

SE, 1978a; HEYSE, 1979; TAVERNIER and DE MOOR, 1974; DE MOOR et al., 1978; DE MOOR and LOOTEN, 1975). Progress in mapping the infillings of misfit valleys, their buried topographies and the thalwegs of maximal scouring phases has continued.

In this context development and use of geoelectrical prospection methods has been quite important (G. DE MOOR and DE BREUCK, 1975; J. VANDENBERGHE, 1977; J. VANDENBERGHE, 1974). Simultaneously much research has been devoted to the hydrogeology of the infillings.

Beside the main features and long term morphodynamics much attention has been paid to smaller fluvial features and to rather shorter term river activities. Genesis and evolution of the Holocene river channels scoured into fluvio-periglacial low terraces have still attracted attention, especially in relation to the evolution of the Lower Scheldt river channel but also in relation to that of other valleys, especially small ones (W. HUYBRECHTS, 1978). Much attention has been directed toward the infillings of the Eo-holocene thalwegs (VANMAERCKE-GOTTIGNY and VERMEERSCH, 1974).

Research on the impact of the Holocene incursion of tidal activity on river dynamics in the Scheldt basin, on the recent evolution of the channel pattern of the Lower Scheldt, and on the whole morphology of the coastal part of the Scheldt basin is assuming greater importance (MYS, 1981). It has even led to microrelief interpretation and to the debatable idea of a lowering of the early Dunkerquian IIIb sea level (MYS et al., 1983).

Some attention has also been paid to present-day short term river dynamics, especially in small river basins, and to the hydrography and hydrology of some small basins and watercourses.

G. DE MOOR

4. THE MEUSE RIVER

The results of investigations into the evolution of the Meuse river and its tributaries were collected ten years ago by PISSART (1974). Two years later, another synthesis was presented. LAURANT (1976) discussed the formation of the river system, and ALEXANDRE-PYRE and KUPPER (1976) gave a general review of the evolution of these rivers.

Since these important papers two investigations of the heavy mineral content of river deposits have been completed. The first one (BUSTAMANTE, 1974, 1975, 1976; BUSTAMANTE and VOISIN, 1975) con-

centrated on all the Meuse terraces : information was derived on correlations between terraces; the capture of the Meuse of Lorraine by the Meuse of Dinant is not accepted. The second investigation has shown that the vertical erosion of the Ourthe, Ambleve, Vesdre, Lesse and Semois rivers continues only a few meters after the fall of volcanic ash which occurred at the beginning of the last glaciation (JUVIGNE, 1979). One year's measurements of the suspended and dissolved load carried by the river Meuse at Liège were extrapolated over a 20-year period and compared with similar measurements taken one century ago at the same location. An increase in suspended material was observed, perhaps due to increased industrial pollution of the Sambre-et-Meuse basin (CLOSE-LECOQ et al., 1982).

The other papers were restricted to a limited part of the Meuse catchment. A very detailed study of terraces between Vireux and Anseremme, using seismic profiles, has been completed by VAN MOLLE (1981a, 1981b). The analysis of old sediments deposited not far from Dinant yielded some information about the evolution of the Meuse in this part of Belgium (GIROLIMETTO, 1982).

Information on the evolution and infilling of a cut-off meander of the river Sambre has emerged from geomorphologic studies and resistivity profiles measurements by FOURNEAU and VANDENBERGHE (1977). A symposium, including field trips, was arranged to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Geological Society of Belgium and discussed the interpretation of terraces north of Liège (MACAR et al., 1975) and of the oldest deposits near Liège (MACAR, 1975). A very careful study (F. PETIT, 1975) of the present-day processes of erosion and accumulation in two meanders of the Geer river has been made in relation to different discharges.

A. PISSART

5. COASTAL MORPHOLOGY

There has been increasing interest in studying present day morphodynamics in the Belgian coastal zone. Research on beach morphology has been stimulated by questions regarding the characteristics, reasons for and mechanisms of the residual erosion that locally and – as has been suggested – cyclically attacks the coastline quite strongly. DE MOOR (1979a) presented a new methodological approach and genetic interpretation. The effectiveness of some techniques of coastal defence has been questioned (DE MOOR, 1979b). Stability of banks of the Belgian Coast, their short term sediment dynamics and the role they play in