

# Earth Science Bibliography of the Surtsey (1963-1967) and Heimaey (1973) Eruptions, and their Eruptive Products.

By

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## INTRODUCTION

Surtsey and Heimaey are the two largest islands of the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago, off the south coast of Iceland. Surtsey was built up in volcanic eruptions during 1963-1967 and Heimaey, the only inhabited island, erupted in 1973 with disastrous effects on the small community. Both these eruptions aroused much interest, as well as sympathy, in the scientific community and with the general public. The result has been a diversity of publications in scientific and popular magazines all over the world, and many books deal entirely or partly with Surtsey or Heimaey.

Many of those who recently have been active in the research on the Surtsey and Heimaey (Eldfell) eruptions have felt the need for a comprehensive bibliography of these eruptions. Two bibliographies have previously been published on Surtsey. The first appeared in 1968 in Surtsey Research Progress Report 4, p. 197-206, under the title „List of publications on Surtsey research and related scientific work“, with no author designation. The bibliography lists 82 publications in the fields of biology, geology, geophysics, geochemistry, oceanography and „general“. The second bibliography appeared in 1971 in NASA Technical Memorandum, NASA TM X-62,009, p. 125-138. The bibliography is compiled by I. Pubulis and lists 237 publications in the fields „general“, biology and physical science.

The present bibliography is a compilation of references in the fields of earth science which contain information on, or discussion of, the eruption history and/or the eruptive products

of the Surtsey and Heimaey (Eldfell) eruptions and their effects on the surroundings. The bibliography contains references to articles in magazines, reports and books but not newspaper articles. Extended abstracts of meetings and symposia are included although ordinary short abstracts are omitted. Special maps and posters are also included. In addition available films and videos of the eruptions are listed separately. The publications have been classified in six categories:

1. Eruption history, general descriptions of the volcanoes, abbreviated to ERUPT in the bibliography.
2. Geomorphology, including hydrographic surveys, abbreviated to GEOM.
3. Geology, including marine geology, paleontology, and leveling and thermal measurements, abbreviated to GEOL.
4. Geochemistry, including mineralogy and petrology, abbreviated to GEOCH.
5. Geophysics, including utilization of geothermal heat, abbreviated to GEOPH.
6. Oceanography, abbreviated to OCEAN.

The present bibliography has been in preparation for about 6-7 years. It is based primarily on the reprint collections and the book collection of the library of the Icelandic Museum of Natural History, Reykjavík. The reprint collection of the Surtsey Research Society and the Departmental library in the Geoscience Building of the University of Iceland were also examined. Six individuals who have been active in the research on Surtsey and Heimaey

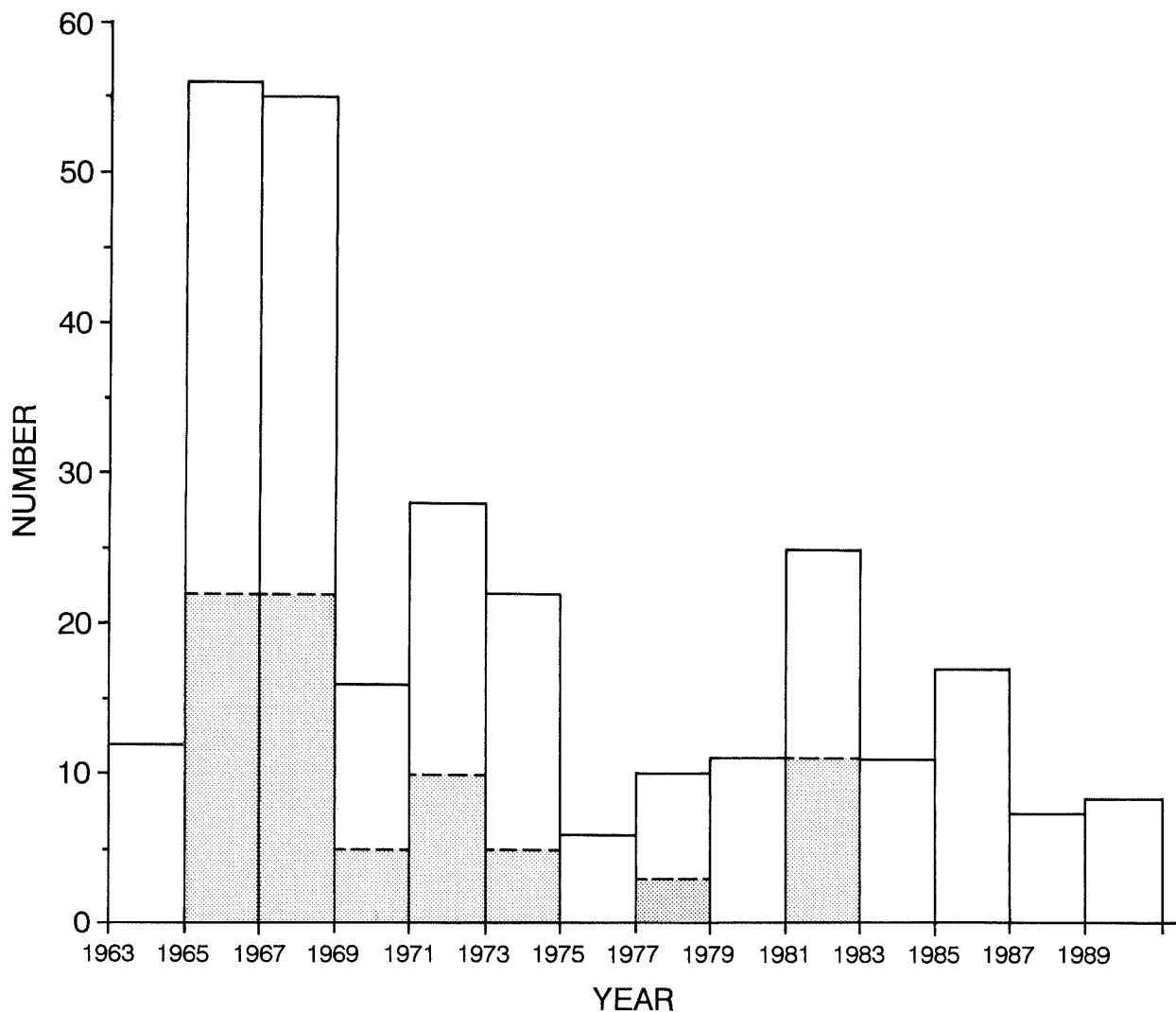


Fig. 1. Distribution of publications which deal with the Surtsey eruptions and Surtsey in the period 1963-1990, inclusive. There are altogether 288 publications, and each bar indicates the number of publications for every two years, starting with 1963. The shaded part of each bar indicates the number of publications (78) which have appeared in the Surtsey Research Progress Reports.

(cf. Acknowledgements), contributed many references. A computer search in the data files of GEOARCHIVE (Copr. Geosystems), GEOREF (Copr. American Geological Institute) and GEOBASE (Copr. Geo-Abstracts Ltd.) through the University Library, Reykjavík, provided additional references. About 46% of the references in the present compilation are found in the above mentioned computer files.

In spite of all the measures which have been taken during the compilation, the present bibliography is obviously not complete. It is hoped, however, that no important references are missing.

The bibliography contains 288 references on Surtsey. Fig. 1 shows how the publications on Surtsey are distributed through the period 1963-1990. The rate of production of publi-

cations is by far the greatest during the eruptions, while after 1968 a slow decline in the production can be noticed. Compared to the general output of publications in the fields of mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of Iceland (Jakobsson & Gautason in prep.) the Surtsey eruptions are the most discussed volcanic eruptions in these fields until now. In summary it can be claimed that the Surtsey eruptions have had a great and lasting influence on the development of earth sciences in Iceland and possibly elsewhere. They are one of the best recorded series of submarine eruptions to date, and many of the data collected during the monitoring of the volcano after cessation of the eruptions have proved to be of unique value.

There are 135 references on the Heimaey

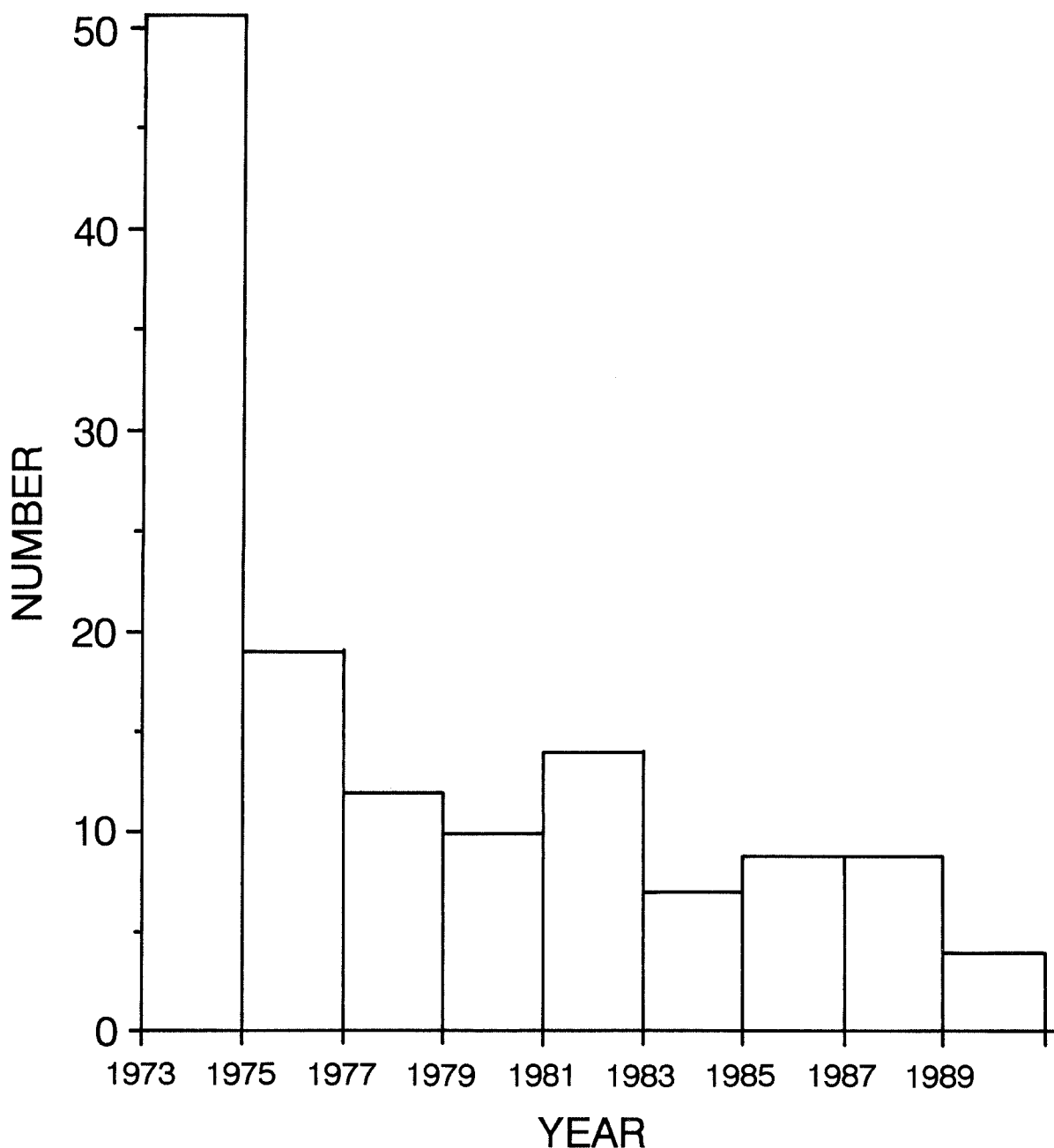


Fig. 2. Distribution of publications which deal with the Heimaey (Eldfell) eruption and its eruption products in the period 1973-1990. There are altogether 135 publications and each bar indicates the number of publications for every two years, starting with 1973.

(Eldfell) eruption. Fig. 2 shows how the publications are distributed through 1973-1990. Comparing Heimaey with Surtsey it appears that Heimaey has had much less influence on the scientific community, although the volcanic drama and the unique utilization of thermal energy from the lava gave birth to many publications.

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