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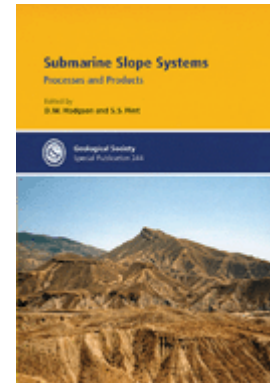
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Submarine Slope Systems: Processes and Products, edited by D.M. Hodgson & S.S. Flint, 2005. GSL Special Publication 244. The Geological Society of London, Brassmill Lane, Bath (Somerset), United Kingdom BA1 3JN. Hardbound, 232 pages. Price GBP 65.00. ISBN 1-86239-177-7.



A measure of the importance of submarine slope systems to the global sediment cycle can be gleaned from glancing at any globe. The world is covered by oceans concealing small- and large-scale margins that slope down into deep water. Over these slopes flows the sedimentary runoff from the continents, which is deposited and accumulates in this environment until plate tectonics finally subducts it under or pushes it up onto the land masses from where it originally came. As the energy needs of our world grow, we are moving further and further out into the deep slope systems of the world in search of the resources to fuel our lives. Therefore it is inevitable that more research will be focused on the deep marine slope systems of the Earth. The book *Submarine Slope Systems: Processes and Products* edited by D.M. Hodgson & S.S. Flint, and published by the Geological Society, is therefore a welcome and timely addition to the literature.

The book opens with an introduction by the editors that succinctly describes the aims of the publication, and explains the categorization of the contents into three sections based loosely on the focus of each investigation: "Stratigraphic development of submarine slope systems" [6 papers], "Canyons: formation, geometries, and fills" [4 papers], and "Instability: processes and products" [2 papers]. The contents of the book broadly detail different types of sediment delivery, deposition, and resedimentation systems and events in continental slope settings.

This book combines to very good effect papers utilizing data from a variety of sources, including high-resolution seismic, sidescan sonar, borehole images, core, and field data. It begins with a look at a late Quaternary shelf-margin succession in the Gulf of Cadiz (Iberian Peninsula), then moves to a Cretaceous foreland basin fill in southern Chile, on to an Eocene foreland basin fill in northern Spain, a late Miocene foredeep succession in New Zealand, a Permian foreland basin fill in South Africa, a Quaternary trench-slope system off Japan, a recent and modern passive margin off the Atlantic seaboard of the United States, the recent and modern strike-slip margin offshore of SE Spain, an Eocene back-arc basin in eastern Turkey, a Late Miocene passive margin off western Africa, the recent and modern, active subduction margin off western Costa Rica, and a Jurassic/Cretaceous passive margin in SE France.

Although some of the papers address well-known areas, the data and ideas presented are fresh and original, and will certainly reward the reader with new insight into slope systems. The large variety of approaches and techniques used in the various field areas is quite impressive, and a lot can be learned from this book on data analysis alone (e.g., Sichi et al.).

As far as readability of the text and figures go, the Geological Society Publishing House has done an absolutely outstanding job with their printing, and I found everything quite legible and understandable. Overall, I would rate this publication a must-have for those actively engaged

in research, exploration, or development of continental slope systems, and a volume well worth perusing for the rest of the geologists out there. It offers a lot of insight for a small volume, and packs a good punch for the cost.

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