

Orogenesis, a time odyssey

Preface

The investigation of orogenic belts has always played an important role in the history of the Geological Institute of Leiden University. Amongst the numerous publications and PhD theses covering many aspects of orogenic research from various disciplines, a notable contribution on 'The duality of orogenic belts' was published by Professor Henk Zwart in 1967.

When the board of the Leidse Geologische Vereniging was looking for a theme for a symposium, to be organised on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary, it was exactly 25 years ago that Zwart's paper informed the geological world about pre-continental-drift 'state-of-the-art' orogenic research. It seemed an obvious choice, therefore, to ask Professor Zwart to chair and co-ordinate the scientific part of the symposium, called 'Orogenesis, a time odyssey', held in the Pesthuis building of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum in Leiden on April 24th, 1993.

The oral presentations covered the full time-spectrum from Precambrian to Alpine mountain building. Interestingly, the choice of invited speakers introduced a curious and so-far unknown 'inversion' effect in orogenic evolution as the Precambrian belts were presented by the youngest lecturer, Professor Cees Passchier, whereas the young structures in the subsurface of the Swiss Alps were discussed by the senior speaker, Professor Ernst Niggli.

The board of the Leidse Geologische Vereniging would like to thank the contributors to the Symposium as well as the staff of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, who made it possible to once more revive the Leiden geological history. Finally, we express our sincere thanks to Henk Zwart for his efforts to make us reconsider how much of the originally proposed 'duality' of orogenic belts still survives today.

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