

Comment on hgss-2021-22

Raymond Cas (Referee)

Referee comment on "Global tephra studies: role and importance of the international tephra research group "Commission on Tephrochronology" in its first 60 years" by David J. Lowe et al., Hist. Geo Space. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hgss-2021-22-RC1>, 2022

Overview

This is a well-structured overview of the initiation and evolution of the Commission on Tephrochronology, in its various guises and under various host organisations. It has surprised this reviewer how many changes COT has undergone, especially with hosting organisations. The review is generally well written, but becomes a little rambling in places, and could benefit from some new sub-sections to separate what appear to be disparate issues discussed under a heading that isn't always pertinent. The historical facts about COT and the key personnel involved in managing and guiding COT appear to be thoroughly documented. Tables and images are relevant to the discussion and illustrative of key points made in the text, as well as being an important historical record. I recommend publication after minor revision.

Specific comments

- Is it worth summarising briefly the various sources of tephra samples and studies – modern pyroclastic deposits sequences, tephra in soils, lake deposits, ocean floor sediments and deep sea cores, ice cores, and how the search and sampling of tephra in these different settings developed as technology developed?
- Why not "Tephrochronology"? Why "Tephrochronology"?

- Other comments and queries are highlighted in yellow and with “sticky labels” of text annotated on the pdf copy.

Ray Cas.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://hgss.copernicus.org/preprints/hgss-2021-22/hgss-2021-22-RC1-supplement.pdf>