



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

NEWSLETTER

N°164 October 1999

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SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY IN PRAGUE

On May 22-27, 1999, the Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) hosted an IAS Short Course "Clastic Sequence Stratigraphy: A Tool in Basin Analysis", led by Guy Plint (University of Western Ontario) and David Ulicny (Charles University).

24 participants from 6 countries - Czech Republic (10), Slovakia (2), Poland (7), Romania (2), Ukraine (2), and Lithuania (1) - took part in the course, partially supported by the IAS. Travel grants, based on travel distance, were awarded to participants from Ukraine, Romania, and Lithuania.

The course, designed especially for audience from east-central Europe, was advertised through the IAS website and through IAS National Correspondents in the region. For logistic reasons, the number of participants was limited to 25, and a number of students and professionals who applied late could not take part this time. (We believe, however, that more courses of this sort will follow in countries of this region, where demand for continuing education in sedimentary geology is quite strong).

The audience was dominated by professionals from governmental and academic institutions, and PhD students. Course work, combining lectures and exercises, focused on

phenomena of clastic sequence stratigraphy in shallow-marine and continental systems in ramp-type and faulted basin margin settings. The exercises were based especially on combined well-log / outcrop correlation problems from the Alberta foreland basin and from the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin, an intracontinental strike-slip basin system. Field and subsurface case histories were followed by examples of numerical forward modelling.

The main part of the course, led by Guy Plint, was supplemented by field trips focused on sequence stratigraphy in well-exposed sedimentary successions of the Bohemian Massif. David Ulicny and Lenka Spicakova led a trip to the Coniacian coarse-grained delta systems of the "rock cities" of the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin, and showed an example of fluvial sequences in a Cenomanian palaeovalley fill. On the second field trip, led by David Ulicny, Michal Rajchl (Charles University), and Karel Mach (Severoaeske doly, a.s.), the course participants examined the sequence stratigraphy and sedimentology of a Miocene lacustrine deltaic system, the "Bilina Delta", spectacularly exposed in an open-cast coal mine in the Most Basin, a part of the Eger Graben rift system in northwestern Bohemia. The field trips provided insights into the differences and common points in marine and non-

marine sequence stratigraphy, and helped to link the large-scale phenomena from subsurface correlation to outcrop-scale observations.

In addition to the "serious", educational part of the course, there was the important social aspect - putting together mostly young sedimentologists from countries whose scientific communities still suffer (among other things) from lack of mutual contact. Both the instructors and the participants greatly enjoyed the atmosphere of the course, not speaking of beautiful Prague and its attractions, Czech beer, and a great garden party (thanks, Lenka!).

In closing, I would like to thank the course participants whose enthusiasm and input made this course a success. The Geology Section of the Faculty of Science, Charles University, is thanked for providing the facilities for the course. Cooperation of the Severoáeske doly, a.s., in preparing the trip is gratefully acknowledged. Students Jiri Laurin, Michal Rajchl, and Lenka Spicakova were very helpful in course organization, preparation of course work, and logistics. Course participants from the

Jagiellonian University, Krakow, show some photos from the course on their website - see:

<http://www.if.uj.edu.pl/UJ/ING/index.html>

Information about the course, including an updated list of participants, can be found at the Charles University website:

<http://www.natur.cuni.cz/IGP/IASsc.htm>

Many of the course participants were interested in seeing more short courses of this type - on various topics - in the future. Obviously, this format of short, 3 to 6-day courses, especially combining field and lab exercise aspects, is very useful and has a potential of a high impact on the sedimentological community in a broader region. I hope that the IAS will have a chance to support more short courses in the near future, especially in regions where such activities have been lacking and where the educational side of the IAS activities is most important.

*David Ulicny,
Charles University, Prague,
ulicny@mail.natur.cuni.cz*

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES

Along with the IAS Special Lecturer Tours, an important means of supporting and promoting sedimentology in regions which do not have sufficient financial resources is helping to initiate local workshops and short courses. Such events, organized in one country and visited by a number of researchers and students from around the region, have a significant and long-lasting impact. Examples of workshops of this format are the Sequence Stratigraphy workshop in Sümeg, Hungary, in 1997 (see IAS Newsletter 151/152), the Clastic Sequence Stratigraphy course in Prague, Czech Republic, in May 1999 (see this Newsletter), or the Carbonate-Evaporite symposium in Lviv, Ukraine (September 1999).

The IAS wants to continue sponsoring such short courses and workshops and invites projects from prospective host institutions, IAS National Correspondents, or local sedimentological groups. It is up to the organizers to define a theme of interest and to decide on content and duration of the workshop or short course. A project should be sent to the IAS General Secretary at least one year before the planned event and must contain the following:

- topic
- leader(s) / instructor(s) involved
- proposed date and location
- objective

- who should attend
- outline of schedule
- budget, specifying the use of the financial support by the IAS
- any other relevant information

The financial support by the IAS is destined primarily for workshops and short courses from countries where sedimentology is not very strong and where academic or governmental institutions cannot provide the level of funding necessary for a successful completion of the project. However, all projects submitted will be considered. The support from the IAS should be used above all for travel grants for participants who can not attend otherwise, and for travel expenses of invited lecturers. Because registration fees should be kept as low as possible, supplementary funding will have to be found to cover the remaining expenses.

Advertising will depend on the size and on how wide an audience should be reached: for instance, a course targeted primarily at an audience in Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, or Eastern Europe can be advertised more or less regionally, through the IAS National Correspondents or other contacts. Also, the IAS website with its growing network of links to local sedimentology-oriented sites and the IAS Newsletter can help. On the other hand, a research seminar or a field workshop targeted at specialists

from around the globe should be advertised as widely as possible (through the IAS Newsletter, IAS website, and possibly by circulars distributed with *Sedimentology*).

After the event, the organizers must send a report to the IAS General Secretary for publication in the Newsletter.

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Prague, Czech Republik.*

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E-mail andreas.strasser@unifr.ch*

SANDWAVES

Under the aegis of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission, a workshop dealing with marine sandwave dynamics is organised by the University of Lille, the French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM) and the Geological Society of Northern France. About 50 persons sent back the first circular and intend to join the workshop. The scientific committee consists of four researchers:

- Prof. Hervé Chamley, U. Lille, France,
- Dr Serge Berné, Ifremer, France,
- Prof. Huib De Vriend, U. Twente, The Netherlands,
- Dr Ing. Carlo Van Cauwenberghe, Belgian Hydrographic Office, Belgium.

The primary goal of this workshop is to bring together researchers and final users in the field of sandwave dynamics. From data acquisition to users and modellers, our intention is to present the various aspects dealing with this subject.

Scientific Sessions

Field Measurements

Sea-floor mapping: bathymetry, sediment nature, bedforms, object burial.
Sediment transport: waves, currents, turbidity, fluxes.

Modelling

Hydrodynamics: currents, waves, meteorological conditions.
Sediment dynamics.
Bedform dynamics.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the second circular by replying to alain.trentesaux@univ-lille1.fr or by connecting to the workshop web-site:
http://www.univ-lille1.fr/geosciences/page_ufr/actualites/sandwaves.html

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SEDIMENTOLOGISTS - AN ESSAY

Sedimentologists are friendly people who have been taught to do thorough fieldwork, collect samples, look at microfacies and do all kinds of other analyses, and finally – after long and profound thinking – write up their findings to produce a relevant publication. However, sedimentological processes are complex things, and their record may be all from complete. Sedimentologists are intelligent people, but nevertheless it is a great challenge for them to try to decipher what they see in the field and to interpret it more or less correctly. Fortunately, they rarely succeed to more than maybe 50 percent (*), and there will still be plenty of work left for future generations. Sedimentologists are happy people, have unlimited funding, go home early to be with their family and friends, and go on holidays to relax their brain and obtain new energy for the next research subject. This is – of course – an out-dated and somewhat idealized description of the average sedimentologist (see upper part of figure).

But – there is progress. The modern sedimentologists are extremely busy, work on seven publications at once, without having much time to think but increasing their citation index. This is essential to obtain funding for the research projects that must be globally relevant. These sedimentologists are all linked by internet

and mobile phone, jet from one meeting to another, and fill out more and more forms for the administration which claims to be more and more efficient. The modern sedimentologists try to be good teachers by using all the modern didactic tools. They obtain good ratings from the students, which is important because otherwise their department will be closed. The modern sedimentologists work long hours because pressure to produce more work in less time is constant. Family life is restricted, and holidays are often used to finally do some fieldwork (see lower part of figure). The result of all this activity is encouraging: maybe only 20 percent (*) of all published findings are correct or relevant, and lots of work will be left for future generations.

Progress means "stepping forward"; it doesn't say anything about quality. Progress can be voluntary: the sedimentologists deliberately improve their data, and/or decide to go and look for new material, new methods, new questions, new answers, thus potentially increasing the quality of research. Progress can also be involuntary, when the sedimentologists are caught in the general current of professional life where pressure is high and options are few. In this context, it may be possible to increase quantity but difficult to increase quality.

Some sedimentologists try to keep up with reading all the new publications that flood the library and thus have no time for writing, other sedimentologists prefer to write papers but, consequently, have no time for reading. A few sedimentologists may also ask themselves why sedimentary strata that have taken thousands or millions of years to form now have to be dissected and interpreted in a few days or weeks.

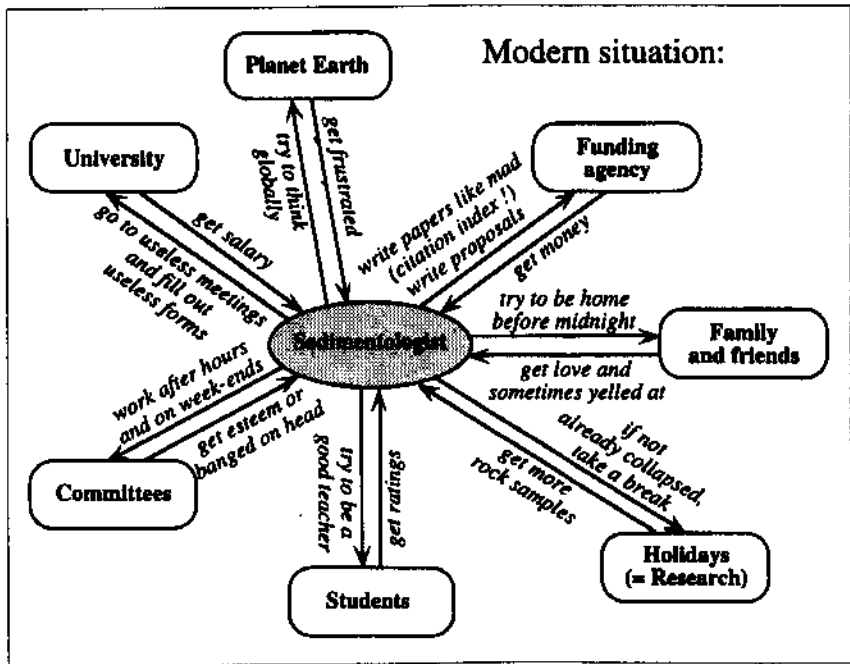
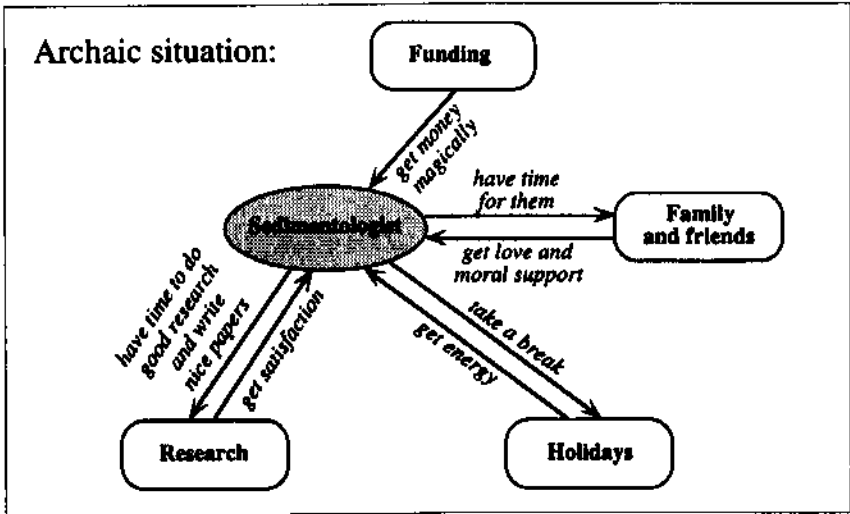
Sedimentologists are human beings. Like other scientists they try to find out what rules the Earth, where ocean, sand, and life come from and where they go to. One problem is that all these scientists are part of the system they study, thus excluding that definite answers will ever be given. Another problem resides in the fact that a well-measured

dose of pressure may help to improve the quality of research and thus the product sedimentologists can offer to the human society, but that too much stress results in depression and, consequently, in a loss of relevant results.

Nevertheless, sedimentologists are people who know much about the processes that shaped our planet in the past and that will influence its future. Thus, they play an important role in human society, be it in their "archaic" or "modern" version.

(*) The readers of this Essay belong, of course, to the percentage that is successful.

*André Strasser,
Fribourg, Switzerland.*



This space is reserved for you

(how about a contribution to the IAS Newsletter ?)

CALENDAR

MEETING OF THE ITALIAN SEDIMENTOLOGY GROUP

October 3-6, 1999

ITALY (Palazzina Congressi, Rimini)

Contact: Dr. Fabio Trincardi,

Istituto di Geologia Marina, CNR,

Via Gobetti 101,

40129 Bologna, Italy.

Tel: +39 51 639 8871

Fax: +39 51 639 8940

E-mail: fabio@albatros.igm.bo.cnr.it

SEMINAR ON THE ESTUARIES OF PORTUGAL AND THE PLANS OF THE HYDROLOGICAL BASINS

October 13-15, 1999

PORTUGAL (Laboratório Nacional de
Engenharia Civil, Lisboa)

Contact: Associação Eurocoast – Portugal,

Instituto de Hidráulica e Recursos Hídricos,

Faculdade de Engenharia de Porto,

Rua dos Braga,

4099 Porto Codex, Portugal.

Tel: +351 220 50 870

Fax: +351 220 59 280

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

October 10-14, 1999

CHINA (Qingdao)

Contact: Mr Ji-chun Zhu

Institute of Oceanology, CAS

7 Nanhai Road

Qingdao 266071, China.

Tel: +81 532 28 70 672

Fax: +81 532 28 70 882

E-mail: zhujc@ms.qdio.ac.cn

or:

Yoshiki Saito

Marine Geology Department, Geological
Survey of Japan, Higashi 1-1-3, Tsukuba,
Ibaraki 305-8567, Japan.

Tel: + 81 298 54 37 72

Fax: + 81 298 54 35 33

E-mail: yoshi@gsj.go.jp

16TH CONVENTION: INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS AND JAMMU- KASHMIR FIELD TRIP

October 24-30, 1999

INDIA (Jammu)

Contact: G.M. Bhatt,

PG Department of Geology,

University of Jammu,

Jammu 180 006, India.

Tel: +91 191 45 29 87

Fax: +91 191 45 00 14 / 43 27 15

E-mail: elkayem@hotmail.com

or: hep@nde.vsnl.net.in

THE NON-STEADY STATE OF THE INNER SHELF AND SHORELINE

November 9-12, 1999

HAWAII, U.S.A. (Honolulu)

Contact: Janet Kwak,
University of Hawaii, Department of
Geology and Geophysics,
1680 East West Rd., POST 701,
Honolulu, HI 96822, U.S.A.
Tel: +1 808 956 23 63
Fax: +1 808 956 55 12
E-mail: coastal@soest.hawaii.edu

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7ÈME CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS DE SÉDIMENTOLOGIE

November 15-17, 1999

FRANCE (Palais des Congrès, Nancy)

Contact: Jean-François Deconinck,
Laboratoire de Sédimentologie et
Géodynamique,
URA CNRS 719, Université de Lille I,
Sciences de la Terre,
59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France.
Tel: +33 20 43 41 45
Fax: +33 20 43 49 10
E-mail: jean-francois.deconinck@univ-
lille1.fr

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38TH BSRG AGM

December 19-21, 1999

U.K. (Edinburgh)

Contact: Dr. Mark Wilkinson
or: Dr. Stuart Haszeldine,
Department of Geology and Geophysics,
University of Edinburgh, U.K.
E-mail: mark.wilkinson@glg.ed.ac.uk
or: stuart.haszeldine@glg.ed.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL HANNS BRUNO GEINITZ SYMPOSIUM

(History of Geosciences, Regional
Geology, Biostratigraphy and
Paleontology in Central Europe)
January 28-30, 2000

GERMANY (Dresden)

Contact: Ulf Linnemann
Staatliches Museum für Mineralogie und
Geologie Dresden,
Königsbrücker Landstrasse 159,
D-01109 Dresden, Germany.
Tel: +49 351 892 64 03
Fax: +49 351 892 64 04
E-mail: mmg@sik.de
Web-site: <http://www.sik.de/mmg/>

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8TH MEETING OF SWISS SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

January 29, 2000

SWITZERLAND (Fribourg)

Contact: André Strasser,
Institut de Géologie, Pérolles,
1700 Fribourg, Switzerland.
Tel: +41 26 300 89 78
Fax: +41 26 300 97 42
E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

**2ND LATIN AMERICAN
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS
8TH ARGENTINIAN MEETING OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

March 14-17, 2000

ARGENTINA (Mar del Plata)

Contact: Centro de Investigaciones
Geológicas,

Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo,
Universidad Nacional de La Plata,
Calle 1 N° 644,

1900, La Plata, Argentina.

Tel: +54 21 21 56 77

Fax: +54 21 25 86 96

E-mail: latinsed@cig.museo.unlp.edu.ar

Web site:

<http://cig.museo.unlp.edu.ar/congreso/>

MARINE SANDWAVE DYNAMICS

International Workshop

March 23-25, 2000

FRANCE (Lille)

Contact: Alain Trentesaux,
Université de Lille 1,

SN5, UMR 8577

F-59 655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France.

E-mail: alain.trentesaux@univ-lille1.fr

Web site: [http://www.univ-](http://www.univ-lille1.fr/geosciences/pages_ufr/actualities/sandwaves.html)

[lille1.fr/geosciences/pages_ufr/actualities/sandwaves.html](http://www.univ-lille1.fr/geosciences/pages_ufr/actualities/sandwaves.html)

ICELAND 2000

Modern Processes & Past Environments

April 27-29, 2000

U.K. (Keele, Staffs)

Contact: Dr. Andrew J. Russell,

School of Earth Sciences & Geography,
Keele University,

Staffs, ST5 5BG, U.K.

E-mail: a.j.russell@keele.ac.uk

**MODERN & ANCIENT ICE-
MARGINAL LANDSYSTEMS**

International Symposium

April 29-30, 2000

U.K. (Keele, Staffs)

Contact: Dr. Andrew J. Russell,

Dr. David J. A. Evans

School of Earth Sciences & Geography,

Keele University,

Staffs, ST5 5BG, U.K.

E-mail: a.j.russell@keele.ac.uk

devans@geog.gla.ac.uk

**LOWER CARBONIFEROUS OF THE
TULAROSA BASIN – SACRAMENTO
MTNS. AREA**

Pre-conference field trip

May 12-14, 2000

**PERMO-CARBONIFEROUS
CARBONATE PLATFORMS AND
REEFS**

**A Research and Field Conference jointly
sponsored by SEPM and IAS**

May 15-16, 2000

U.S.A. (El Paso, Texas)

Contact: Judy Tarpley,

SEPM,

1731 E. 71 Street,

Tulsa, OK 74136, U.S.A.

Tel: +1 918 493 33 61

Tel inside U.S.A.: 800 865 97 65

Fax: +1 918 493 20 93

E-mail: jtarpley@sepm.org

Web site:

<http://www.sepm.org/research/conferences/permcarb2000.html>

**PERMIAN PLATFORMS AND REEFS IN
THE GUADALUPE AND HUECO
MOUNTAINS**

Post-conference field trip

May 17-19, 2000

SEDIMENT 2000

June 21-23, 2000

AUSTRIA (Leoben)

Contact:

Organisationskomitee Sediment 2000,

University of Leoben,

Institute of Geoscience:

Prospektion and Angewandte

Sedimentologie,

Peter-Tunner-Straße 5,

8700 Leoben, Austria.

Tel: +43 38 42 40 27 48

Fax: +43 38 42 40 26 40

E-mail: gawlick@unileoben.ac.at

APC-2000**Combined Australian Palaeontological
Convention; 3rd International
Symposium on the Silurian System; and
2nd Australian Conodont Symposium**
July 11-15, 2000

AUSTRALIA (New South Wales)

Contact: George Wilson,

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences,

Macquarie University,

Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia.

Web-page:

[http://www.es.mq.edu.au/MUCEP/auscos/
auscos.htm](http://www.es.mq.edu.au/MUCEP/auscos/auscos.htm)

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**MILLENNIUM FLUX - SEDIMENT
SUPPLY TO BASINS**

June 22-23, 2000

U.K. (Southampton)

Contact: Dr Stuart Jones,

School of Ocean and Earth Science,

University of Southampton,

Southampton Oceanography Centre,

European Way,

Southampton SO14 3ZH, U.K.

Tel: +44 1 703 59 36 41

Fax: +44 1 703 59 30 59

E-mail: stj@mail.soc.soton.ac.uk

GEOFLUIDS III-2000

July 12-14, 2000

SPAIN (Barcelona)

Contact: Secretariat,

Institut de Ciències de la Terra,

Jaume Almera, CSIC

Lluís Solé i Sabarís, s/n

08028 Barcelona, Spain.

Fax: +34 93 411 00 12

E-mail: geofluids@natura.geo.ub.es

Web-page:

<http://www.ub.es/geoquimi/geofluids>

* * *

HISTORY OF GEOLOGIC PIONEERS

August 3-5, 2000

U.S.A. (Troy, New York)

Contact: D.M. Friedman,

Northeastern Science Foundation,

P.O. Box 746, 15 Third Street,

Troy, NY 12181, U.S.A.

Tel: +1 518 273 32 47

Fax: +1 518 273 32 49

E-mail: gmfriedman@juno.comWeb-site: <http://www2.netcom.com/~gmfstf/>

**20TH REGIONAL MEETING OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

September 13-15, 2000

IRELAND (Dublin)

Contact: Pat M. Shannon,

Department of Geology,

University College Dublin,

Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 706 23 23

Fax: +353 1 283 77 33

E-mail: p.shannon@ucd.ie

Web-page:

<http://www.tcd.ie/geology/fias2000.html>**9TH INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF
SYMPOSIUM**

October 23-27, 2000

INDONESIA (Bali)

Contact: Secretariat of the International
Coral Reef Symposium c/o COREMAP

Jl. Raden Saleh 43,

Jakarta 10330, Indonesia.

Tel: +62 21 314 30 80

Fax: +62 21 327 958

E-mail: coremap@indosat.net.id

Web-page: <http://www.oceanology.lipi.go.id>or: <http://www.coremap.or.id>Abstracts and suggestions for mini-
symposia to be sent to:

Dr. David Hopley,

Chair ISRS Scientific Program Committee for
9ICRS,

c/ - CRC Reef Research Centre,

James Cook University, Townsville,

Queensland 4811, Australia.

Tel: +61 7 47 25 28 32

Fax: +61 7 47 79 14 00

E-mail: david.hopley@ultra.net.au

**FOURTH CONGRESS ON THE
TERTIARY OF SPAIN**

September 19-21, 2000

SPAIN (Tresp, Lleida)

Contact: Dr. E. Remacha or Dr. E. Maestro,

Dept. de Geologia (Unitat d'Estratigrafia),

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,

08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain.

Tel: +34 935 81 16 03 or 10 85

Fax: +34 935 81 12 63

Web-page:

<http://www.catalunya.net/gettrempp2000>

**16TH INTERNATIONAL
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

July 7-12, 2002

SOUTH AFRICA (Auckland Park,
Gauteng)

Contact: Bruce Cairncross,

Department of Geology, Rand Afrikaans

University, P.O. Box 524,

Auckland Park, 2006, South Africa.

Tel: +27 11 489 23 13

Fax: +27 11 489 23 09

E-mail: bc@na.rau.ac.za

Web-page:

[http://general.rau.ac.za/geology/
announcement.htm](http://general.rau.ac.za/geology/announcement.htm)