

Following is the Abstract of Dr. Churkin's March paper, given to the Society. It was received too late to include in the March Bulletin.

PALEOZOIC TECTONICS HISTORY OF ALASKA

AND THE ORIGIN OF THE ARCTIC BASIN

By Michael Churkin, Jr.

ABSTRACT

Geological reasons coupled with geophysical data lead me to reject the continental subsidence theory for the origin of the deep Canada Basin part of the Arctic Ocean between Alaska, Siberia, and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Instead, the Canada Basin is a true and probably very ancient ocean basin floored by oceanic crust and rimmed by an early Paleozoic geosynclinal belt. In the Upper Devonian, uplifts in this circumarctic geosyncline accompanied by granitic intrusion produced a wedge of coarse clastic sediments (exogeosyncline) that spread southward into adjoining areas of Alaska, Canada, and Siberia. In both northern Alaska and in the Canadian Arctic Islands thick sequences of upper Paleozoic and younger strata were deposited unconformably on the rocks of the early Paleozoic geosyncline, showing a similarity in tectonic history between the areas.