

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

John Aitken is Manager of Geology (Oman) for Badley Ashton & Associates Ltd. He holds a BA (Hons) from the University of Birmingham and a PhD from the University of Aberdeen. Previously John was a Senior Geologist with British Gas, a Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University and a Research Associate at the University of Liverpool. John has acted as a consultant to numerous oil companies worldwide. Recently he has concentrated on the clastic successions in Oman, particularly the Haushi and Haima groups. He is a member of the AAPG, PESGB, SEPM, IAS, Geological Society (London) and the Geological Society of Oman.



Aida Al-Harthy works for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). She has worked in stratigraphy, reservoir modeling, and is now working with QI Geophysicists in the reservoir characterisation team. Aida has a BSc in Geology and a MSc in Petroleum Geology from the University of London.



Moujahed Al-Husseini is President of Gulf PetroLink, which he founded in 1993. Gulf PetroLink is a consultancy aimed at transferring technology to the Middle East petroleum industry. Moujahed received his BSc in Engineering Science from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (1971), MSc in Operations Research from Stanford University (1972), PhD in Earth Sciences from Brown University (1975) and Program for Management Development from Harvard University (1987). Moujahed joined Saudi Aramco in 1976 and was the Exploration Manager from 1989 to 1992. In 1996, Gulf PetroLink launched the journal of Middle East Petroleum Geosciences, *GeoArabia*, for which Moujahed is Editor-in-Chief. Moujahed also represented the GEO Conference Secretariat, Gulf PetroLink-GeoArabia from 1999-2004. He has published 25 papers covering seismology, exploration and the regional geology of the Middle East, and is a member of the AAPG, AGU, SEG, EAGE and the Geological Society of London.



Farida Al-Zadjali completed her Technical College studies in 1987. A year later she joined Petroleum Development Oman as a Palynological Laboratory Technician, a job she held for 13 years, the latter 3 years as Supervisor. In 2001, Farida moved to the Geological Services team as a Technical Assistant, adeptly using data-bases and graphics packages to support many field-scale and regional stratigraphic projects.



Lucia Angiolini is a Palaeontologist at the Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Milano, Italy. She received a PhD in Earth Sciences from Milano University in 1994. Lucia has 10 years experience in Permian brachiopods from the Peri-Gondwana region and the Cimmerian blocks from Turkey to the Himalayas through Oman and Karakorum. Her research interests includes, besides pure taxonomy, quantitative biostratigraphy, palaeobiogeography based on multivariate analyses, and Permian correlation between Gondwanan and Tethyan realms.



Nigel Clark is Manager of Geology for Badley Ashton America Inc, based in Houston, USA. He holds a BSc (Hons) from the University of Wales, Cardiff and a PhD from the University of Sheffield. Previously Nigel worked for Badley Ashton & Associates Ltd as their Manager of Geology (Abu Dhabi) and Middle East Team Leader (UK). Nigel's interests lie in the reservoir quality evaluations of clastic depositional systems and has worked extensively on the Gharif and Al Khilata of Oman, the Rotliegende of the Southern North Sea and the Eocene, Paleocene and Miocene of the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the PESGB, EAGE, the Geological Society (London), and is a member and former Director of the Emirates Society of Geoscience.



Sylvie Crasquin-Soleau is a Micropalaeontologist at the French National Centre of Scientific Research in Paris, France. She received a PhD in Palaeontology from Lille University in 1986 where her research focused on Lower Carboniferous ostracodes from North of France and the Rocky Mountains in Canada. Sylvie's work presently focuses on Permian and Triassic marine ostracodes of the Palaeo-Tethys area. Her emphasis is on ostracod palaeoecology, palaeobiogeographic analysis and palaeoenvironment reconstructions in Oman, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Thailand and south China.



Neil Jones is a Sedimentologist/Stratigrapher with the British Geological Survey. He has a BSc from University College, Cardiff and a PhD from Oxford Brookes University, having carried out research on the sedimentology and sand-body architecture of Upper Carboniferous fluvio-deltaic sediments in West Cumbria, UK. Neil has worked on a variety of different clastic sedimentary settings in the UK, Europe and the Middle East and specialises in the application of sedimentological and sequence stratigraphical studies to solve stratigraphic and reservoir geological problems within the hydrocarbon industry.



Robert Knox is an independent consultant specialising in the application of heavy mineral analysis to the correlation and delineation of reservoir sandstones in the Paleozoic and Mesozoic successions of the Arabian Peninsula. He was formerly with the British Geological Survey, where he gained over 25 years experience on the stratigraphy and sedimentology of UK and overseas petroleum basins.



Guy Oliver has a BSc in Geology from the University College of Wales in Cardiff, a MSc in Petroleum/Reservoir Development Geology from Imperial College, London (1992), and a PhD in Sequence Stratigraphy from the University of Plymouth (1997). After working for the Reservoir Geology Group of Shell Expro, he joined the Reservoir Geology Group of Robertson Research International. His work has included single well, full field, and basinal studies primarily throughout the Middle East and North Africa.



Peter Osterloff is currently Team Leader, Stratigraphy for Shell's Asia Pacific cluster, based in Sarawak Shell Berhad (SSB), Miri, Sarawak. Since receiving a PhD in 1993 in Carboniferous Palynostratigraphy from the University of Sheffield, England, Peter has worked at Shell Expro from 1982-1997 as a Carboniferous Palynostratigrapher as well as Stratigrapher for the Atlantic Margin and Central North Sea Tertiary. Transferred to Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in 1997, he worked six years with PDO as a Senior Biostratigrapher working on all aspects of the stratigraphic column. Peter relocated in March 2003 to SSB, swapping the Palaeozoic and Proterozoic of Oman for the Neogene of Offshore NW Borneo.



Randall Penney is a Palynological Consultant with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). He graduated in 1976 from Trinity College Dublin with a BA in Earth Sciences and completed an MSc from the University of Toronto in 1979. Randall worked with the Applied Geology Unit of the Department of Geology, Trinity College Dublin, before joining Gearhart Geoconsultants (later Halliburton Reservoir Description Services) as a Senior Geoscientist in Aberdeen in 1988. He later worked as an independent Consultant specialising in stratigraphic palynology before joining PDO in 1998 as a Palynological Consultant focusing in particular on Oman's Al Khlata and Haima reservoirs. Since 2000, Randall has continued his palynological work in PDO as a Consultant with Reservoir Laboratories of Trondheim, Norway.



Jean-Pierre Platel has been with the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) since 1975. He is an experienced mapping Geologist, involved in the mapping of the Mesozoic of Aquitaine-France and of Meso-Cenozoic of Oman. He received his PhD from Bordeaux University. He is a member of the French Geological Society and of the French Stratigraphical Committee. Jean-Pierre is a co-author of the *GeoArabia Paper: High Resolution Sequence Stratigraphy of the Natih Formation (Cenomanian/Turonian) in Northern Oman: Distribution of Source Rocks and Reservoir Facies*.



Jack Roger joined the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) in 1976. He has been involved in many geological mapping projects in Saudi Arabia and Oman, focusing on the stratigraphic and sedimentologic aspects of Mesozoic and Cenozoic unit. Jack graduated from Orsay University. He is affiliated with the French Geological Society and the French and International Associations of Sedimentologists.



Pieter Spaak is a Regional Geologist working for Shell International in The Netherlands. He holds a PhD in Stratigraphy from Utrecht University. Pieter joined Shell in 1983 and has been involved in operations in the UK and Indonesia, and in the Stratigraphic Laboratory in the Netherlands. Since 1989, Pieter has worked as a Sequence Stratigrapher and Stratigraphic Advisor in various Shell exploration and production ventures, mainly focusing on non-marine, coastal and deep-water clastic depositional systems. He joined PDO in 1998 focusing on generating new opportunities, especially in the Palaeozoic successions. Pieter is presently working for Shell in The Netherlands, as a Regional Geologist with a special interest in the Palaeozoic of North Africa and the Middle East.



Michael Stephenson is a Stratigrapher with the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Nottingham, UK. His education has included a BSc in Geology from Imperial College, an MSc and PhD in Palynology from the University of Sheffield, various postgraduate teaching qualifications and an abortive MA in development studies at the University of London. Mike's scientific work is concerned mainly with the Palaeozoic stratigraphy of Arabia and he has published a number of papers on the region as well as working extensively as a consultant to oil companies in the area. Mike is also involved in computing applications in stratigraphy, and the palynostratigraphy, sedimentology and palaeoecology of Palaeozoic sequences from onshore and offshore northwest Europe, Australia and Africa. He has publications on Palaeozoic sequences in Ireland, Scotland and southern Africa. Mike spent much of the first part of his career in southern Africa working in education, development and publishing. At BGS he has kept his interest in development and education and has worked extensively with BGS on various development contracts for the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in southeast Asia, central Asia and the Pacific. Mike is a member of the AASP, PESGB and TMS, and is currently Secretary General of the Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque.



Daniel Vachard is a Researcher at the French National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS). He is with the UMR 8014 of the University of Lille (France). His PhD thesis (1974) was a study of the Palaeozoic of southern France, and his Doctorate of Sciences at Dijon University (1980) concerned the Carboniferous-Permian biostratigraphy of Afghanistan. His work deals mainly with five topics: (1) Fusulinids; (2) Palaeozoic smaller foraminifera; (3) Palaeozoic algae sensu lato (including pseudo-algae and other incertae sedis); (4) carbonate microfacies; and (5) Carboniferous-Permian biostratigraphy and paleobiogeography. Daniel has contributed to the development of reference scales for the Carboniferous and Permian of numerous areas (e.g. southern France, Afghanistan, Libya, Morocco, Sumatra, Carnic Alps, Oman, and Mexico). His interest for the Late Permian of Saudi Arabia began with an unpublished report in 1976 for the French BRGM.



Denis Vaslet is Head of the Geology and Geoinformation Division at Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM), the French Geological Survey. He has 30 years of experience in the geology of the Middle East. From 1977 to 1979 Denis was involved in geological mapping and phosphate prospecting in Iran for the Geological Survey of Iran and the NIOC. From 1979 to 1991, he was responsible for the Cover Rocks mapping program in Saudi Arabia for the Saudi Arabian Deputy Ministry for Mineral Resources. Denis has been involved in the complete lithostratigraphic revision of the Phanerozoic rocks of central Saudi Arabia, for which he received his Doctorate des Sciences from the University of Paris in 1987. He is currently in charge of geological and geophysical mapping both in France and overseas, and for the production and distribution of digital geologic information at the French Geological Survey. Denis remains involved in several research projects in the sedimentary geology and stratigraphy fields within the Arabian Peninsula.



Glen Williams is currently working as a Senior Geophysicist at Dragon Oil in Dubai. Prior to that, he worked 3 years in the Quantitative Seismic Interpretation Team in the Exploration Unit of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). Glen has some twenty-five years of experience as an Exploration Geophysicist, mostly in the Western Canadian Basin. Prior to his assignment with PDO, he has worked in Brunei with Brunei Shell and in Libya with Veba Oil. Glen holds a BSc with Honors in Physics from the University of Victoria, Canada.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Marco Balini is a Researcher with the Department of Earth Science at the University of Milano, where he is also Professor of Palaeontology. He received a degree in Geology from Università degli Studi di Milano in 1987 and a PhD in 1992. Marco has studied various aspects of the Southern Alps and Himalaya stratigraphy and palaeontology, chiefly concerning Triassic ammonoid taxonomy and biostratigraphy. In recent years he has focused on bio- and chronostratigraphic correlations within the Tethys and between Tethys and North America, integrating ammonoid and conodont biostratigraphy. Marco is collaborating with ENI-AGIP as Scientific Coordinator of research projects concerning bio- and chronostratigraphy.



Nestor A. Buhay II is Production Manager at Gulf PetroLink-GeoArabia. He received a BSc in Computer Science from San Sebastian College in 1994. Prior to joining Gulf PetroLink in 1998, Nestor worked as IT Instructor at the Ramos Vocational School in the Philippines, was Production Coordinator with Fortune Promoseven, and later joined Alphagraphics as Graphic Artist in 1996. He is currently interested in web and 3-D technology.



Eduardo Garzanti is Professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca. He has studied various aspects of Himalayan geology, including opening of the Neo-Tethys, sedimentary history of the Indian passive margin and of the Asian active margin, and palaeotectonic evolution during and after the Palaeocene/Eocene collision of India and Asia. In recent years, Eduardo has focused on provenance models inferred from analysis of both detrital modes and dense mineral suites of modern sediments derived from the rifted margins of Arabia, from obducted ophiolites from the Apennines to Oman, and from the Alpine-Himalayan collision orogen.



Alda Nicora is a Professor with the Department of Earth Science at the University of Milano since 1983. She has studied various aspects of stratigraphy and micropalaeontology, chiefly concerning conodont and foraminifer taxonomy and biostratigraphy. Alda teaches Geography and Stratigraphy for Natural Sciences at the University and is a member of several international working groups on conodonts. In recent years, Alda has focused on taxonomic and biostratigraphic studies carried out on conodonts of Permian and Triassic age sampled in successions from Northern Italy, Greece, Turkey, Oman, Himalaya (India and Nepal), Karakorum (Pakistan) and Nevada.



Heather Paul joined Gulf PetroLink in 1993 in Bahrain. She holds a BSc in Economics (Honors, 1992) from the University of Guelph, Toronto, Canada. Heather has designed and assisted in editing the GEO'94 Proceedings, GeoArabia Special Publications 1 to 3, and has been Assistant Editor for the journal, GeoArabia, since its inception in 1996. She is presently based in Toronto.



Andrea Tintori is Professor of Palaeontology at the Department of Earth Sciences "A. Desio" of the University of Milano since 1998, teaching basic Paleontology, Vertebrate Paleontology as well as courses regarding the major fossil sites in Italy and in the World. In recent years Andrea has focused on taxonomic, biostratigraphic and palaeoecological studies carried out on vertebrates of Triassic age from northern Italy and Switzerland.

