

THE UPPSALA SYMPOSIUM ON TILL AND TILL STRATIGRAPHY

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Till is by far the most common deposit in northern Europe, particularly in Norden. It is therefore not surprising that considerable attention has been devoted to till research in Sweden.

The classic field of till studies comprises fabric, granulometry, petrography, stratigraphy and morainic morphology. These subjects are of central importance also in present-day research, but new fields have appeared or have achieved greater importance with time. For example, the study of the geochemistry of tills has taken on increasing importance since it was discovered that the geochemical properties of tills could be used as tracing criteria in ore-prospecting work. Such investigations have therefore become the natural activities of most geological surveys and mining companies in the world.

An active research on tills also characterizes the Department of Quaternary Geology at the University of Uppsala. It became desirable to establish contacts with the various till specialists in Norden. The easiest way to chart the current interest, research projects and

research workers was to arrange a symposium, which was held on 17–18 March 1972 in this Department.

Encouraging interest was shown in the invitations and altogether more than 90 participants attended the symposium. More than 35 papers were read.

Most of these papers are included in this volume of the *Bulletin of the Geological Institutions of the University of Uppsala*. This collection gives a general survey of the current research in Norden and we hope that its publication will provide fresh stimuli in till studies and also serve to build up fresh contacts between researchers. The organizing of symposia will be a recurrent activity of our Department and will be aimed at bringing about contacts between specialists in various scientific fields and their colleagues in the neighbouring countries. There is a tradition in our organizing such meetings which dates back to the famous Geochronology Symposium held at Uppsala in 1962 under the chairmanship of Professor Sten Florin, who at that time was the head of this Department and is now Professor Emeritus of the University.

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