

INTRODUCTION

The following Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium of Vulcanospeleology has been published as the result of an anonymous contribution to the International Speleological Foundation (formerly the Western Speleological Foundation). Although belated in appearance, most of its contents remain as significant today as on the day of presentation. It joins the similar volumes of the first and second symposia (held respectively in White Salmon, Washington in 1972 and in Catania, Sicily, Italy in 1976), as the major published references to vulcanospeleology throughout the world. It is greatly to be hoped that the Proceedings of the fourth symposium (held in Catania in 1983) will join them soon.

Omitted for reasons of cost are the Convocation and Chairman's Remarks, welcoming addresses by Robert R. Stitt (President of the National Speleological Society) and John Eliot Allen (Professor Emeritus of Geology of Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA, and Larry Chitwood, geologist of the Deschutes National Forest, Bend, Oregon, USA, as well as the text of audiovisual presentations on northwestern lava tube caves by Elizabeth Wolff and David R. and Janet McClurg. Some of the illustrations for these presentations are included in the text of the Proceedings. Also necessarily omitted are many photos and tables and some comparatively short sections of several papers which were somewhat outside the main thrust of the report. I sincerely hope that this has not seriously affected the message therein, and apologize in advance to any outraged authors, in the hopes that they are understanding and forgiving. Perhaps they will feel better to know that I did the same to my own papers.

I especially thanked--and again thank—the presenters of papers whose authors could not attend the meeting: Percy H. Dougherty, William B. White, Bette White, Ernst Kastning, Jack Hess. I also expressed great gratification over the progress in vulcanospeleology since the first symposium, which we announced with fear and trepidation, lest no one come. The contents of this volume surely document that progress. But there is so much yet to be done. I regret greatly the delay in publication of this major building block of the future of this exciting field. And I look forward excitedly to the 5th symposium, to the first on-site extra-terrestrial vulcanospeleological studies, and everything else that is to come. Let it not be long delayed.

William R. Halliday, Chairman
Seattle, 1986