

SURTSEY RESEARCH  
PROGRESS REPORT

IV.

The Surtsey Research Society  
Reykjavik - Iceland

June 1968

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## Introduction

The Surtsey eruption has ceased. It stopped in early June 1967, after having lasted for three years and seven months. The main island, which was formed, Surtsey, does, on the other hand, remain, and the scientific work has continued with full strength under the administration of the Surtsey Research Society.

At the end of June 1968 the second Surtsey Scientific Conference was held in Reykjavik. It covered both geological and biological sciences and was attended by a great number of scientists from Iceland and from abroad. The scientific work in 1968, which is reported in this progress report, the fourth one in the series, reflects in several ways the conclusions of the Conference. Although many studies in the fields of earth sciences have continued and new ones been added, it will be seen that the main emphasis has shifted from volcanology to biology. This is to be expected, as the invasion of life onto Surtsey and its coast has increased greatly after the volcanic activities ceased.

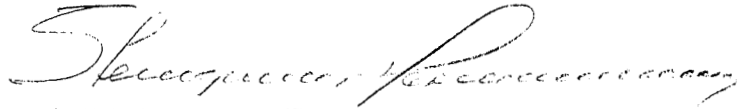
Several scientific papers are now being published on the Surtsey research work, especially in the fields of geosciences. Much of the work will, though, continue for many years to come, and as a matter of fact, this is of great importance. Only by continued scientific studies on Surtsey for several years will a complete picture of its development be discovered. The Surtsey Research Society will do its utmost to make this possible.

The Surtsey Research Society wishes to acknowledge most important support and assistance from several sources, such as the Icelandic Government, the National Research Council of Iceland, the Icelandic Coast Guard, and various Icelandic research institutes. Also, vital financial support from various foreign agencies, especially the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Bauer Scientific Trust is highly appreciated. Finally, excellent co-operation by Icelandic scientists from various

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institutions and many foreign scientists should be emphasized. Their fine work has made the Surtsey research program possible.

For the Surtsey Research Society,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Steingrímur Hermannsson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Steingrímur Hermannsson  
Chairman