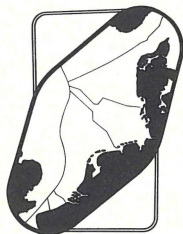
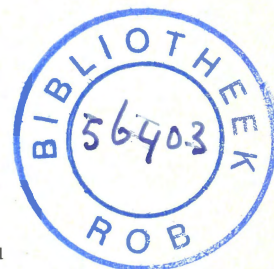


# PETROLEUM GEOLOGY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN NORTH SEA AND THE ADJACENT ONSHORE AREAS (THE HAGUE, 1982)



## PREFACE



J. P. H. KAASSCHIETER<sup>1</sup> & T. J. A. REIJERS<sup>1</sup>

The economic interest of oil and gas in the North Sea region is undeniable and has a definite influence on many national budgets. Names like Groningen, Brent and Statfjord have entered everyday language but it is often not realized that painstaking geological work is required to bring these hydrocarbons to the surface for distribution to the customers. In The Netherlands, the Petroleum Geological Circle, a section of the Royal Geological and Mining Society of The Netherlands (KNGMG), is a meeting point for all geologists active in oil and gas exploration-production. In November 1982 this Circle organised a conference on the 'Petroleum Geology of the southeastern North Sea and the adjacent onshore areas'. For three days, 24-26.XI.1982, an international representation from government, science and industry met in The Hague to exchange ideas and information on the hydrocarbon-geological aspects of areas located offshore and onshore in Norway, Denmark, Western Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium.

The chairman of the Petroleum Geological Circle, Dr. J. G. J. van Lith, set the theme of the conference in his opening address by stating 'Exploration for oil and gas is an economic effort; it is the search in the earth's crust for circumstances that allow economically sound investments'. Prof. Dr. E. den Tex, chairman of the Royal Geological and Mining Society of The Netherlands, referred to the appropriate timing of this meeting by remarking that 'with the fourth round of exploration permits for the Dutch offshore in the offering, it is of great interest to be informed on the present state of geological knowledge of the areas concerned'.

This theme was broadened by the Director-General for Energy, Drs. G. H. B. Verberg, who stressed the importance of 1983 when a temporary stop on exploration-licence application will provide both government and industry with an opportunity to evaluate the prospects for future exploration. In the first quarter of 1984 applications for exploration licenses can again be filed.

The opening addresses highlighted the Dutch situation, the conference itself had a far broader geographical spread. A good number of papers on Denmark were of special interest in view of forthcoming licensing in the Danish offshore.

In summarizing the outcome of the conference, Prof. Dr. J. E. van Hinte stressed the importance of the proceedings by referring to such a publication as 'a reference and source of information for years to come'. We hope that this publication will serve that goal, but we also have always stressed the importance of timely publication and we are happy that *Geologie en Mijnbouw*, the official journal of the Society, offered the pages of its first 1983-issue.

The various contributions have been arranged in three parts. In the first part papers are grouped which deal with structural styles in the area-of-interest. The bulk of the present volume is contained in the second part in which papers on stratigraphy, sedimentology, prospects and actual fields are given in stratigraphic order. The last part consists of three articles on source rock and other lithological properties.

<sup>1</sup> Shell Internationale Petroleum Maatschappij B.V., The Hague, The Netherlands.