

Foreword

This special volume of Memoirs of National Institute of Polar Research is the "Proceedings of the First Symposium on Antarctic Geosciences, 1978" which was held on 27th and 28th, September 1978 at the National Institute of Polar Research. The Symposium was specifically organized for the purpose of critically reviewing the whole results of solid earth science studies carried out by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) to date.

Since the scientific research programs of JARE have special emphasis on extensive synthetic studies of the solid earth characters around Syowa Station and its vicinity during three years starting in 1979, the retrospect and the prospect of Antarctic earth sciences summarized in this symposium was considered as the basis for planning the 1979–1982 earth science programs.

The proceedings of the Symposium in this volume consist of 23 papers (including 2 extended abstracts), which cover solid earth geophysics, geology, geomorphology, glaciology and geochemistry. In particular, regional geology, petrology and geomorphology of Lützow-Holm Bay coast and its neighborhood areas are a unique summary of recent studies on the geological formation of this specific region in East Antarctica. In addition to such regional studies, geophysical, geological and geochemical aspects of Antarctica are widely reviewed in order to find key problems in Antarctic geosciences to be studied and solved in the future.

Since the Symposium of Antarctic geosciences was the first one at the National Institute of Polar Research, the contents of this volume of its proceedings may not be fully comprehensive, but they can be significant parts of the fundamental basis for the future researches of Antarctic geosciences, particularly in East Antarctica. It is hoped therefore that this volume can be the first milestone in the course of along range research of East Antarctic geosciences at present and in the future.

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