

SURTSEY RESEARCH
PROGRESS REPORT

I.

The Surtsey Research Committee
Reykjavik - Iceland

February 1965

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INTRODUCTION

On the 14th of November, 1963, a submarine eruption began approximately 20 miles off the south coast of Iceland, and 12 miles southwest of the Vestmann Islands. The next day an island appeared, which has grown steadily ever since, and has now reached the height of approximately 170 meters and the size of about 2,3 sq. km. To begin with, the material, ejected by the volcano, consisted of tephra and steam, but in April, 1964, the volcano changed to lava eruption. Then the permanency of at least a part of the island was secured. The island was named Surtsey.

The new island immediately aroused the interest of Icelandic and foreign scientists. The Surtsey Research Committee, consisting of scientists from Iceland and abroad, was formed to co-ordinate and strengthen research work in the earth sciences and biology in connection with Surtsey and the surrounding areas. An intensive research program was written, covering the various scientific fields of interest.

The following reports by Icelandic scientists, engaged in the Surtsey research project, are not intended to show scientific conclusions, but only to indicate the work that has been done during the year 1964. Much data has been collected, which has not been thoroughly studied yet. The program will be continued, and will, we hope, lead to the publications of interesting scientific papers.

Several foreign scientists have participated in the Surtsey research program. Furthermore, important assistance has been given to us by individuals and institutions abroad for which we wish to express our thanks. Especially would I like to mention Professor Paul S. Bauer of the American University, Washington, D.C., The Office of Naval Research in Washington, D.C., the Duke University in North Carolina and the U.S. Navy, Keflavik, Iceland.

Reykjavik, February 23rd, 1965

Steingrímur Hermannsson
Chairman

The Iceland Survey Department

MAP OF SURTSEY

drawn after aerial photographs
from Oct. 23rd, 1964

For the history of the eruption and
explanation of the Map, see Dr. Sigurdur
Thorarinsson, this report p. 51.

37°30"

20°37'

36°30"

20°36'

35°30"

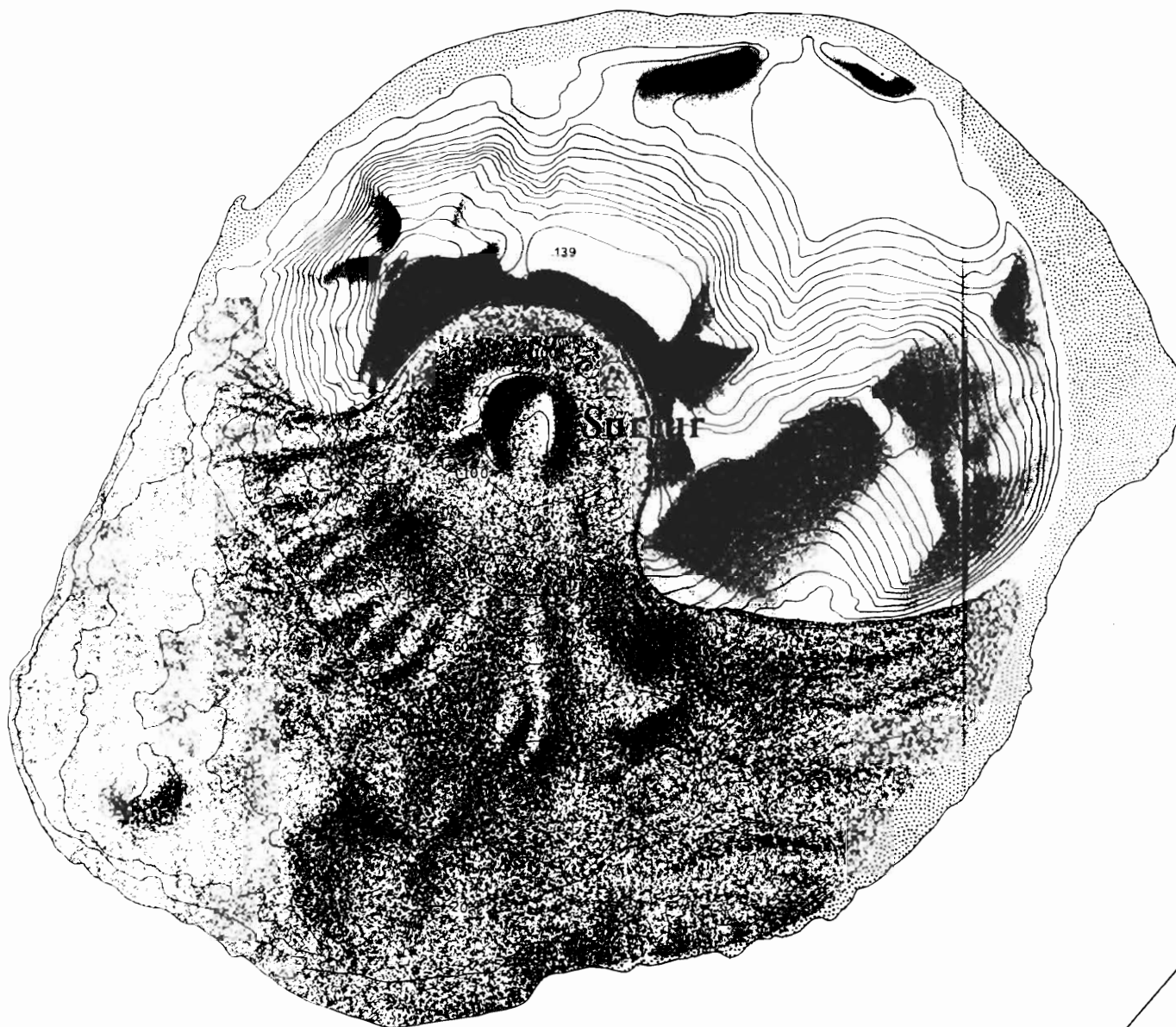
20°35'

18°
30"

18°
30"

63°
18'

63°
18'

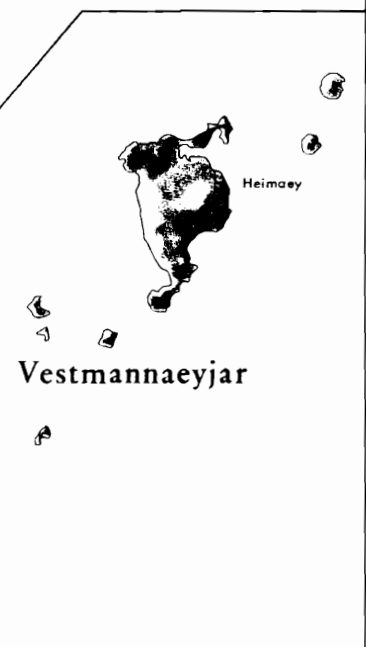


SURTSEY

23 október 1964

0 100 200 300 metrar

Mælikvarði: 1:10 000



17°
30"

37°30"

20°37'

36°30"

20°36'