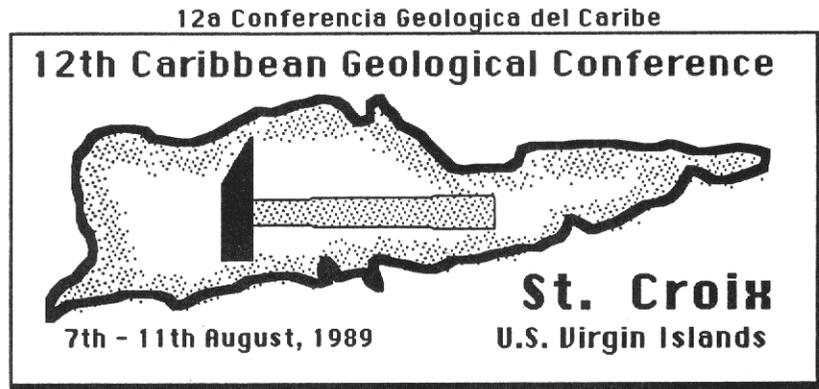


# TRANSACTIONS OF THE 12TH CARIBBEAN GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Edited by

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Late in July 1986, Nick Donnelly and I were on a flight together heading toward Bridgetown, Barbados for the 11th Caribbean Geological Conference. We were both concerned that all the pre-conference efforts of the Standing Committee to determine where the 12th Conference was to be held, a matter which was the major business item to be settled at the 11th Conference, had not resulted in a clear cut, single, choice. As I recall, he waited until we were on final approach (knowing full well of my general panic on all take-offs and landings) to ask me whether I thought it possible to have the next conference on St. Croix and whether I would volunteer to try to put it together. Now, I would never say "no" to anything during a landing or a takeoff, but I did manage to ask for two days to think about it. It is not bending the truth very much to say that I have thought about the 12th Conference every day since, in one way or another.

Although I felt honored to be asked to try to organize the Conference, it seemed to me an almost impossible situation, since there was no money in the bank, and I lived 1500 miles from the conference site. I took some hope from the knowledge that Donnelly had started from a similar position for the conference on St. Thomas some 20 years earlier. Frequent contact with and encouragement from members of the Standing Committee, especially Nick Donnelly and John Saunders, carried me through both some early and late moments of doubt. Bill Snow, Leslie Barker, and Hermann Duque-Caro were very generous in sharing budget information, mailing lists and hints gained from the experience of their earlier conferences.

I didn't realize it until much later, but my decision, made even before leaving the Barbados Conference, to dragoon Gren Draper and Dennis

Hubbard into sharing the day to day organizational burden was the best and most important decision I was to make for the next three years. During that same time I extracted a promise of "support-in-kind" from the then Director of the West Indies Laboratory, John Ogden, which was later honored and delivered in a way that exceeded all my highest expectations by his successor Betsy Gladfelter, her colleagues, and her staff.

The day the check arrived from Mobil Exploration and Producing Services Inc., (MEPSI) was a high moment for us and when this check was followed by a generous contribution from the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.), we knew we had a Conference and that it would be in St. Croix. I want to again thank Richard Kirk and C. P. Menard of MEPSI and Dallas Peck, Ben Morgan and Bob Halley from the U.S.G.S. for their help in obtaining these critical funds. We also received support from the West Indies Lab, the University of Miami, Florida International University and the University of Puerto Rico. We could not have gone forward with the conference without these funds.

My second best decision, closely rivaling the first best, was to ask my wife Rhoda and Dorothy Rowe from the West Indies Laboratory to handle all the day to day administration of the Conference during the two weeks of the actual conference. Those who were there know I did the right thing. In support of their effort and in order to make use of the computer talents of Rhoda and Gren Draper for last minute notices, program changes etc., we had a rental Mac SE flown in by seaplane from St. Thomas. That maneuver has to be a Conference first! Meanwhile, Hubbard and a team of helpers including Karla Parsons, Laura Venger and others were struggling night and day to put together the

*Terrestrial and Marine Geology of St. Croix* on a Mac II at the West Indies Laboratory. The conference owes a big collective thank you to Apple Computer Inc.

Another Conference "first" was the poster session arranged by Draper and Hubbard at The West Indies Laboratory. Although the whole conference had to be moved 8 miles for that afternoon, the effort was well worth it as that session added a new dimension to Caribbean Geological Conferences.

Randy Wheelis (Manager), Jim Schuck (Restaurant Manager) and Ada Ramos (Reservations) at our headquarters hotel went far beyond normal duties for our Conference and I want to thank them and their staff at Hotel-on-the-Cay for their help.

Field trips should be a heart of any conference and I think those of the 12th Conference were certainly that. My personal thanks to Dennis Hubbard, Bob Speed, Jim Joyce, and Ivan Gil, amongst others, for making the trips superior. And thanks also to Gray Multer, Malcolm Weiss and Alain Mascle who spent considerable effort planning trips to Antigua.

For the past year and one half, Dave Larue and Gren Draper, have been badgering the contributors to this volume, and each other, to get it together, and the fact that we have done so is due in no small way to their labors.

Art Snoke and Earl Kauffman have done us all a good service by writing Conference summaries which have appeared in the October 1990 issue of *Geotimes*, and the *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*, v. 3, no. 2/3, 1990. I am especially grateful to them for doing this since it would have been impossible for me to do. Conference chairpersons are too busy to attend many of the actual conference sessions, and therefore, I read their summaries with more than usual interest, simply to find out what had happened!.

Hurricane Hugo hit the island of St. Croix about a month after our Conference, severely damaging the West Indies Laboratory, flattening the rooms at Hotel on the Cay where we held our sessions, and destroying the Divi Hotel and the sea planes who brought us our computer. Although Hotel-on-the-Cay is back in business, and the Divi Hotel plans to rebuild, there is considerable doubt as to whether the West Indies Laboratory will ever function again as a research laboratory. Our best wishes go out to all our friends at these institutions and other businesses who helped the 12th Conference to be the success it was.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all of our delegates who came from 19 countries to participate in this Conference and in so doing made it for me something I now look back on as a highlight of 30 years of geologic work in the Caribbean.

Frederick Nagle  
General Chairman