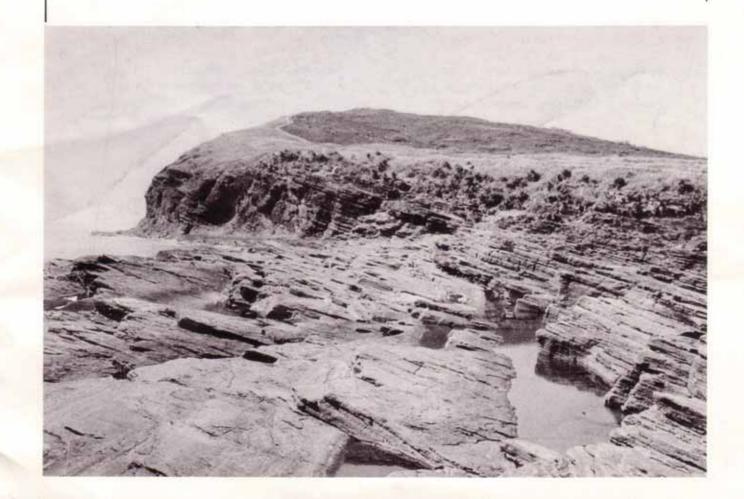
## geological society of hong kong

## NEWSLETTER

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General: Typescripts, enquiries and all correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary,

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author must be stated at the time of submission.

Articles of a technical nature, as well as reports of interesting events, reviews and other topical items are welcome. Contributions must be short. 1,200 words is regarded as the normal acceptable length, although exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Society. Figures, tables and half-tone plates must be kept to a minimum and must all be on separate sheets.

Typescripts must be accurate and in their final form. Two complete copies should be sent to the Secretary. Typescripts should be double-spaced, including references, on one side of the paper only with a 2.5 cm margin on each side. A4 paper is preferred. All pages should bear the author's name and be numbered serially.

Send only photocopies of illustrations, retaining the originals until the Society asks for them. Originals should bear the author's name. Diagrams should be in black on tracing material or smooth white paper or board with a line weight and lettering suitable for reduction. A metric scale should be included, and north point (or where relevant, coordinates of latitude and longitude) on all maps.

References: The author is responsible for ensuring that the references are correct and that Journal

abbreviations comply with those in the List of Serial Publications held in the Library

of the Geological Society of London (Geological Society, 1978).

Offprints: The society does not provide authors with free offprints of items published in the News-

letter, but will obtain quotations on behalf of authors of technical articles who may

which to purchase offprints from the printer.

Cover Photograph: Courtesy - Dr. D.R. Workman

## PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MARINE MICROFOSSILS IN AN OFFSHORE DRILL-HOLE FROM LEI YUE MUN BAY

### P. Wang<sup>1</sup> AND W.W.S. Yim<sup>2</sup>

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- 2 Department of Geography and Geology, University of Hong Kong

#### Introduction

Three sites in Hong Kong showing evidence for a Late Quaternary marine-alluvial-marine-alluvial sequence were identified by Yim (1983). In the present paper, the preliminary results of the follow-up investigation on the occurrence of foraminifera, ostracods and several other types of marine fossils in an offshore drill-hole from the Lei Yue Mun Bay site near Chai Wan (Fig. 1) is reported. The drill-hole examined, number 110, lies at a sea bed depth of -15.8 m PD.

Figure 2 shows a simplified logsheet for drill-hole 110. The upper marine horizon is recognized by the presence of shell fragments, a predominantly grey colour, and the soft to loose nature of the deposits. Standard Penetration Test (SPT) blow counts exceeding 3 have not been recorded and the grey colouration of this horizon is consistent with an anaerobic sea-floor environment. The upper alluvial horizon is characterized by red to yellowish-brown mottling, SPT blow counts of between 16 and 40, and the presence of gravels. In the lower marine horizon, shell fragments have been recorded in the driller's logsheet and the SPT blow counts are between 6 and 9. The lower alluvial horizon is marked by the reappearance of a yellowish-brown colour as well as increases in SPT blow counts to between 17 and 34.

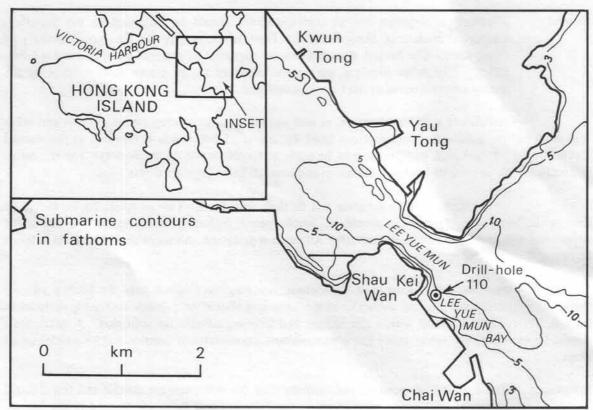


Fig. 1 Location map of drill-hole 110

#### Materials and Method

Nine samples from different depth intervals (Table 1) were selected from drill-hole 110 for semiquantitative examination of marine microfossils present. According to the simplified logsheet shown in Figure 2, which is based mainly on information provided by the driller, four samples (1, 2, 3 and 4) are from the upper marine horizon, sample 5 is from the upper alluvial horizon, three samples (6, 7 and 8) are from the lower marine horizon, and sample 9 is from the lower alluvial horizon. It should be noted that the depths of the boundaries between the different horizons are by no means certain.

Either 15 or 30 g of dry sediment was taken from each sample for wet sieving with a 280-mesh British Standard Sieve. The residue retained in the sieve was then treated with carbon tetrachloride, and the light fraction was examined under the stereomicroscope for microfossils. All microfossils were identified as far as possible and the relative abundance of each species of foraminifera and ostracod was estimated semi-quantitatively.

#### Results

A summary of the results obtained is given in Table 2. Marine fossils with calcareous skeletons are found to be present in samples 1, 2 and 3 only.

Sample 1, from -16.10 to -16.25 m PD, contains abundant microfossils of which only a small proportion is abraded. With the exception of very rare specimens of the planktonic foraminifera Globigerinoides ruber, the foraminiferal fauna is dominated by hyaline benthic forms, with Hanzawaia nipponica, Ammonia compressiuscula, Florilus asterizans, Elphidium advenum as common species. The ostracod fauna is dominated by Echinocythereis bradyformis. In addition, spines of echinoidea, skeletal elements of ophiuroidea and frustules of siliceous diatoms are also found.

Sample number	Depth below sea level in m P.D.	Suggested origin of horizon (After Yim 1983)
1	16.10 - 16.25	Upper marine
2	18.10 - 18.25	Upper marine
3	20.95 - 21.10	Upper marine
4	22.10 - 22.25	Upper marine
5	23.10 - 23.25	Upper alluvial
6	29.10 - 29.25	Lower marine
7	30.60 - 30.75	Lower marine
8	31.10 - 31.25	Lower marine
9	34.60 - 34.75	Lower alluvial

Table 1 Depth and suggested origin of the samples treated

Distribution of microfossils in sample number 1, 2 and 3 from the Holocene marine unit. C-common; P-frequent; R-rare; VR-very rare; +-present. Table 2

Sample number Depth in m below sea level Depth in m below P.D.	0.30-0.45 16.10-16.25	2.30-2.45 18.10-18.25	3 5.30-5.45 20.95-21.10	Sample number Depth in m below sea level Depth in m below P.D.	0.30-0.45 16.10-16.25	2,30-2,45 18,10-18,25	5.30-5.45
FORAMINIFERS -				Schackoinella globosa	Ж		
Textularia foliacea	×			Cancris auriculus	M		
Quinqueloculina seminula	24	(Se)		Pseudorotalia schroeteriana	VR		
Q. spp.	×	o		Eponides repandus	VR	VR	
Triloculina sp.		VR		Cibicides sp.		VR	
Spiroloculina communis		VR		Gavelinopsis praegeri		VR	
Lagena spicata	VR			Cymbaloporella sp.		VR	
L. pliocenica	VR			Globigerina bulloides	VR		
Fissurina laevigata	æ			Globigerinopsis sacculifer		VR	
F. sp.	VR			G. ruber		VR	
Guttulina sp.	VR			OSTRACODS -			
Glandulina laevigata	×			Sinocytheridea latiovata		R	R
Reussella sp.	×			Bicomucythere bisanensis	VR	R	æ
Bulimina marginata	(Sa)	R	VR	Neomonoceratina crispata	M		×
Bolivina sp.	VR			Echinocythereis bradyformis	P4	В	VR
Loxostomum sp.		×		Neonesidea haikangensis	×	VR	
Guembelitria vivans	VR			Munseyella japonica	K.		VR
Florilus asterizans	o	o	VR	Cornuc oq utmba tosaensis	VR		
F. sp.	×			Callistocythere asistica	×		
Elphidium advenum	o	ບ	<u>p</u>	C. sp.		R	
E. hispidulum	2	я	M	Loxoconcha ocellata	VR		
E. crispum	VR	ta ta		L. sinensis		VR	
E. asiaticum		×		L. sp.	VR		
Cellanthus sp.			VR	Aurila cymba		VR	
Cribrononion sp.		VR		OTHER MICROFOSSILS -			
Nonfonella jacksonensis	R	R		Echinoid spines	+	+	
Hanzawala nipponica	O	o	De	Ophiurold fragments	+		
Cavarotalia annectens	pa	œ,	M	Octacorallia spiculae		+	
Ammonia compressiuscula	o	O		Balanus fragments		+	
A. beccaril var.	F4	υ	o	Diatom frustules	+		
A. pauciloculata		A					

Sample 2, from -18.10 to -18.25 m PD, closely resembles sample 1 (Table 2). Abundant partly abraded microfossils are present. The foraminifera are almost exclusively benthic and hyaline forms which are present in sample 1. However, Cymbaloparella sp. are larger and a number of porcellaneous species including Quinqueloculina spp., Triloculina sp. and Spiroloculina communis are also present. Sinocytheridea latiovata and Bicornucythere bisanensis are the predominant ostracod fauna. Moreover, there occur spiculae of Octacorallia, spines of echinoidea and fragments of Balanus.

In contrast to samples 1 and 2, sample 3, from -20.95 to -21.10 m PD, contains relatively few microfossils. As a rule, they are strongly abraded and are exclusively hyaline benthic foraminifera and ostracods, showing a lower diversity and a predominance of littoral species including Ammonia Beccarii var. and Sinocytheridea latiovata.

Calcareous marine fossils have not been identified in samples 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Sample 9, from a depth of -34.60 to -34.75 m PD, was found to contain some plant detritus.

Legend	Depth in m.P.D.*	Suggested origin	Description
	0.0		Sea level
	-15.8		Sea bed
	-20.8		Grey, soft, silty clay with shell fragments and some sand (firmer below -19.8 m)
	-21.8	MARINE	Brownish-grey, loose, silty clay with shell fragments and some sand
	-22.8	10071.00	Yellowish-grey, medium dense, silty sand
	-25.8	ALLUVIAL	Greyish-pink, dense, silty coarse sand with gravel
	-27.8	A.	Grey, dense, silty and clayey sand
	-32.8	MARINE	Grey, firm, silty sand with clay and shell fragments
	-33.8	Ž	Loose to medium dense silty sand with clay
	-35.8	TAI.	Grey, very stiff, sandy silt with clay
	36.8	ALLUVIAI	Yellowish-brown, stiff, silty clay
	-41.27	RESID-	Greyish-brown, very dense, completely weathered monzonite
	-41.32		Yellowish-brown, moderately weathered monzonite
	-46.57	BED-	Slightly weathered monzonite

<sup>\* -</sup> Not to scale

Fig. 2 Simplified logsheet of drill-hole 110.

#### Discussion

The microfossils found in samples 1, 2 and 3 (Table 2) are characteristic of marine environments and are confirmative of the Holocene sea level rise. On the basis of the absence of marine microfossils, sample 4 is probably non-marine. The actual thickness of the upper marine horizon should therefore be less than that indicated in Figure 2.

Sample 1 suggests full marine, normal salinity sea-water conditions with shallow and warm water sedimentation, as the foraminiferal assemblage is characterized by Hanzawaia nipponica, Ammonia compressiuscula and Elphidium advenum, and the ostracod fauna is dominated by Echinocythereis bradyformis. The latter is distributed in the near-shore zone with water depth less than 20 m in the northern South China Sea in the present day (Wang et. al. in press). Sample 2 contains a similar microfauna and, again, reflects a similar near-shore euhaline environment. However, the presence of porcellaneous and large foraminifer as well as Octocorallia spiculae indicates a shallow water depth and warm water temperatures. On the other hand, sample 3 with scarce and abraded foraminifera may represent a littoral facies.

Although calcareous marine microfossils are absent in the lower marine horizon, this may be explained by post-depositional groundwater dissolution during the last glacial period (Yim 1983). Therefore follow-up work on the occurrence of non-calcareous marine microfossils including diatoms and dinoflagellates is deemed necessary to confirm the presence and the accurate thickness of the lower marine horizon.

Drill-hole 110 differs from the Chek Lap Kok drill-hole studied by Yim and Li (1983), where the lower marine horizon was confirmed by the presence of foraminifera and ostracods, in that the horizon lies at an appreciably greater water depth. This is indicative of a rapid marine transgression over a steeply sloping shoreline to a level probably close to that of the present day sea level.

#### Conclusion

The Holocene marine transgression has been evidenced by the foraminiferal and ostracod faunas. Follow-up work on non-calcareous marine microfossils would be useful in confirming the existence of a lower marine horizon in drill-hole 110. Furthermore, palynological studies would also be useful in providing additional data to assist the understanding of the palaeoenvironmental changes. Such work is currently being undertaken.

#### Acknowledgement

We are grateful to P.A. Randall for providing the drill-hole samples and to Ms Y. Bian for her assistance with the micropalaeontological analysis. This work is supported by a research grant from the University of Hong Kong awarded to W.W.S. Yim.

#### References

- Wang, P., Min, Q. & Bian, Y. In press. Foraminiferal biofacies in the northern continental shelf of the South China Sea. Contributions in Chinese Marine Micropalaeontology, China Ocean Press, Beijing. (in Chinese).
- Yim, W.W.S. 1983. Evidence for Quaternary environmental changes from sea-floor sediments in Hong Kong. Pre-print, Palaeoenvironment Conference of East Asia from the Mid-Tertiary, Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong, 17 pp.
- Yim, W.W.S. & Li, Q.-Y. 1983. Sea level changes and sea-floor surficial deposits off Chek Lap Kok. In abstracts, Geology of Surficial Deposits in Hong Kong, ed. by W.W.S. Yim & A.D. Burnett, Geological Soiety of Hong Kong & University of Hong Kong, 1, 48-59.

## VISIT BY THE MARINE STUDIES GROUP TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY IN GUANGZHOU

Nine members of the Marine Studies Group visited the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology in Guangzhou between 7th and 9th November 1984. The group, which was led by its Chairman, Dr. A.W. Malone, comprised the following members; Messrs C. Dutton, P. Blacker, G.W. Lovegrove, R. Arthurton, M.D. Howat, K.W. Lai, W.W.S. Yim and C.H. Tan.

Following their journey to Guangzhou by train on the morning of 7th November, the MSG contingent was met by their hosts and taken to the China Hotel. The afternoon was devoted to meeting members of the Institute and learning more of the type of work with which the Institute is involved. It was also an opportunity for MSG members to inform the Institute of the areas of research which were of particular interest to them.

There are eleven departments in the Institute (including laboratories) and of these three are devoted to geology. The three geology departments deal with coast and estuarine areas, marine geotectonics and marine sedimentology. A total of 120 research workers are employed by the Institute, where the main area of research is the South China Sea.

After a conducted tour of the Institute's interesting natural history museum, the MSG visitors were given an excellent dinner at the Pun Kai Restaurant.

The next day started with a visit to two of the Institute's research vessels, Experimentor II and Experimentor III moored on the Pearl River. Experimentor III displaces 3000T, was built in 1981 and has completed 20 cruises totalling 37,000 miles. Its primary on-board facilities are for research into the biology, chemistry, physics, meteorology and hydrology of the South China Sea. Complete with a satellite navigation system, it has a range of 4500 miles and a month's food and water.

For geological sampling from the sea bed at depths of up to 4200m, a drop sampler is used. Grab samples may also be taken.

Experimentor II displaces 1200T and is used primarily for geophysical survey work.

In the afternoon the group was taken to an inland site at Tse Sing Kong on the edge of the Pearl River's flood plain, where sea cliffs were reputed to exist at an elevation well above present sea level. A variety of views were expressed by MSG members on the origins of the 'cliffs'.

The day finished with a visit to the British Petroleum staff club in the China Hotel.

On the final day of their visit, members of Institute and the MSG gave presentations on a variety of topics. Professor Liu Yixuan spoke on the Quaternary geology and geotectonics along part of the South coast of China, including Hong Kong and Daya Bay. Mr. Yan then spoke on the Quaternary geology of the South China Sea, followed by Professor Fan on the subject of Quaternary geology between the Beibu Gulf and the Pearl River. Finally Mr. Lai from the Institute spoke on sedimentology of the eastern part of the South China Sea.

From the MSG members, Mr. Dutton spoke on the planning and execution of a site investigation for a new town development; Mr. Howat discussed the activities of MTR and the geology exposed in some of the tunnels and Mr. Arthurton discussed some of the evidence of marine transgression around Hong Kong.

Lunch time gave the MSG members an opportunity to return some of the warm hospitality shown by their hosts from the Institute, again at the Tak Pak Restaurant.

Before darting for the station, a visit was made to B&P's offices to see their set-up and discuss some of the work they are currently undertaking in the South China Sea.

All the MSG members on the visit were impressed by the hospitality shown them and the diversity of research undertaken at the Institute.

#### MARINE STUDIES GROUP

The Marine Studies Group continues to meet monthly in the Society Room, Hong Kong Museum of History, Kowloon Park. All meetings commence at 5.00 p.m. and all members of the Society are welcome to attend.

Recent meetings have been devoted to the following topics:

Feb 4: Quaternary sediments along the new Shatin - Taipo trunk road (A.J. Barry)

Mar 4: Quaternary research offshore in Hong Kong - some possible research themes

(the latter assumes, in anticipation of Lunar New Year printing delays, that this newsletter will be issued after the event; if not, this is a programme announcement - Ed.)

The Group celebrated its first anniversary with an excellent Chinese dinner after the meeting on 7th January.

The Group has recently applied for membership of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA). Once registered, the Group hopes to participate in the work of a sub-commission on Quaternary Stratigraphy of Asia and the Pacific. This should provide a better understanding of how the Quaternary geology of Hong Kong fits into the regional picture.

Further information on the activities of the group is available from Phillip Blacker, Honorary Secretary (Tel 5-779023).

#### 1984 IN RETROSPECT

The year began with an important development - the establishment of the Marine Studies Group. The group held its inaugural meeting on 10th January, and technical meetings at regular monthly intervals through the year. A party of members of the group visited the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology in Guangzhou, 7th-9th November (see separate news item).

Another important event during the year was the 6-day visit to Hong Kong in September, hosted by the Society, of the director and five other staff members of the Shenzhen Geological Bureau.

The year ended on a high note with the 3-day conference on geological aspects of site investigations, held at Hong Kong University and attended by 148 persons.

#### Summary of Programme

CONFERENCE GEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF SITE INVESTIGATIONS (DECEMBER 17-19)

JOINT MEETING WITH ROCKFALL AND ITS CONTROL (February)

HKIE GEOTECHNICAL GROUP Speakers: C.J. Beggs, L. Threadgold, D. Blomfield and Y.C. Chan (for a

report on this meeting, see the Hong Kong Engineer, April issue)

LECTURES GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Prof. Liu Zhaozhu, S. China Sea Institute of Oceanology (June)

SKARN DEPOSITS AND POLYMETALLIC ORES OF SOUTH CHINA TYPE

Prof. G. Moh, University of Heidelberg (October)

DISCUSSION MEETING PYROCLASTIC ROCKS (April)

FIELD MEETINGS PING CHAU, MIRS BAY

AP LEI CHAU (HOUSING AUTHORITY SITE)

KAT O CHAU/AP CHAU AP LEI CHAU (COAST) TAI LONG WAN, SAI KUNG

SHAM CHUNG HO CHUNG MA ON SHAN January March March May July September

October

December

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (May)

MARINE STUDIES GROUP Monthly lecture/discussion meetings

Visit to S. China Sea Inst. of Oceanology (November)

TEACHERS GROUP

Field Meeting (Inaugural) at Lantau (November)

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

On 31st December 1984, membership stood at 282. There were 9 Honorary Members, 255 Members and 18 Student Members. Of the 252 Members, 17 were registered as non-resident.

A warm welcome is accorded to the following new members who joined the society in January: C.H. Chang, L.Y. Cheng, L.Y.M. Ching, C.K. Kwok, Miss M. Lai, T.W. Lau, Miss C.C. Lo, T.M. Luk, Dr. P.L.R. Pang, H.T. Poon, K. Sivaloganathan, A.K.C. Tse, M.H. Tse, Miss Anna Tse, H. Yu.

#### 1985 SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 1985, please do so without delay. The rates are Members \$80, Student Members \$20. The next and subsequent newsletters and other notices will only be sent to paid-up members. Please inform the society if you are resigning so that our records can be kept up to date.

Cheques should be made payable to the Geological Society of Hong Kong and sent to the society c/o Department of Geography and Geology, University of Hong Kong.

#### PUBLICATIONS - REQUEST FOR COPIES OR REFERENCES

If you have had anything published on, or relevant to, the geology of Hong Kong or the South China region, in 1984, would you please send a copy (a separate or a photo copy) to the secretary. All such papers received will be acknowledged in the newsletter and will be added to the Society's collection of documents available to members on request.

The same applies to any unpublished or manuscript reports that members may like to make available.

The Society will also be glad to receive and disseminate, via the Newsletter, information about any articles relevant to its members' interests that may appear in publications which are not widely read in Hong Kong.

#### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

#### Field excursion to Ma Wan - Sunday 17th March

This interesting island, off the beaten track, is noted for its composite dykes. We will walk round the south coast of the island to view the excellent exposures and sections there.

#### Leader: M.J. Atherton

Meet at 9.30 a.m. at Tsuen Wan MTR Station (by ticket office inside station, at west end), for minibus trip to Sham Tseng pier and kaido to Ma Wan. Advance booking not required. Bring lunch. Drinks available on the island.

Classification of Hong Kong Granites - Tuesday 26th March, 6 p.m. P.J. Strange

Room 2-10 (Geology Lab.) Hui Oi Chow Science Building Hong Kong University

#### HAINAN

The trip to Hainan in April is now fully booked.

#### TEACHERS GROUP

#### Field excursion to Tolo Channel - Saturday 30th March

Boat will leave Ma Liu Shui (Chinese U.) ferry pier at 9.30 a.m. If possible we shall go ashore at Chek Chau (Port Island) to see to Port Island Formation there. Time permitting, we will also visit Ap Chau, Kat O Chau, and/or Lai Chi Chong/Sham Chung.

Priority will be given to present members of the teachers group and new members of the society who are teachers. Remaining places on the boat (max. 35) will be allocated to other applicants. You will be notified only if you or any guests are not able to be accommodated.

Bring lunch and drink. BOOKING ESSENTIAL Cost \$30
Booking: Return the slip to Mr. Keung Hon Ming, 6D Babington Path, 5th floor, Hong Kong.
(Tel 5-401684 or 5-408178)

#### Future dates (see March Newsletter for details)

Geology of Sheet 7 (R. Addison) 30 April
Field excursion to High Island 5 May
Annual General Meeting May

#### REPLY SLIP

I/We wish to attend the Tolo Channel field meeting of the Teacher's Group on March 30

NAMES(S)

PHONE NO .:

NAME(S) OF GUESTS:

I/We enclose payment of \$

#### 海洋組訪問南海海洋研究所

我會海洋組一行九人在馬隆博士率領下於一九八四年十一月九日至十一日到廣州訪問了中國科學院南海海洋研究所,受到該所的熱烈歡迎。當天下午參觀了該所各研究室、實驗室和電腦中心。該所負責人介紹了該所的一般情況。該所共有十一個研究室,包括海洋生物、海洋水文、海洋化學、海洋物理等室。與地質有關的是河口港灣、海洋地質構造和海洋沉積三個研究室,共有專業研究人員共120人,研究海域主要在南海。

翌日參觀了該所的兩艘海洋調查船。"實驗三號"是一條三千噸的綜合海洋調查船,建於1981年,已航行了三萬七千海哩,船上有海洋水文、氣象、生物、化學、物理等實驗室;有探測海洋熱流的設備;可在水下四千二百米採取沉積樣品。並有衞星定位儀等等。"實驗二號"有一千二百噸,主要從事海洋地球物理的研究。下午參觀了七星崗的古海蝕崖。

第三天進行了學術交流的座談會,南海所劉以宣教授介紹了珠江口和紅海灣沿海的活動斷裂,楊森強先生介紹了廣東沿海第四紀地質,陳森強教授介紹了南海的海洋沉積。該所還有幾位講者作報告。本會代表也作了香港地質介紹。海洋所的豐富研究成果和對本會代表的熱情接待使人留下難忘的印象。

海洋組臨走前還順道訪問了在南海探油的英國石油公司。

## 一九八五年會費

本會將不再寄出下次的通訊及通告等給本年度未繳交會費的會員。該等會員請從速將劃線支票寄來香港大學地理地質系轉本會收。普通會員會費爲八十元,學生會員爲二十元。

## 節目預告 (詳情見英文版)

三月十七日(星期日) 馬灣野外考察

三月廿六日(星期二) 香港花崗岩分類(研討會)

三月三十日(星期六) 吐露港考察(敎師組)

四月 海南觀察團(已滿)

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通 訊

目錄

第三卷 第一號 一九八五年一月

海洋組訪問海洋研究所 一九八五年會費 節目預告

