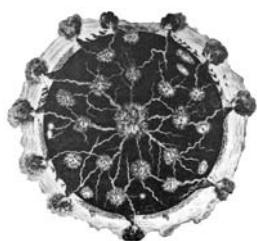
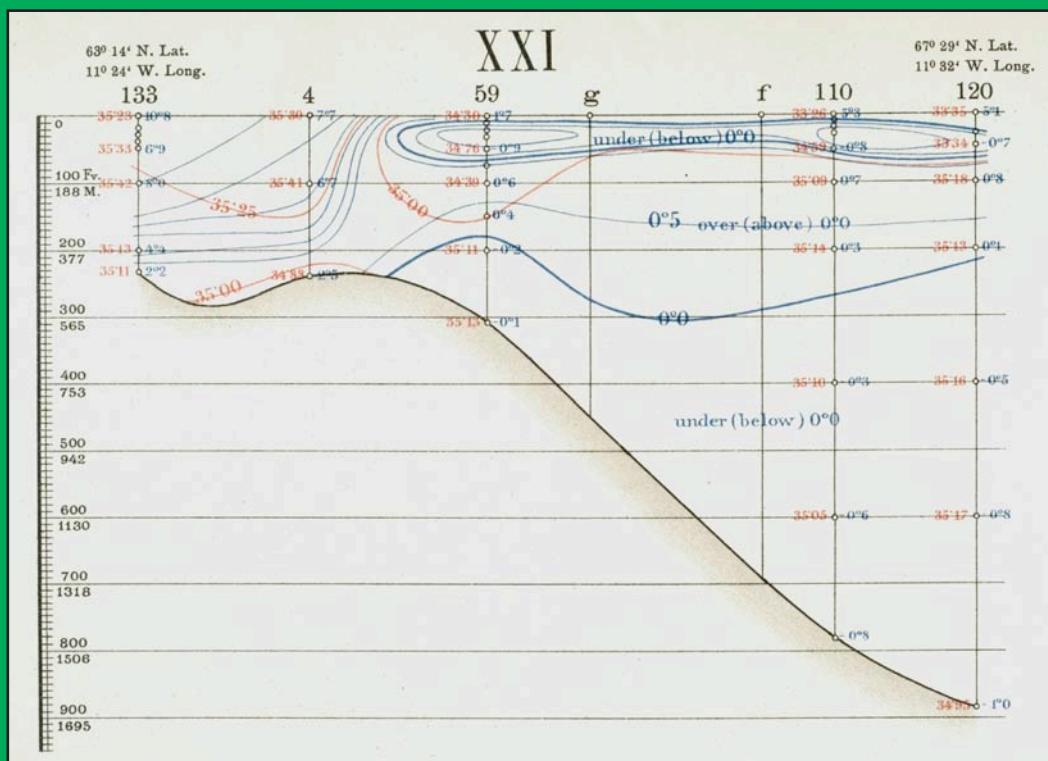


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HESS logo: Athanasius Kircher's (1602–1680) *Systema ideale prophylaciorum*—imagined view of subterranean fires and surface volcanoes, from *Mundus subterraneus*, 1678, Vol. 1, between pp. 186 and 187.

Front-cover image: fit of the continents around the Atlantic at the 500m contour, transverse Mercator projection. From Bullard, Everett and Smith (1965) (reproduced by courtesy of Everett and Smith).

EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

Volume 27, Number 2, 2008

CONTENTS

Editor's Introduction David Oldroyd	iii
Hydrographic work of the <i>Ingolf</i> expedition (1895 and 1896) to Icelandic and West Greenland waters Jens Smed	151
The first Danish deep-sea expedition on the <i>Ingolf</i> : 1895 and 1896 Torben Wolff	164
Origin of the American quantitative igneous rock classification: Part 1 Davis A. Young	188
Lyell's journey in Catalonia Enric Aragonès	220
The Heringen Collection of the US Geological Survey Library, Reston, Virginia R. Lee Hadden	242
J. D. Falconer and his geomorphological interpretations in Northern Nigeria C. Rowland Twidale	266
Hugo Rühle von Lilienstern and his palaeobotanical collection: an East-West German story Barbara A. R. Mohr, Evelyn Kustatscher, Cornelia Hiller and Gottfried Böhme	278
Book reviews , edited by Vic Baker	297
Interesting publications , compiled by Gerald Friedman	312
Notes on contributors	321
Earth Sciences History: Guidelines for authors	323
HESS subscription details and back issues	325
Erratum	326

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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The present issue has regard to the fact that *Earth Sciences History* has, as part of its terms of reference and as evidenced by the presence of Eric Mills on the Editorial Board, the publication from time to time of papers on the history of oceanography. So here we publish two complementary papers by Danish authors on the history of the *Ingolf* expedition in the waters of the North Atlantic at the end of the nineteenth century—Denmark's response to the *Challenger* expedition! **Jan Smed**'s paper deals particularly with the analytical aspects of the studies of the physical properties of the ocean waters, while **Torben Wolff** focuses on the expedition's biological results and the publications that were generated by the *Ingolf*'s work. Photographs provide interesting views of the work conditions aboard the research vessel. A discovery of special importance was the existence of two 'biological provinces' north and south of the North Atlantic Ridge, running between Greenland and the Faroes, producing a kind of submarine 'Wallace Line'.

Quite different in character is **Davis Young**'s paper on the background to the emergence of the well-known 'CIPW' system of classification in igneous petrology. We see the intense social negotiations that preceded this well-known and important, but cumbrous and ultimately ill-fated, system. We understand that a follow-up paper discussing the later development and use of the system is intended, but we are not at present aware of the possible contents of such a paper.

Then **Enric Aragonès** from Catalonia provides a detailed account of Charles Lyell's visit to his part of the world in 1830, which was obviously important for the development of his thinking, given that a picture of the volcanic province near Orlot was used as a frontispiece for Volume 3 of *Principles of Geology*.

There follows a paper by **Lee Hadden** that is somewhat unusual for *Earth Sciences History*. It describes in detail the remarkable story of how geological documents that had been acquired as 'war booty' by the German forces in World War II eventually found their way into the library of the US Geological Survey as the 'Heringen Collection'. (Whether that makes them a kind of 'second-order war booty' is a question that may occur to readers?)

Next **Rowland Twidale** describes the work in Nigeria of John Downie Falconer, a colonial Survey Director, and the original geomorphological ideas that he developed as a result of his observations in Africa.

Finally, in a nicely illustrated paper, **Barbara Mohr** from Berlin, with several coauthors, describes the work of the German amateur collector, Hugo Rußhle Von Lilienstern, who amassed a large collection of Triassic plants from Thuringia in the interwar years. His specimens eventually found their way from his private museum to the Natural History Museum in Berlin, where they are all now well conserved, forming a valuable resource for the study of palaeobotany.

The issue is topped off by book reviews and further bibliographical information from **Gerald Friedman** in his 'Interesting Publications' section.

