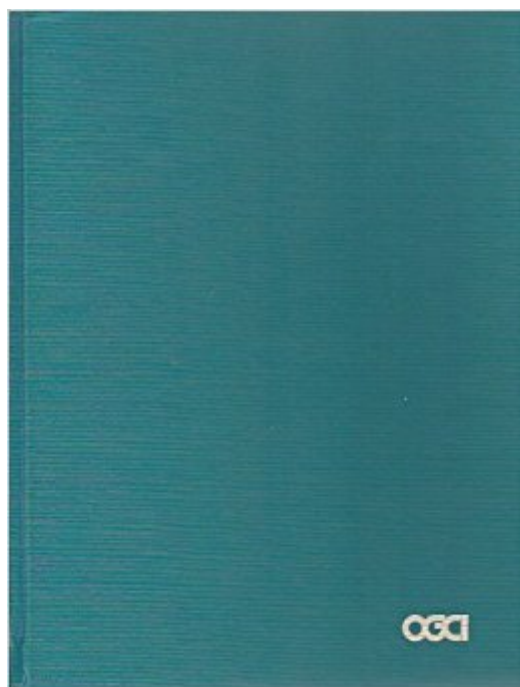


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# Structural Styles In Petroleum Exploration



## Synopsis

Book by Lowell, James D.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Book by Lowell, James D.

This volume, published in 1985, attempted to explain the structural styles in various plate tectonic settings as related to petroleum geology. I was a bit concerned when I ordered a copy discarded by a university library because of its age and probably lack of use as well. Bad choice - today's Internet generation is enamored with the concept that everything is available on the web. Just google it and you'll get everything you need. Sorry, but that's just not so. I recommend this volume to all geologists who are able to locate a copy and are interested in expanding the understanding gained from our own limited experience. Illustrative material is excellent, the authors show a thorough understanding of the topics, and the text is well written and edited. The major defect is the age and thus lack of recent research. However, in this single volume one can reach a basic understanding of a very wide range of tectonic settings with minimal effort. Chapters are arranged by tectonic setting: 1. "Structural Styles - Introduction", an overview of the book provides a 38 page overview that should be required reading by any student in a first tectonics or structural geology course. The 3 3/4 pages of references are also valuable and though obviously dated include many papers in which major concepts were first presented. 2. "Wrench Assemblage" begins with terminology and concepts

leading into a discussion of the Spitsbergen Fracture Zone. Comparison is made with other orogenic zones and several pages are devoted to wrench vs compressional structures in southeast Asia. Many examples from California are included, some of which my students will become familiar with in the form of lab and exam exercises.

3. "Compressive Blocks and Basement Thrusts" is the topic of chapter 3. Examples from the Green River and Bighorn Basins of Wyoming should make this chapter interesting to any US geologist or student of geology. The discussion of forearc basins and trap door structures I found to be particularly interesting. In this chapter as well as several others seismic lines and clay models are effectively used to illustrate concepts.

4. "Extensional Fault Blocks" examine the initiation of rifting. Examples used include the Red Sea, the Rhine Graben, the Viking Graben, and the Connecticut (Triassic) half-graben system. Again clay models are used very effectively to illustrate concepts.

5. This short chapter examining "Warps-Arches, Domes, and Sags" does a credible job. I would have liked to see much more on the interior cratonic features of North America though in today's oil/gas business interest in the 'North American arches' such as the Nemaha Ridge and the Cincinnati Arch that played such an important role in the past of that industry and probably still hold undrilled traps.

6. "Thrust-Fold Belt Assemblages" are discussed in significant detail in chapter 6 with many North American examples. The introduction to the concept of balanced cross-sections is well done in a 15 page appendix.

7. The topic of chapter 7 is the "Normal Fault Assemblage." This chapter includes many examples from the US Gulf Coast, doubtless the best explored and best understood area of syn-depositional 'growth' faults. Similar features from the Niger Delta are also presented though not in much detail. One highlight for me was the reproduction of Ernst Cloos 1968 clay model in which he modeled the plethora of features which formed as a result of the slow sliding of the Gulf coastal states (TX, LA, MS) into the Gulf of Mexico.

8. "Salt Structures" are discussed with many examples from the salt basins of the Gulf of Mexico as well as Germany. Reference is made in this chapter to some pre-1985 modern studies of Texas salt domes by the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, precursors to the recent insightful studies carried out there.

9. This chapter devotes 9 pages to "Shale Structures", with examples from Louisiana, Mexico, Sumatra, and India. Those of us who work in regions where progradation provides the control for our structures might like to see a bit more here, but the treatment should provide sufficient background to allow access to the (limited) more recent literature.

10. The final chapter tackles the real world of "Superposed Styles" where complications arising from the ever changing stress fields reverse an earlier movement direction on faults, stretch previously extended terranes, etc.

The status of my ordered item is perfect and the delivery is fantastic!!! I have searched the book and at last found it the very best one.

I know this book, but picked up this connection from Fierce Creatures as his daughter was in a Wardrobe with Palin Cleese and a Spider but for high finance corporate development activities this is an excellent read, as a geology research it is an expert practice and probably did BP some good until 2010. The clarity on exploration is as useful as UCW and the structural work informative, but then it ought to be, that is how one becomes a top consultant and his work is well known. I would find this helpful if attempting some of the modern petroleum issues and everything becomes dated as work progresses, as with most works the later tend to be detailed and local, so a review of the principles is great for new investigations. Mind you I read it about the time it was published. Mike, Thank you Carey and Jamie Lee.

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