

MEMORANDUM

June 30, 1948

To: Dr. Carl Eckart

From: F. P. Shepard

Subject: Brief History of Submarine Geology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Prior to 1937, submarine geology had not been given much consideration at Scripps Institution although two credible doctoral theses had been prepared in marine sedimentation, respectively by R. Revelle and M. Thorpe. In 1937 Revelle returned from a year in Norway and as a university instructor established the division of marine sediments, in which position he continued until called into war service in 1941. Other than providing Revelle's salary as instructor for four years, the University has contributed almost nothing to submarine geology.

During the period from 1937 to the present a considerable amount of submarine geology has been carried on in the Institution largely from funds provided by the Geological Society of America (totaling \$19,300 in six grants) and since 1945 by the U. S. Navy. Support has also been derived from the U. S. Engineers, from an oil company, and somewhat indirectly from the University of Illinois. Prior to the war, I worked at Scripps Institution either without salary or for a nominal sum for a total of a little more than three years, during which I had leave of absence from the University of Illinois. During most of this time I had with me two graduate students from the University of Illinois, both of whom received doctoral degrees as the result of their work on submarine geology. Since the end of the war in 1945 geology has been carried on with Navy funds and I have been in charge and have had the help of three assistants and part time help from graduate students. A graduate course has been given in submarine geology for two years with enrollments of 38 students. In addition research has been conducted by an average of 3 graduate students and will continue with at least 5 students in the fall. All of this instruction and all of the materials involved in the research has come entirely from Navy funds, except as I have contributed to some extent from my own funds.

During the past 11 years the publications in submarine geology by my students and myself, most of which have come out as Scripps Institution Contributions, include <sup>4</sup><sub>3</sub> papers and two books. The second book (to appear soon) is the only book covering the entire field of submarine geology in any language. Many other papers have been submitted and accepted by scientific journals. These contributions constitute a considerable percentage of the total for the Institution during this period, in fact, compare well with departments which the University has actively supported.

A considerable amount of the information gathered from the use of Geological Society funds and volunteer work proved of use during the war in such respects as submarine warfare and landing operations. Since the war the geology division at Scripps Institution has had a constant stream of requests for information from the armed forces, from those interested in beach preservation or harbor development, from oil companies, and from individuals interested in various phases of geology.

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