

of this area were laid down by a flood or other cataclysm.)

Thus, we have a great "library" of information concerning the past, on the ocean floor. The wealth of knowledge stored there reminds us of the exclamations of the Psalmist in Psalm 104:24-25:

O Lord, how many are Thy works!
 In wisdom Thou hast made them all;
 The earth is full of Thy possessions.
 There is the sea, great and broad,
 In which are swarms without number,
 Animals both small and great.

We today have the means for learning far more from the sea than even the Psalmist realized was there. We now have the privilege of observing and "reading" the ocean bottom, most of which is covered with pelagic sediments. These are a marvelous record of the slow, natural buildup of the remains of minute, floating organisms, and of very fine clay particles which remain suspended in the water for years before finally coming to rest on the bottom. Therefore it is evident that most of the deep ocean bottom provides us with the records of long periods of sedimentary activity--a sedimentary activity which has taken place apart from any significant accumulation of land-derived materials.

As stated earlier, approximately one-third of all ocean bottom has a covering of chalk ooze; and much of this is thick enough to include an extensive time record. This is not necessarily superior to the time record in the non-carbonate parts of the ocean floor, but since the great carbonate areas--such as the broad equatorial belt--are more accessible and less complex for study, we are emphasizing these.

The sites drilled on the seventh cruise of the Deep Sea Drilling Project are only illustrative of the great number of excellent carbonate stratigraphic columns which have now been revealed by this Project. There were other very old columns of this same type located on rises and plateaus of the Pacific floor, and cored during the sixth, seventeenth, twenty-first, and twenty-ninth cruises. Some of these carbonate columns, including those at Sites 47, 55, 167, 207, 208, 209, 277, 279, and 281 were found to possess from 390 to 2,800 feet of chalk sediment. This is mainly Foraminifera and coccolith ooze, but includes some layers of lithified chalk and limestone at some of the locations.

During Cruise seventeen, the scientists on board decided to make as complete a coring as possible of the sediments on the Magellan Rise. The results illustrate what an enormous amount of pelagic carbonate sediment can accumulate where the water depth has been shallow enough that the minute carbonate shells settling down on the sea floor do not dissolve to an appreciable extent. The Magellan Rise is a submarine plateau, some 1,400 miles southwest of the Hawaiian Islands, named in honor of the great Portuguese explorer who first crossed the Pacific. The path of Magellan's