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An analysis of the oldest record so far of Cenozoic glaciation in Antarctica.

Antarctic Cenozoic history from the MSSTS-1 drillhole, McMurdo Sound

Edited by P. J. Barrett

Antarctic Research Centre,
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

In 1979, the MSSTS-1 drillhole cored 226 metres of glacial marine sequence lying beneath Antarctica's ice-covered Ross Sea. The sequence comprised mainly pebbly mudstone, but included some diamictite beds and deformed intervals. An analysis of the strata revealed they ranged in age from Quaternary to Late Oligocene. It also provided evidence of:

- glacial advances and sea level changes between 24 and 30 million years ago
- a previously unknown period of ancient volcanism, perhaps related to early rifting in the Victoria Land Basin

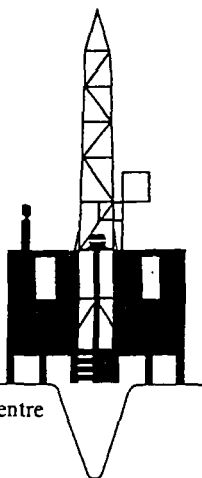
Antarctic Cenozoic history from the MSSTS-1 drillhole, McMurdo Sound examines the glaciomarine strata of the core, its stratigraphy, paleontology, petrography, and paleomagnetism. Core summary forms describe the recovered core, which is also shown as photographs of boxed core samples. Eight plates depict the wide range of diatoms found in the sediments. Each chapter is separately referenced, and illustrated with maps, charts, and graphs.

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by Gillian Triggs

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