

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

EUSTATIC DROP OF TWO METERS SINCE BABYLONIAN TIMES ?

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Dicke (1966) has elaborately demonstrated a residual acceleration of the earth's rotation over the last two thousand years or so. For those who are loath to explain the anomaly in terms of a decreasing constant of gravitation, and/or of a gradual growth of the earth's core, a conclusion by W.H. Munk deserves serious consideration. In an article accompanying Dicke's he suggests that there has been a general lowering of the sea level by about two meters (or some three meters, following Dicke's calculations).

The proposed change is in keeping with orthodox opinion (cf. Umbgrove, 1951), and it seems to become compatible with Mörner's (1969) obser-

vations when one attributes a greater time lag to isostatic reaction. Consequently, the INQUA Sub-commission for Study of the Holocene could wish to enhance its astronomic and isostatic expertise to particularize recent aspects of the eustatic curve.

REFERENCES

- Dicke, R.H. (1966) — The secular acceleration of the earth's rotation and cosmology. IN: B.G. Marsden & A.G.W. Cameron (Editors), The earth-moon system. Plenum Press, New York, p. 98-164.
- Mörner, N.A. (1969) — Eustatic and climatic changes during the last 15.000 years. Geol. en Mijnbouw 48, p. 389-399.
- Umbgrove, J.H.F. (1951) — Structural boundaries of The Netherlands and the origin of Holland. Geol. en Mijnbouw (nw. ser.) 13e jrg., p. 213-218.

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ERRATUM

In the article by L. van der Plas and P. Buurman "The Genesis of Belgian and Dutch flints and cherts" in Geologie en Mijnbouw 1971/1, the last lines in the left column, from: and the P_{CO_2} that determines until equation (7) should follow after the first two lines of the right column of page 25.