

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGY

At this 1972 symposium, I publically commented on the long delays which have lessened the value of published proceedings of all-too-many other symposia. Worse, I vowed that no such delays would happen this time. My apologies!

Still worse, borrowed tape recorders failed their intended mission of preserving the exact texts of papers and the subsequent discussions. The former have been reconstructed reasonably well, --I think-- but the various unsystematic notes of discussions proved too fragmentary to be very useful. This was a serious and regrettable loss. Especially pertinent were comments of several speakers who have been unable to find speleogenetic sheer planes previously described by Ollier and Brown. Discussion of the Harter's classification also was especially important. The existence of rift caves (such as Crystal Ice Cave, Idaho) and of surface tube caves was overwhelmingly accepted, but there was no consensus on whether trench and semi-trench caves should be differentiated. Other debate centered around their classification of several specific as rift caves (some held that rifts rarely were cooperative in aligning themselves neatly down-slope), and whether the names of the Harter classes were unnecessarily confusing.

As a result of the reconstruction necessary under these circumstances, the proceedings as published here differ slightly from the actual program. Yet the reconstruction was planned to preserve both the content and the flavor of the meeting. In my opinion, it was successful in this. A small amount of explanatory material has been added for clarity; this is primarily in the Harter papers. Some speakers whose work was evolving especially fast preferred to not to submit now-outmoded texts; their contributions are reflected by abstract only. Unfortunately, production costs required omission of many photographs included in various papers. Others proved unsuitable for black and white reproduction, and your editor was forced to resort to substitution.

Unsurprisingly, the symposium did not cover all issues current in this new and rapidly evolving field. Pseudokarstic piracy of flow units was barely touched-upon. Downcutting by intratubal flows received little more mention. Few if any of the theoretical models seemed to envisage any lava tube formation in pre-existing steep-walled stream courses: a bit of a disappointment to this editor who fancies that he sees evidence of all of these in perplexing Dynamited Cave, Washington, and elsewhere. Perhaps more surprisingly, successive deposition of lateral coatings in rifts such as that described by Jim Papadakis seems to have been considered to be exclusively the result of vertical shifts in the level of molten lava, with no consideration of successive longitudinal flow: clearly a major factor in the geologic history of the island of Hawaii.

But these are minor omissions. The wealth of data accumulated through this symposium is impressive. Today, more than three years after the event, its significance is manifest if only by the continuing need for publication of these proceedings.

Again my apologies that its appearance has been delayed so long.

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