

Contents

Acknowledgements	xv
Preface	xix
1. Introduction and process sedimentology	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Scope of this book	2
1.1.2 Deep-water environments	3
1.1.3 Deep-water systems	4
1.1.4 Database	6
1.2 Process sedimentology	9
1.2.1 Definition	9
1.2.2 Knowledge	9
1.2.3 Methodology	10
1.2.4 Interpretation	17
1.3 Synopsis	17
2. History of deep-water research (1885–2005)	19
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 History	19
2.2.1 Period: 1885–1949	19
2.2.2 Period: 1950–1959	20
2.2.3 Period: 1960–1969	21
2.2.4 Period: 1970–1979	23
2.2.5 Period: 1980–1989	28
2.2.6 Period: 1990–1999	31
2.2.7 Period: 2000–May 2005	33
2.3 Scientific revolutions	36
2.4 A philosophical retrospective	41
2.4.1 Genetic nomenclature	41
2.4.2 Kinds of problems	42
2.4.2.1 Misrepresentation of flow behavior	42
2.4.2.2 Multiple processes for a single term	42
2.4.2.3 Two genetic terms for a single origin	44
2.4.2.4 Misuse of established nomenclature	44
2.4.2.5 Nomenclature without sound principles	44
2.4.2.6 Different levels of usage	45
2.5 Synopsis	46

3. Gravity-driven processes.....	47
3.1 Introduction	47
3.2 Mass-transport processes.....	48
3.2.1 Slides.....	49
3.2.2 Slumps.....	52
3.2.3 Flow slide, debris slides, debris avalanche, and creep	54
3.3 Sediment flows	55
3.3.1 Rheology of fluids	56
3.3.2 Laminar <i>versus</i> turbulent flows	57
3.3.3 Plastic debris flows	59
3.3.4 Experimental sandy debris flows.....	61
3.3.5 Newtonian turbidity currents	77
3.3.6 Elusive turbidity currents.....	80
3.4 Synopsis.....	83
4. Deep-water bottom currents.....	85
4.1 Introduction	85
4.2 Bottom currents <i>versus</i> turbidity currents.....	86
4.3 Thermohaline-induced geostrophic bottom currents.....	86
4.3.1 Velocity	89
4.3.2 Deposits.....	89
4.3.3 Problematic contourite facies model	92
4.4 Wind-driven bottom currents.....	94
4.4.1 The Loop Current.....	94
4.4.2 Velocity	96
4.4.3 Ewing Bank Block 826 field, Plio-Pleistocene, Gulf of Mexico	98
4.4.4 Ewing Bank depositional model.....	104
4.5 Deep-marine tidal bottom currents in submarine canyons.....	111
4.5.1 Background	111
4.5.2 Tidal processes and their deposits.....	114
4.5.3 Velocity of tidal currents in submarine canyons.....	115
4.5.4 Facies association in submarine canyons.....	119
4.5.5 Modern La Jolla Canyon, California	121
4.5.6 Torrey Canyon, Eocene, California	122
4.5.7 Edop Field, Pliocene, offshore Nigeria.....	122
4.5.8 The Annot Sandstone, Eocene–Oligocene, SE France	132
4.6 Synopsis.....	139
5. Other processes and the phenomena of tsunamis	141
5.1 Introduction	141
5.2 Liquidization.....	141
5.3 Clastic injections	142
5.3.1 Injection features.....	142
5.3.2 Triggering mechanisms.....	151
5.3.3 A model.....	152

5.4	Mud diapirism	154
5.5	Sediment plumes, wind transport, ice rafting, nepheloid layers, and volcanism	156
5.6	Pelagic and hemipelagic settling	158
5.7	The phenomena of tsunamis	160
5.7.1	The tsunamite problem	162
5.7.1.1	Tempestite <i>versus</i> tsunamite	163
5.7.1.2	Debrite <i>versus</i> tsunamite	165
5.7.1.3	Turbidite (homogenite) <i>versus</i> tsunamite	166
5.7.1.4	Seismite <i>versus</i> tsunamite	166
5.7.1.5	A solution	167
5.7.2	Quantification of waves	168
5.7.2.1	Wave height	168
5.7.2.2	Wavelength	169
5.7.2.3	Wave period, speed, and duration	170
5.7.2.4	Sediment transport on the shelf	171
5.7.2.5	Sediment transport in submarine canyons	172
5.7.3	Depositional model	173
5.7.3.1	Triggering stage	173
5.7.3.2	Tsunami stage	174
5.7.3.3	Transformation stage	174
5.7.3.4	Depositional stage	175
5.8	Synopsis	175
6.	Depositional environments	177
6.1	Introduction	177
6.2	Deep-lacustrine environments	177
6.2.1	Modern Lake Baikal, South-Central Siberia	177
6.2.2	Modern Lake Tahoe, California-Nevada border	178
6.2.3	Deep-lacustrine basin, Cretaceous, South Gabon	181
6.3	Submarine slope environments	181
6.3.1	Modern Los Angeles Margin, California	182
6.3.2	Modern East Breaks area, Gulf of Mexico	182
6.3.3	Modern Beaumont Basin, Gulf of Mexico	187
6.3.4	Green Canyon 65 Field, Plio-Pleistocene, Gulf of Mexico	191
6.3.5	Auger Field, Miocene-Pliocene, Gulf of Mexico	192
6.3.6	Agat region, Cretaceous, offshore Norway	194
6.4	Submarine canyon and gully environments	197
6.4.1	Modern canyons	199
6.4.2	Yoakum Canyon, Eocene, Texas	204
6.4.3	Processes	205
6.4.4	Deposits	205
6.4.5	Controlling factors	206
6.4.6	Origin	206

6.5	Submarine fan environments.....	207
6.5.1	Characteristics	207
6.5.2	Submarine channels	209
6.5.3	Modern and ancient braided channels	209
6.5.4	Modern Amazon Fan: sinuous channels	210
6.5.5	Modern Amazon Fan: HARP units.....	216
6.5.6	Modern Amazon Fan: lower-fan lobe units	219
6.5.7	Modern Mississippi Fan: 'channelized lobes'	221
6.5.8	Modern Monterey Fan: depositional lobe.....	226
6.5.9	Potter Sand, upper Miocene, California.....	229
6.6	Submarine non-fan environments	229
6.6.1	Modern examples	229
6.6.2	Zafiro field, Pliocene, Equatorial Guinea	233
6.7	Submarine basin-plain environments	238
6.7.1	Modern and ancient examples	238
6.8	Synopsis.....	239
7.	Process-related problems.....	241
7.1	Introduction	241
7.2	Conflicting definitions of turbidity currents	241
7.3	Conflicting definitions of turbidites	242
7.4	Conflicting definitions of high-density turbidity currents	244
7.4.1	Flow density	245
7.4.2	Driving force	248
7.4.3	Grain size	251
7.4.4	Flow velocity.....	251
7.4.5	Synonyms	252
7.5	Unknowable flow transformations	256
7.6	Conflicting definitions of slurry flows.....	258
7.7	Conflicting origins of flute structures	260
7.8	Conflicting definitions of normal grading	261
7.8.1	Single depositional event	261
7.8.2	Simple normal grading.....	261
7.8.3	Description of normal grading	262
7.8.4	Grading in debrites.....	263
7.9	Problematic origin of traction structures.....	263
7.10	Problematic origin of mud waves	266
7.11	Problematic subaerial analogs	267
7.12	Problematic origin of sinuous forms	268
7.12.1	Fluvial helical flows.....	268
7.12.2	Turbidity currents.....	269
7.12.3	Debris flows	270
7.12.4	Volcanic lava flows	270
7.12.5	Glacial melting.....	271

7.12.6	Droplets on a glass plate	271
7.12.7	Faulting	272
7.13	Problematic hyperpycnal flows	272
7.14	Conflicting origins of massive sands	275
7.15	Conflicting definitions of turbidite systems	279
7.16	Inadequate seismic resolution	280
7.17	Synopsis	280
8.	The turbidite facies model	283
8.1	Introduction	283
8.2	The turbidite facies model	283
8.2.1	The Bouma Sequence	283
8.2.2	Critique of the model	285
8.3	The Annot Sandstone	287
8.4	Basal sedimentary features	287
8.4.1	Basal contorted layers	290
8.4.2	Basal inverse grading	293
8.4.3	Basal normal grading	296
8.5	Upper 'normally graded' intervals	297
8.5.1	Lenticular layers	298
8.5.2	Pockets of gravel	298
8.5.3	Floating armored mudstone balls	299
8.5.4	Floating mudstone clasts	303
8.5.5	Floating quartzose granules	307
8.5.6	Parallel laminae	308
8.5.7	Ripple laminae	308
8.5.8	Sudden decrease in grain size	308
8.5.9	Alternating mud-draped ripples and double mud layers	309
8.5.10	Sigmoidal cross bedding	310
8.6	Origin of inverse to normally graded intervals	310
8.7	Inadequacy of the turbidite facies model	310
8.8	Problems with other facies models	312
8.9	Synopsis	315
9.	Submarine fan models	317
9.1	Introduction	317
9.2	Modern-fan model	317
9.3	Ancient-fan model	317
9.3.1	Submarine lobe concepts	318
9.3.2	Attached <i>versus</i> detached lobes	319
9.4	General-fan model	319
9.5	Turbidite facies association	319
9.6	The Jackfork Group and the turbidite controversy	322
9.6.1	Massive sandstone (sandy debris flow)	324

9.6.2	Sandstone with floating mudstone clasts (sandy debris flow).....	332
9.6.3	Pebbly sandstone (sandy debris flow).....	333
9.6.4	Contorted sandstone (sandy slump)	334
9.6.5	Contorted shale (muddy slump)	335
9.6.6	Mudstone/shale with floating clasts (muddy debris flow).....	336
9.6.7	Laminated and rippled sandstone, and siltstone (bottom currents)	336
9.6.8	Laminated shale (pelagic and hemipelagic settling)	338
9.7	The impermanence of submarine fan models	338
9.8	Synopsis	340
10.	Sequence-stratigraphic fan models	341
10.1	Introduction	341
10.2	Basin-floor fans and slope fans.....	341
10.2.1	Faeroe basin area, U. K. Atlantic Margin	347
10.2.2	Gryphon area, U. K. North Sea	352
10.2.3	Frigg area, Norwegian North Sea.....	358
10.2.4	Turbidite controversy	361
10.3	Seismic geometries.....	362
10.4	Wireline-log motifs	363
10.5	Parasequence concept.....	366
10.6	Abandonment of submarine fan models	369
10.7	Synopsis	372
11.	Tectonic and eustatic controls	373
11.1	Introduction	373
11.2	Tectonic control.....	373
11.2.1	Continental collision.....	374
11.2.2	Folding and basin topography	376
11.2.3	Salt tectonics and sea-floor topography	376
11.2.4	Fault-controlled sedimentation	378
11.3	Eustatic control.....	378
11.4	Synopsis	384
12.	Implications for sandstone petroleum reservoirs	385
12.1	Introduction	385
12.2	Grain-size distribution.....	385
12.3	Spatial distribution of sand	385
12.3.1	Turbidity currents <i>versus</i> debris flows	386
12.3.2	Turbidity currents <i>versus</i> bottom currents.....	388
12.3.3	River-sourced fans <i>versus</i> ice-sheet sourced systems	390
12.4	Dimensions and Geometries.....	391
12.4.1	Slides and slumps.....	393
12.4.2	Debrisites	394

12.4.3	Turbidites	396
12.5	Lateral changes in sediment thickness	396
12.6	Reservoir heterogeneity	398
12.7	Sand injection and reservoir communication	399
12.8	Correlation of sandbodies	403
12.9	Depositional mud matrix	405
12.10	Reservoir quality	407
12.10.1	Nigeria	407
12.10.2	Equatorial Guinea	409
12.10.3	Gabon	409
12.10.4	North Sea	410
12.10.5	Gulf of Mexico	410
12.10.6	California	416
12.10.7	Brazil	416
12.10.8	India	416
12.11	Depositional models	417
12.12	Epilogue	418
References		419
Index		457
About the Author		475