

VOLCANO NOTES AND NEWS

ERUPTIONS OF MIHARA-YAMA, O-SHIMA,
AND ASAMA-YAMA, JAPAN

By Helen L. Foster

(From data supplied by Central Meteorological Observatory, Tokyo, Japan)

Mihara-yama, O-shima: October 5, 1953 to January 6, 1954. Mihara-yama, O-shima, erupted from July 16, 1950, to September 24, 1950. It was then quiescent until February 4, 1951, when eruption recommenced and lasted until June 28, although the activity in April, May, and June was intermittent. The volcano was again quiescent until October 5, 1953, when activity commenced again, heralded by minor earth tremors and rumbling sounds. The first explosion was heard at 8:32 A.M. on October 5. A new vent about 1.5 meters in diameter opened on the inner south wall of the larger cinder cone formed in the 1951 eruption. Lava fragments as large as 1 foot in diameter were hurled to a height of 50 or 60 meters above the vent. Explosions continued intermittently until October 13, when activity subsided after 7:30 P.M. Although emission of gas clouds occurred at intervals, no further explosions were recorded until November 10. On November 11 lava flows and fragments were emitted from two new vents in the crater of the 1951 cinder cone. Only steam and gases were emitted from the vent, which had been active in October. By November 14 a small cone about 3 meters high had formed around the active vents. The volcano was quiescent again during most of the remainder of November, although steam and other gas fumes were emitted.

On December 1 eruptions began again and continued intermittently until December 18, 1953. Gas, ash, and ejecta were emitted from the November vents and from a new vent which opened between those formed in October and November.

Observations on December 24 determined that in the vicinity of the vents which were active in October there was a crater 40 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 8 meters deep which had two vents. In the area of the vents active in November there was a crater 70 meters long and 40 meters wide, with two vents.

Eruption recommenced on December 29 at 3:27 A.M. Activity continued through December 31, 1953. Slight activity was again recorded on January 4, 5, and 6, 1954, when explosions hurled bombs 200 meters high and horizontal distances of 400 meters. Minor topographic changes were taking place in and around the old 1951 cinder cone as the result of collapse and the accumulation of new ejecta.

All the new activity of Mihara-yama in 1953 and 1954 has been on a small scale as compared with the eruptions of 1950 and 1951. Only small quantities of lava and ejecta have been emitted, all of which have been within the crater of the 1951 cinder cone, with the exception of a few pieces of ejecta which have been thrown beyond the 1951 cinder cone crater.

Asama-yama: December 27, 1953 to January 7, 1954. A series of small explosions of Asama-yama began on December 27, 1953. The volcano had been quiescent since June, 1952.

Explosions occurred on December 27 at 1:41 P.M. and 4:45 P.M. and on December 29 at 8:40 A.M. and 10:23 A.M., and on December 30 small ash falls from minor explosions occurred, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

Another explosion occurred on January 3, 1954, and a cloud, probably ash-laden, rose to a height of 600 meters.

On January 7 explosions occurred at 3:30 P.M. and 3:34 P.M., and an ash cloud rose to a height of 700 meters. These explosions were the largest of the series of about 10 which have occurred since December 27, 1953.

CURRENT ACTIVITY OF ALEUTIAN VOLCANOES

By H. A. Powers

There has been but slight activity at most Aleutian volcanoes during the fall of 1953. Observations are being made by members of the Armed Forces and by Austin Jones, Seismologist of the Geophysics Branch, U. S. Geological Survey.

Trident. During July and August a tongue of lava flowed as much as 3 miles, starting from the northwest side of the original vent and following the west margin of the June flows. It terminated in two broad lobes, one crossing the south-flowing stream from Katmai Pass where it dammed a small lake at

about 2,000 feet altitude, the other extending a half mile farther south into the Pass drainage at a lower altitude. The new lava flow did not increase visibly in area during the fall months, but was still steaming in December. The vent is sporadically erupting small bursts of ash, and constantly fuming and steaming.

Spurr volcano has been steaming but has had no renewal of ash eruption since the July explosions.

Shishaldin erupted hot ash during the first week of October.

Pavlov was seen "glowing" on November 25 by the personnel of the *Penguin*, sailing from the Pribilof Islands.

Steam plumes but no new ash on the recent snows are reported at various December dates from Gareloi, Kanaga, Great Sitkin, Cleveland, and Makushin.

SECTION OF VOLCANOLOGY
EIGHTH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

A highly successful meeting of the section of volcanology of the Eighth Pacific Science Congress was held on November 17, 1953, at the University of the Philippines. The meeting opened with the presentation of the report of the Standing Committee on Volcanology of the Pacific Area, by J. Healy, Chairman of the Committee. The report was presented only in brief at the meeting, but the full report was distributed to those present, and copies were sent to contributors who were not present. The 33-page mimeographed report contains accounts of volcanic and thermal activity and investigations in Canada, Hawaii, Alaska, continental United States, Mexico, Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, South America, New Zealand, Australian territories, Philippines, Japan, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Indonesia. A 22-page appendix contains a list of volcanological and allied research workers in all these countries. Mr. Healy deserves, and received, the sincere thanks of his fellow workers for his excellent report and organization of the meeting itself.

Following presentation of the Chairman's report, a symposium on Volcanology of the Pacific was convened by Mr. Healy. Chairmanship of the morning session, which was devoted to *nuees ardentes* and related phenomena, was turned over to Mr. Arturo Alcaraz of the Philippine Commission on Volcanology, with Mr. Jose C. Quema of the Philippine Bureau of Mines as secretary. Papers presented during the morning session were: *Glowing Avalanche Deposits of Central America*, by Howel Williams; *Mount Katmai and the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, Alaska* (a new interpretation of the great eruptions of 1912), by Howel Williams, Garniss Curtis, and Werner Juhle; *An Outline of Mount Lamington Phenomena*, by G. A. Taylor (presented by J. Thompson); *Volcanic Activity of Catarman and Hibok-Hibok*, by V. R. Pelaez; *Recent Volcanicity at Taupo, New Zealand*, by I. L. Baumgart and J. Healy; *Some Problems of Welded-Lava and Welded-Tuff Related with the Sunken Calderas in Japan*, by T. Matumoto, T. Isikawa, and M. Minato (presented by Howel Williams).

The afternoon session was devoted to descriptive volcanology, petrology of volcanic rocks, and geophysics, under the chairmanship of G. A. Macdonald of the U. S. Geological Survey. Fourteen papers were presented, as follows: *The Didicas Submarine Volcano*, by A. Alcaraz, L. F. Abad, and M. H. Tupas; *Eruption on San Benedicto Island, Mexico, 1952*, by R. S. Dietz and A. F. Richards; *Combined Air- and Terrain-Reconnaissance Carried out by the Volcanological Survey in the Indonesian Archipelago, and Its Program for Future Research*, by G. A. de Nevé; *Seventy Years Krakatoa and Twenty-Five Years Anak Krakatoa, with a Communication Concerning the Latest Investigation in October, 1953*, by G. A. de Nevé; *Volcanic Activity in New Guinea*, by J. G. Best (presented by J. Thompson); *A Cluster of Little-Known Philippine Volcanoes*, by A. Alvir; *The Significance of Pillow Lavas in Pacific Islands*, by H. T. Stearns (read by title only); *The Difference of Chemical Composition between Japanese and Manchurian Volcanic Rocks*, by I. Iwasaki and T. Katsura (presented by Y. Miyake); *Preliminary Account of the Hydrothermal Condition at Wairakei, New Zealand*, by J. Healy; *Geochemical Investigation of Geysers in Japan*, by K. Noguchi (presented by Y. Miyake); *Volcanic Activities in Japan During 1949-1953*, by T. Minakami and R. Morimoto (presented by G. A. Macdonald); *Transpacific Detection by Underwater Sound of Myojin*