

THE 8th CARIBBEAN GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (WILLEMSTAD, 1977)

PREFACE

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The VIIIth Caribbean Geological Conference was held on the island of Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, from the 9th to the 24th of July 1977. The original plans did not include the issuing of a transactions or proceedings volume after the conference. Instead, all contributors were requested to submit a one to two page summary of their contribution, which was to be as informative as possible. The collected summaries were issued to all attending members on arrival as our volume of abstracts, together with the guide to the field excursions. These summaries thus exceed the scope of an abstract in the usual sense. The volume of abstracts, accordingly, is a compact and readily readable summary of the sum total of knowledge presented at the conference¹.

Due to the generous support of our sponsors, listed on the cover, and thanks to the agreement proposed by the Royal Geological and Mining Society of The Netherlands, we are now able to issue this post-conference Memoir as a special number of *Geologie en Mijnbouw*². Some contributions presented at the conference are fully covered by the summary in the volume of abstracts; some members did not submit a new and full-length text; some articles have been newly written for the Memoir. This Memoir, therefore, only covers part of the proceedings of the conference. For the complete proceedings reference should be made to this memoir, plus the volume of abstracts, plus the guide to the field excursions. Two of the three special symposia convened within the framework of the conference are covered in the above mentioned way: the symposium on recent seismicity and seismic risks, convened by D. P. Schwartz (Woodward-Clyde Consultants) and the symposium on metamorphic and plutonic rocks, convened by J. F. Lewis (George Washington University). The symposium on recent volcanics and volcanic risks, convened by A. L. Smith (University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez) is only covered in the form of the summaries submitted. This symposium, of particular interest because of the Soufrière activity, will be covered more fully in the *Bulletin Volcanologique*.

The sum of information will thus be somewhat scattered. The advantage, however, is that publication in regular periodicals will have a much wider circulation than a proceedings volume issued to members only.

For completeness sake, we include in this number those summaries which were received too late to be included in the volume of abstracts and which are not covered by a fuller text here.

We have done all proof-reading ourselves because of the wide scatter of the contributors and in order to avoid some mailing risks. We take full responsibility in case our correcting led to a misrepresentation of the texts.

Please accept our apologies for the lesser quality of some of the illustrations. It has not always been possible to get good quality originals.

Finally, we wish to thank all those who have made this publication possible.

¹ Copies of the volume of abstracts and of the guide to the field excursions can be ordered from the following address: GUA Papers, Geologisch Instituut, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, Amsterdam.

The guide to the field excursions contains chapters of a general nature on the geology and geomorphology of Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba, in addition to the itinerary descriptions. An annotated version for popular use will be made available in the future, to be ordered from STINAPA (the National Park Foundation), c/o the Caribbean Marine Biological Institute, CARMABI, Piscadera, Curaçao.

²The agreement with the Royal Geological and Mining Society of the Netherlands includes providing this memoir free of charge to all attending members of the conference.