN 46202-5140  
USA  
Tel: (317) 274-7785

F. Paris  
Inst. de Geol.  
Univ. de Rennes I  
Campus de Beaulieu  
35042 RENNES-Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: 33.99.28.61.23  
poste 50.89  
Fax: 33.99.28.67.00

M.A. Parkes  
Dept. of Geology  
Trinity College Dublin  
DUBLIN  
EIRE

R.L. Parsley  
Dept. of Geology  
Tulane University  
NEW ORLEANS 70118  
USA  
Tel: (504) 865-5198

J.S. Peel  
Geol Surv Greenland  
Oster Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 KOBENHAVN K  
DENMARK  
Tel: 33 11 88 66  
Fax: 33 93 53 52  
Telex: 19066 GGUTEL DK

S. H. Peralta  
I.G.R.E.P.A.L. Fac de Ciencias  
Exac., Fis. y Nat - Univ. Nac  
de San Juan  
"Ed Malv Argent"  
Avda. I. de la Roza y Meglioli  
(5400) Rivadavia - San Juan  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: 064 231945  
Telex: 57100 - VNS - AR

I.G. Percival  
Esso Australia Ltd.  
GPO Box 4047  
SYDNEY  
NSW 2001  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 61-2-236-2986  
Fax: 61-2-236-5085  
Telex: AA 120549

A. A. Petryk  
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1620 Blvd. de l'Entente  
QUEBEC CITY  
QUEBEC G1S 4N6  
CANADA  
Tel: (418) 643-1803  
Fax: (418) 643-2816

R.K. Pickerill  
Dept. of Geology  
Univ. of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 4400  
FREDERICTON  
N.B. E3B 5A3  
CANADA  
Tel: (506) 453-4804  
Fax: (506) 453-5055  
Telex: 014-46-202

J. Pillet  
Prieure de Beaumont  
Bouchemaine Pruniers  
49000 ANGERS  
FRANCE  
Tel: (41) 73-12-83

S. Pohler  
Laurentian University  
Ramsey Lake Road  
Sudbury, ONTARIO  
P3E 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: 705/675-1151

S. Pollock  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Univ. of Southern Maine  
GORHAM  
Maine 04038  
USA

J. Poncet  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Caen  
14032 CAEN Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: 31 45 55 00  
Fax: 31 45 56 00

L.E. Popov  
VSEGEI  
Sredni prospekt 74  
LENINGRAD 199026  
USSR  
Tel: (812) 2 139 537

A.W. Potter  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Oregon State University  
CORVALLIS OR 97331-5506  
USA  
Tel: (503) 737-2484

B.R. Pratt  
Dept. of Geol. Sciences  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SASKATCHEWAN  
S7N 0W0 CANADA  
Tel: (306) 966-5725  
Fax: (306) 966-8593

I. Rabano  
Dept. de Paleontologia  
Facultad de Ciencias Geologicas  
Ciudad Universitaria  
28040-MADRID  
SPAIN  
Tel: 1/2442145  
Fax: 1/2439162  
Telex: 41798

L. Ramsköld  
Paleozool sektion  
Riksmuseet  
Box 50007  
104 05 STOCKHOLM  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 08-6664173

J.A. Rasmussen  
Inst. Hist Geol & Paleont.  
Kobenhavns Universitet  
Øster Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 COPENHAGEN K  
DENMARK

W.F. Read  
Geology Dept.  
Lawrence Univ.  
APPLETON WI 54912, USA  
Tel: (414) 733-580

W.F. Rice  
719 N. Town Hall Road  
Forestville  
Wisconsin 54213, USA  
Tel: 414/825-7308

J.K. Rigby  
Dept. of Geology  
Brigham Young University  
PROVO UT 84602, USA  
Tel: 801/378-2457  
Fax: 801/378-2800

A. K. Rindsberg  
Geol. Surv. of Alabama  
P.O. Box 0  
TUSCALOOSA Alabama 35486  
USA  
Tel: 205/349-2852

R.L. Ripperdan  
Divn Geol. & Planetary Sci.  
Calif. Inst. of Technology  
PASADENA CA 91125  
USA  
Tel: (818) 356-6894  
Fax: (818) 568-0935  
Elec: RIPP @ CITIAGO bitnet

J.F. Riva  
Dept. of Geology  
Laval University  
QUEBEC G1K 7P4  
CANADA  
Tel: 418/656-2178  
or 653-8908

M. Robardet  
Inst. Geol. Univ. de Rennes  
Campus de Beaulieu  
Ave du General Leclerc  
35042 RENES-Cedex  
FRANCE  
Tel: 99.28.61.05  
Fax: 99.28.67.00

R.A. Robison  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Kansas  
LAWRENCE  
KANSAS 66045  
USA  
Tel: 913/864-4974

D.M. Rohr  
Dept. of Geology  
Box C-147  
Sul Ross State Univ.  
ALPINE TX 79832  
USA  
Tel: 915/837-8259

M. Romano  
Dept. of Geology  
The University  
SHEFFIELD S3 7HF  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0742 768555 ext 4944  
Fax: 0742 739826  
Telex: 547216 UG SHEFG

Rong Jiayu  
Nanjing Inst Geol & Palaeont  
Acad Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING 210008  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: Nanjing 637526

C.A. Ross  
Chevron USA  
Box 1635  
HOUSTON TX 77251  
USA  
Tel: 713/754-2885  
Fax: 713/754-2016

J.R.P. Ross  
Dept. of Biology  
Western Washington Univ.  
BELLINGHAM  
WA 98225  
USA  
Tel: 206/676-3634, 3628

R.J. Ross Jr.  
Dept. of Geology  
Colorado School of Mines  
GOLDEN CO 80401, USA

D. Rudkin  
Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queens Park  
TORONTO  
ONT M5S 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: (416) 586-5592  
Fax: (416) 586-5863  
Telex: ROMA TORONTO

S. Ruppel  
Bur. Econ. Geol.  
University of Texas  
PO Box X, Univ. Station  
AUSTIN TX 78713-7508  
USA  
Tel: (512) 471-7721  
Fax: (512) 471-0140

A.W.A. Rushton  
British Geological Survey  
Keyworth  
Nottingham NG12 5GG  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 06077 6111  
Fax: 06077 6602  
Telex: 378173 BGSKEY G

A. Sadek  
Geol. Dept.  
Faculty of Science  
Cairo University  
CAIRO, EGYPT

A. Salvador  
Dept. Geol. Sciences  
Univ. of Texas-Austin  
P.O. Box 7909  
AUSTIN TX 78713, USA  
Tel: (512) 471-6757  
Fax: (512) 471-9425

S.D. Samson  
Dept. of Geoscience  
University of Arizona  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721  
USA  
Tel: (602) 621-8484

M.L. Sargent  
Illinois St. Geol Survey  
615 East Peabody Dr.  
CHAMPAIGN IL 61820, USA  
Tel: (217) 244-2182  
Fax: (217) 244-7004

P. Sartenaer  
Inst. Roy. des Sci. Nat. de Belgique  
29, rue Vautier  
1040 - BRUXELLES  
BELGIUM  
Tel: 02/648.04.75  
Fax: 02/646.44.33

N.M. Savage  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Oregon  
EUGENE OR 97403, USA  
Tel: 503/686-4573

R.E.L. Schallreuter  
Geol.-Paleont. Inst.  
Bundestr. 55  
2 HAMBURG 13  
WEST GERMANY  
Tel: 40-4123-4990  
Fax: 40-4123-5270  
Telex: 214732 unihhd

O. Schmidt  
TU Berlin  
Strasse Des 17. Juni 145  
D-1000 BERLIN 12  
WEST GERMANY  
Tel: (030) 314-26889

H.P. Schönlaub  
Geol. Bundesanstalt  
Rasumofskiygasse 23  
A-1031 WIEN  
AUSTRIA  
Tel: (0222) 72 56 74 / 86  
Telex: GEOLBA WIEN 132927

G. A. Schumacher  
ODNR - Div. of Geol. Survey  
4383 Fountain Sq. Bldg B  
COLUMBUS  
OH 43224, USA  
Tel: 614/265-7054  
Fax: 614/262-6546

S.R. Schutter  
Exxon Production Res. Co.  
P.O. Box 2189  
HOUSTON  
TX 77252-2189  
USA  
Tel: (713) 965-4018

N.V. Sennikov  
Inst Geol & Geophysics  
Acad Sci USSR  
Sib Branch  
630090 NOVOSIBIRSK-90  
USSR  
Tel: 35-14-41

J.R. Sepkoski Jr  
Dept Geophysical Sci  
University of Chicago  
5734 South Ellis Ave  
CHICAGO  
IL 60637, USA  
Tel: 312/702-8167  
Fax: 312/702-5863

E. Serpagli  
Inst. di Paleontologia  
Via Universite 4  
41100 MODENA  
ITALY  
Tel: 059/217084  
Fax: 059/218212

P.M. Sheehan  
Dept of Geology  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
800 West Wells St  
MILWAUKEE  
WI 53233, USA  
Tel: (414) 278-2741  
Fax: (414) 223-1396

P. R. Sheldon  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Wales  
P.O.Box 914  
CARDIFF CF1 3YE  
WALES UK  
Tel: 222-874830  
Fax: 222-874326

J.H. Shergold  
Bureau of Min Res  
GPO Box 378  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (062) 499410  
Fax: (062) 488178  
Telex: AA62109

L. Sherwin  
Geol. Surv. New South Wales  
P.O. Box 53  
ORANGE  
NSW 2800  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 063-638310  
Fax: 063-638 344

D.J. Siveter  
Dept. of Geology  
University of Leicester  
LEICESTER LE1 7RH  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 0533-523925  
Fax: (0533) 522200  
Telex: 347250 LEICUN G  
Elec: DJS 2 UK.  
A.C. LEICESTER

D.J. Siveter  
University Museum  
Parks Road  
OXFORD OX1 3PW  
ENGLAND  
Tel: (0865) 272953  
Fax: 0 865 270708

D. Skevington  
3 Kirklee Quadrant  
GLASGOW G12 OTR  
SCOTLAND  
U.K.  
Tel: (041) 357 2501

R.E. Sloan  
Dept Geol & Geophysics  
University of Minnesota  
MINNEAPOLIS  
MN 55455  
USA  
Tel: 612 624 5543/1333

M.P. Smith  
Geological Museum  
Øster Volgade 5-7  
DK-1350 Copenhagen K  
DENMARK  
Tel: 33 13 50 01  
Fax: 33 11 46 37

M.M.L. Sousa  
Olival De Sao Domingos  
3000 Colmbra  
PORTUGAL  
Tel: 039/33446

N. Spjeldnaes  
Dept of Geology  
Box 1047  
N-1030 Blindern  
OSLO 3  
NORWAY  
Tel: 47 2 45 66 81  
Fax: 47 2 45 42 15

B. & K. Stait  
39 Eagle Ct  
Kambah  
ACT  
AUSTRALIA 2902  
Tel: 061 (062) 310778

I. Stewart  
Dept of Zoology  
Monash University  
CLAYTON  
VIC 3168  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 3 5655663  
Fax: +61 3 5655613

C. Stillman  
Geology Department  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN 2  
IRELAND  
Tel: 01-772941  
Fax: 01-772694  
Telex: 93782 T.C.D. EI

J.H. Stitt  
Department of Geology  
Univ. of Missouri-Columbia  
COLUMBIA  
MO 65211  
USA  
Tel: 314/882-6388

C.W. Stock  
Dept. Geology  
Univ. of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
35487-0338  
USA  
Tel: (205) 348-1883  
Fax: (205) 348-6544

P. Stone  
British Geological Survey  
Murchison House  
West Mains Road  
EDINBURGH EH9 3LA  
SCOTLAND, U.K.  
Tel: 031 667 1000  
Fax: 031 668 2683  
Telex: 727343 SEISED G

P. Storch  
Ustredni ustav geol.  
Malostranské nám 19  
118 21 PRAHA 1  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

S. Stouge  
Danmark. Geol. Undersøgel.  
Thoravej 31  
DK-2400 COPENHAGEN NV  
DENMARK  
Tel: 45 31 10 66 00  
Fax: 45 31 19 68 68  
Telex: 19999 dangeo dk

S. Stridsberg  
Geologiska Institut.  
Sölvegatan 13  
S-223 62 LUND  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 046-10 78 70

J.F. Sutter  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Mail Stop 908  
RESTON  
VA 22092, USA  
Tel: 703/648-6964  
Fax: 703/648-6941

W.C. Sweet  
Dept Geol & Mineralogy  
Ohio State University  
125 S Oval Mall  
COLUMBUS  
OH 43210, USA  
Tel: (614) 292-2326  
Fax: (614) 292-7688  
Telex: 5106003010

H. Szaniawski  
Zaklad Paleobiologii PAN  
Al. Zwirki i Wigury 93  
02-089 WARSZAWA  
POLAND  
Tel: 22 16 52

J.F. Taylor  
Geoscience Department  
Indiana Univ. Pennsylvania  
INDIANA  
PA 15705, USA  
Tel: (412) 357-4469

M.E. Taylor  
U.S. Geol Survey  
Box 25046  
MS919  
Denver Federal Center  
DENVER CO 80225  
USA  
Tel: (303) 236-5674  
Fax: (303) 236-5448  
(att. X6-5674)

L. Teller  
Institut. Paleobiol. PAN  
Graptolite Laboratory  
Nowelska 6  
Pl. 01-447 WARSZAWA  
POLAND  
Tel: 36-63-84

J.T. Temple  
Dept. of Geology  
Birkbeck College  
Malet Street  
LONDON WC1E 7HY  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 01-580-6622

R. Titus  
Department of Geology  
Hartwick College  
ONEONTA  
NY 13820  
USA

R.A. Trevail  
733 Exeter Road  
LONDON, ON  
N6E 1L3  
CANADA  
Tel: 519/685-4648  
Fax: 519/685-1924

R.D. Tucker  
Geochronology Lab.  
Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M5S 2C6  
CANADA  
Tel: (416) 586-5811  
Fax: (416) 586-5863  
Telex: ROMA Toronto

S.J. Tull  
Chapman and Hall Ltd.  
11 Fettes Lane  
LONDON  
EC4P 4E8  
Tel: 01-583-9855  
Fax: 01-583-0701  
Telex: 263398

D.T. Tzai  
Geol. Inst.  
Akad. Nauk SSR  
Kalinina 69A  
ALMA ATA 480100  
USSR  
Tel: 61-46-69

A.H.M. VandenBerg  
6 Frew Avenue  
FRANKSTON  
VIC. 3199  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (03) 665-0555  
Fax: (03) 663-6325

J. Vanek  
Martinovska 21  
190 00 PRAHA 9  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

J. Vannier c/o K. Abe  
University of Tokyo  
Geological Institute  
Faculty of Science Building 5  
7-3-1 Hongo,  
TOKYO 113  
JAPAN  
Tel: 03 812 4528/2111  
Fax: 03 815 9490  
Telex: J 33659

G. Vidal  
Kemicentrum Micropal. Lab  
Rum 0/DE 177-186  
Box 740  
S-220 07 LUND 7  
SWEDEN  
Tel: 46+46+108142  
Fax: 46+46+14 60 30  
Telex: 33533 LUNIVER - S  
Elec: BITNET FRAM 2 SELDC  
52

V. Viira  
Inst. of Geology  
Akad. Nauk Estonian SSR  
Estonia pst. 7  
200101 TALLINN  
USSR  
Tel: 605189

E. Villas  
Departamento de Geologia  
Facultad de Ciencias  
Universidad de Zaragoza  
50009 ZARAGOZA  
SPAIN  
Tel: (76) 35.12.09  
Telex: 58064-EDUCI-E

W. Volkheimer  
Museo Argent. Ciencias Nat.  
Av. Angel Gallardo 470  
BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA  
Tel: 01-982-6595

R. Votaw  
Dept of Geology  
Indiana Univ. Northwest  
GARY IN 46408  
USA  
Tel: (21) 980-6753

M. Wade  
Queensland Museum  
P.O. Box 300  
South Brisbane, 4101  
QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (07) 8407665  
Fax: (07) 8461918

K.R. Walker  
Dept of Geol Sci  
University of Tennessee  
KNOXVILLE  
TEN 37916, USA  
Tel: (615) 974-2366  
Fax: (615) 974-2368

Wang Qizheng  
Department of Geology  
Hebei College of Geology  
Shijiazhuang, Hebei 050031  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 0086311-552562

Wang Xiaofeng  
Yichang Inst Geol  
& Min Res  
Chinese Acad of Geol Sci  
P.O. Box 502  
YICHANG Hubei  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 0086-717-21635

B.D. Webby  
Dept Geol & Geophys  
& Min Res  
University of Sydney  
NSW 2006  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (02) 692-2021 (work)  
(02) 816-4020 (home)  
Fax: (02) 692-0184

J.A. Weir  
Geology Department  
The University  
ST ANDREWS Fife  
SCOTLAND

M.P. Weiss  
Dept. of Geology  
Northern Illinois Univ.  
DeKALB IL 60115  
USA  
Tel: 815/753-7937  
Fax: 815/753-0198

H.B. Whittington  
Dept of Earth Sciences  
Sedgwick Museum  
Downing Street  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EQ  
ENGLAND

H. Williams  
Dept of Earth Sciences  
Memorial University  
ST JOHN'S Nfld A1B 3X5  
CANADA  
Tel: 709/737-8396

S.H. Williams  
Dept of Earth Sciences  
Memorial University  
ST JOHN'S Nfld A1B 3X5  
CANADA  
Tel: 709/737-8395  
Fax: 709/737-2589  
Telex: 016-4101

B.J. Witzke  
Iowa Dept. Natural Resources  
Geological Survey Bureau  
IOWA CITY  
IA 52242  
USA  
Tel: 319/335-1590

J. Wörlje  
Inst./Museum Geol. & Paläont  
Goldschmidtstr. 3  
D-3400 GÖTTINGEN  
WEST GERMANY

A.D. Wright  
Department of Geology  
Queen's University  
BELFAST B17 1NN  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
Tel: 0232-245133 (ext 3401)  
Fax: (0232) 247895  
Telex: 74487

A.J. Wright  
Department of Geology  
University of Wollongong  
WOLLONGONG  
NSW 2500  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 61 (042) 270329  
Fax: 61 (042) 297768

Yin Gongzheng  
Regional Geol Surv.  
Team of Guizhou  
Bagongli, Guiyang City  
Guizhou Province  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 26643  
Elec: 1008

E.L. Yochelson  
U.S. Geological Survey  
E-308 U.S. National Museum  
WASHINGTON  
DC 20560  
USA  
Tel: 202/343-3319

E.A. Yolkin  
Inst Geol & Geophys  
Acad Sci USSR Sib Branch  
630090 NOVOSIBIRSK-90  
USSR  
Tel: 383(2) 35-14-41

J. Zalasiewicz  
British Geological Survey  
Keyworth Museum  
Notts NG12 5GG  
ENGLAND  
Tel: (06077) 6111  
Fax: (060-77) 6602  
Telex: 378173 BGSKEY G

D.H. Zenger  
Department of Geology  
Pomona College  
609 N. College Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711-6339  
Tel: 714/621-8000 X2952  
Fax: 714/621-8403

Zhou Zhiyi  
Nanjing Institute of Geology  
& Paleontology  
Academia Sinica  
Chi-Ming-Ssu  
NANJING  
P.R. CHINA  
Tel: 025-637630

W. Ziegler  
Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg  
Senckenberganlage 25  
6000 FRANKFURT/MAIN  
W. GERMANY  
Tel: 069-7542-213  
Fax: 069-74 62 38  
Telex: 413 129

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Geological Surv. of Canada  
601 Booth Street  
OTTAWA  
Ont. K1A 0E8  
CANADA  
Tel: 613/995-4151

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IL. 61801  
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AUSTRALIA  
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CANADA  
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Fax: 306/966-6040  
Elec: G. ARMSTRONG

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Dept of Library Services  
British Museum (Nat Hist)  
Cromwell Road  
LONDON SW7 5BD  
ENGLAND  
Tel: 01 9388743  
Fax: 019389290