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#### MAGNETIC REVERSALS:

## THEIR APPLICATION TO STRATIGRAPHIC PROBLEMS<sup>1</sup>

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#### ABSTRACT

Paleomagnetic results from Europe and North America show that the Lower Triassic is characterized by mixed polarity, quite in contrast to the long lasting reversed "Kiaman Interval" of the Permian. These pronounced differences emphasize the application possibilities of paleomagnetism to stratigraphical boundary problems, in this case definition of the Paleo-Mesozoic boundary. Furthermore, a paleomagnetic study of the uppermost part of the Middle and Upper Buntsandstein (Scythian), has shown that several magnetic reversals provide the same correlation as do fossil soils over a distance of about 200 km. This example is used to demonstrate the importance of magnetic reversals as stratigraphical auxiliary tool for regional problems.

#### INTRODUCTION

At the time when the present investigation was started, the question of the origin of reversely magnetized rocks was not settled. It seemed that if one could correlate reversely magnetized sequences in sediments by stratigraphic means (such as fossil soils, etc.) this then would be a rather strong argument in favor of a frequently reversing earth magnetic field. Their lateral distribution and stratigraphic occurrence should allow stratigraphic and paleogeographic conclusions and their number and general occurrence could eventually help in worldwide correlations.<sup>3</sup>

#### AREA OF INVESTIGATION

The S. W. part of the Triassic basin of Germany was chosen as area of investigation (Figure 1). During the time of deposition of the Buntsandstein (Lower Triassic) a wide trough which deepens slightly toward the north was supplied with clastic sediments from the southwest bordering "Gallic Highlands", as inferred from the directions of the cross-bedding in the sandstone beds. Figure 1 shows that the sedimentation pattern was controlled by a system

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of epirogenic troughs (Lorraine basin, Upper Rhine depression und Saargemund - Palatinate trough) and swells (Saarbrucken Carboniferous saddle, Vosges, Black Forest).

The vertical sections investigated in this study were along the margins of the depositional basin where the sedimentation was discontinuous. One consequence of irregular sedimentation in the Triassic basins is that there are numerous discontinuities, some of which may represent long periods of time. The cause of the fluctuating sedimentation is supposed to be climatic. Some of these interruptions in sedimentation lasted long enough for well developed soil zones to be formed. The socalled "Violette Grenzzonen (VG-Zones)" are examples of such fossil soil horizons. Dolomite breccia and dolomite zones are often associated with them and may be explained as caliche zones which formed under arid conditions.

Three major VG- and dolomite zones are recognizable throughout the area studied. As they are found at various stratigraphic levels, they can be used as marker horizons (MUELLER, 1954, 1960; PERRIAUX, 1961; Profile Chart).

#### MAGNETIC REVERSALS IN THE BUNTSANDSTEIN

### Paleomagnetic Results

Along 12 stratigraphically correlated Middle and Upper Buntsandstein sections (Figures 1, 9), covering a distance of more than 200 km, 244 oriented hand samples were taken at about 1 m vertical intervals. From each hand sample a variable amount (up to 30) of specimens was cut and measured. The iron oxide content of the Buntsandstein is generally less than 1% yet the Buntsandstein is sufficiently magnetized to be measurable. Hematite is the main component of the opaque fraction and is thought to be

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the carrier of the natural remanent magnetization. The individual sand grains are enclosed by a red cement, composed of hematite, goethite, carbonates and quartz (HENRICH, 1962 and PERRIAUX, 1961). From these Triassic sandstones the following paleomagnetic results and observations were obtained.

The intensity of magnetization of these Triassic sandstones was between .5 and 5 x  $10^{-6}$  e.m.u./cm<sup>3</sup>.

The Natural Remanent Magnetization (NRM) directions of the samples from the Buntsandstein are shown in Figure 2. In spite of the large dispersion in the NRM directions, two clusters of directions can be distinguished which represent approximately the normal and reversed polarity of the same vector. Samples with normal polarities tend to group around the present geomagnetic field.

In order to test the stability of normally and reversely polarized sandstones, 14 samples were tested in alternating fields in steps from 150 Oe to 1080 Oe. No large changes in intensity and direction of the NRM were found (see Figure 3).

As a further check, an additional 43 normal and reversed samples were heated stepwise from 100°C or 150°C to 650°C and remeasured after cooling to room temperature in zero field. Most of the samples proved to be stable, while a few others showed changes in the directions and intensity of the NRM.

The high stability of the Buntsandstein samples in alternating field and thermal demagnetization experiments confirms the presence of hematite [which is characterized by high coercitive forces and high Curie temperatures] in the samples.



Bleached sandstones, in which the hematite within the cement has been dissolved and removed, are frequently found in the Buntsandstein, especially in the Voltziensandstein. In some cases the intensity of their NRM is comparable to that of red sandstone. Generally, however, it is somewhat less, but the directions of the NRM are in agreement with those of the unbleached sandstone. The weaker magnetization can be attributed to the fact that not only has the iron oxide content of the cement been decreased but that the opaque heavy minerals have also been partially removed during the bleaching. Similar results have been discussed by GRAHAM (1955) and are supported by bleaching experiments reported by COLLINSON (1964) and BUREK (1969).

In light of the above observations it is believed that during sedimentation and before consolidation of the Buntsandstein, the detrital magnetic particles of hematite were able to be influenced and aligned by the earth's magnetic field. This magnetization process is generally called Depositional Remanent Magnetization (DRM) and is treated theoretically and experimentally by KING (1955), GRIFFITHS, et al., (1957), IRVING (1957), COLLINSON (1964).

As the magnetization of hematite is often rather weak, good alignment of the magnetic particle during deposition is only likely under especially favorable conditions. Apparently these did not exist for much of the Buntsandstein period, at least

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not in the lower part of the sedimentation cycles. The turbulent sedimentation conditions in the Zwischenschichten in which cross-bedded, coarse-grained to conglomeratic sandstones were deposited, were apparently unsuitable for good alignment (see Figure 4). Somewhat less turbulent conditions seem to have prevailed at the time of the Voltziensandstein. In this case the sandstones are finer-grained and were deposited in a more settled, limnitic environment and consequently the dispersion of the magnetic directions is not as great (see Figure 5).

Due to the poor grouping of the magnetic directions, no attempt was made to calculate the magnetic pole positions for the Buntsandstein. Nevertheless, the occurrence of reversely magnetized zone suggests that the sandstones of the Buntsandstein probably reflect the polarity of the Triassic geomagnetic field (see Figures 2, 5 and Correlation Chart). Rock samples are considered normal if their magnetization directions lie in the following range: declination between 300° and 90°, inclination downward (+). They are considered reversed if their declination varies between 130° and 250° and their inclination is either upward (-) or only slightly downward (up to ca. 20°). Some intermediate directions occur either just below or above the normally or reversely magnetized zones.

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Stratigraphic Occurrence of the Reversely Magnetized Horizons

The reversals:  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  in the Upper Buntsandstone (see Correlation Chart)<sup>4</sup> can be traced from the Tierer Bay through the Saarland to Lorraine and through the Palatinate into the S. Odenwald, i.e. over a distance of more than 200 km (see Figure 1).

They stay within certain stratigraphic levels:  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  (reported by NAIRN, 1960) in the Lower Zwischenschichten,  $R_5$  in the Upper Zwischenschichten,  $R_6$  in the bordering region of Upper Zwischenschichten/Voltziensandstein, and  $R_7$  in the Voltziensandstein. The horizontal consistency in reversals  $R_5$  and  $R_7$  is particularly clear.

The thin, reversely magnetized horizons, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> cannot be safely correlated on the basis of the presently available evidence. This might be explained by assuming that these horizons coincide with a time of slow or no deposition However, it is also probable that the vertical (i.e. stratigraphic) interval between consecutive samples was too large.

The polarity of the samples is independent of the petrographic state e.g.: grain size, carbonate content, bleaching or Triassic weathering. The reversed and normal horizons occur in sandstones of broadly similar and variable lithology.

<sup>4</sup>The author knows of at least one certain reversal in the higher parts of the Middle Buntsandstone (close to profile Simten). More Middle Buntsandstone reversals are described in the literature (CLEGG et al., 1954; NAIRN, 1960).

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Individually the facies of the reversely magnetized rocks can be very diverse. For instance, horizon R<sub>1</sub> at Heidelberg-Rohrbach (see Correlation Chart) is a bright, quarzitic and dolomitic sandstone; at Simten and Rohrbach, this horizon is a loosely cemented, intensely reddish-brown, coarse sandstone and conglomerate; at Saarfels the it consists of medium-grained partially bleached sandstones.

The stratigraphic consistency of reversely polarized zones, the independence of lithology, and the rock magnetic characteristics indicate that the reversed magnetizations in the Upper Buntsandstein are not local matters, or the result of self-reversal, but rather are evidence of several reversals of the geomagnetic field at the time of the deposition.

The occurrence of five reliable and even more probable reversely polarized horizons of small thickness shows that the geomagnetic field in Upper Skythian time was extremely variable and that the polarity changed frequently. Thus it seems possible to use reversals for fine stratigraphic correlations in the Upper Buntsandstein and perhaps in other red sediments.

#### STRATIGRAPHIC USE OF OBSERVED REVERSALS FOR LOCAL PROBLEMS

Correlation of the stratigraphic positions of polarity reversals provides a means of determining "time lines" within a stratigraphic sequence. Determination of these reversals thus can provide more information regarding relative time of deposition than can the lithology of the sediments alone. Examples of the usefulness of these additional data are:

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A.  $R_1$  is situated a few meters above the VG<sub>1</sub> zone in Saarland, Lorraine and the Palatinate; in the S. Odenwald, however, it occurs directly above the VG1 zone. This shows that the debris coming from the Gallic highlands reached the S. Odenwald later than the more western areas (Figure 1), The normaly magnetized sandstone sequences between VG, and R, are thickest at Forsthaus Beckenhof/Palatinate and R, is restricted here to a relatively thin horizon. This section is found in the center of the Palatimate basin, where the thickness and conglomerate content of the Lower Zwischenschichten is greater than in the Lorraine section and those of the Saarland and S. Odenwald. This explains the later occurrence of R<sub>1</sub> in the Palatinate because of faster sedimentation at the beginning of the Lower Zwischenschichten. Erosion and redeposition also could be responsible in part for the decrease in thickness of  $R_1$ .

B.  $R_6$  shows small deviations. It is found in the Bhorizon of the VG<sub>3</sub>-zone at Heidelberg-Rohrbach, Bubenhausen and Forbach-Kreuzberg; in a dolomite-breccia of VG<sub>3</sub> at Simten; in the Trierer Bay, as well as at Nohn and Igel it is above VG<sub>3</sub>, i.e. it is already in the basal layer of the Werkstein. There is no consistent relationship between the soil zones and their sense of magnetization. However, the occurrence of reversals below, in and above VG<sub>3</sub>, can be explained as follows:

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the formation of the VG<sub>3</sub> soil in S. Odenwald, Palatinate and Lorraine was penecontemporaneous with the polarity change of the earth's magnetic field, whereas, in the Trierer Bay, the Voltziensandstein had already been deposited.

## STRATIGRAPHIC USE OF POLARITY EPOCHS FOR WORLDWIDE CORRELATION PROBLEMS

A. The Lower Triassic Buntsandstein of Germany indicates mixed polarity. A comparison with other results is given in Figure 9. It is of particular interest that Picard (1964), McMahon and Strangway, (1967) and Helsley (1968) and others (Figure 9) have found clear evidence for mixed polarity in the Chugwater Formation of West Central Wyoming, the Upper Maroon Formation of Western Colorado, and in the Moenkopi Formation of Utah and W. Colorado, USA.

For instance, the Red Peak Member of the Chugwater Formation is underlain by the Dinwoody Formation which is of Lower Skythian age. It is overlain by the Alcova Limestone Member and the Popo Agie Formation which contains a reptile fauna of lower Middle Keuper (J. B. Reeside, Jr. et al., 1957), but is separated from the Alcova by a hiatus which seems to comprise most of the Middle Triassic. There might be thus a certain probability that the Red Peak Member of the Chugwater Formation is stratigraphically equivalent to the Upper Skythian, i.e. the upper part of the Buntsandstein (this study).

age for the Upper Maroon Formation and state that it is time

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equivalent to the Moenkopi Formation (Helsley, 1968). These ages are compatible with the general magnetic pattern (Burek, 1964; Helsley, 1968; McMahon and Strangway, 1968 and Picard, 1964) observed on both continents, all of which indicates mixed polarity for Lower Triassic (Skythian) times. We suspect that the reversals seen in this study may represent some of the same events described from Triassic rocks in North America. But for the time being (i.e. without further stratigraphieal evidence) no definite correlations are attempted.

However, as soon as the number and stratigraphical occurrences of Triassic polarity changes are as well known as they are now for the Tertiary (Cox et al., 1967; Opdyke et al., 1967; Heirtzler et al., 1968), it should be possible to use reversals for stratigraphic and paleogeographic conclusions or at least as auxiliary information in the cases in which time indicators [fossils etc.] are present.

B. The definition of the Permian-Triassic boundary presents a major problem especially in continental deposits that are all too often characterized by unfossiliferous red beds. Permian (Figure 8) and Triassic (Figure 7) paleomagnetic collection sites from Europe and North America are plotted on maps which show the Permian and Triassic sedimentation areas. These somewhat unusual paleogeographic reconstructions of the continents around the Atlantic are based on a computed reconstruction by Bullard, et al. (1965) and paleomagnetic evidence that indicated continental fit for

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25. RUNCORN, 1956, 1962



Permo-Triassic times. The Permo-Triassic paleomagnetic results are summarized in Table 9. This summary of Permian paleomagnetic results from North America and Europe, as well as previous ones (McMahon and Strangway, 1967) show that during the Permian the earth's magnetic field was consistently reversed. However, in the uppermost Permian (Post-Kupfer Schiefer) a brief normally magnetized epoch is reported from the Upper Tartarian Sandstones, Russia (Khramov, 1960) and the Groedener Sandstone, Alps, (Guicherit, 1966). There is good reason to assume that both authors are describing the same magnetic event. The Upper Carboniferous-Permian reversed magnetic interval was named by Irving (1966) as Kiaman Interval.

The pronounced contrast between the long lasting reversed Kiaman interval of Late Paleozoic time and the frequent polarity change of Early Mesozoic times should provide a valuable tool for defining the Paleozoic-Mesozoic boundary.

#### CONCLUSION

The stratigraphic consistency of reversely polarized zones, the independence of lithology, and the rock magnetic characteristics indicate that the reversed magnetizations in the Upper Buntsandstein (Lower Triassic) are not due to a local effect, but represent reversals of the geomagnetic field at the time of the deposition.

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# PERMO-TRIASSIC PALEOMAGNETIC DATA

|   | Reference List of Paleomagn   | netic Directions  | and Pole  |   |   |   |   |  | 1                               | TRIASSIC EUROPE  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
|   | Positions of the Triass   | sic from North An   | nerica  |   |   | Positions of the Triass   | tic Directions<br>c from Europe   | and Pole   |                                 |  |
| Location  | Rock Units Studied<br>Name  | Age   | D <sub>m</sub> ,I <sub>m</sub> Polarity   |   | Location  | Rock Units Studied<br>Name  | Age   | D <sub>m</sub> ,I <sub>m</sub>                                     | Polarit                         | сy   |
| tah 37N, 113W<br>rizona 36N, 111W<br>kevada 35N, 105W<br>Colorado 39N, 109W<br>Colorado 39N, 109W<br>Sew Mexico 35N, 105W<br>Utah 39N, 109W<br>Gtah 39N, 109W   | Springdale Sandstone<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation  | Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)                  | 338+16<br>335+43 M2<br>335447 N<br>356+66 N<br>34+60 M<br>16+09 M<br>156-07 R<br>160-10 M2  | Runcorn, 1956<br>Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955<br>Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955 | England 53N, 2W<br>England 50.7N, 3.2W<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 45N, 13E<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 46N, 13E<br>Alps 46N, 13E                         | Keuper Marls<br>Keuper Marls (Sidmouth)<br>Acid Intrusives<br>Acid Intrusives<br>Limestone<br>Granite<br>Sandstone  | Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180)<br>Tru (200-180) | 33+27<br>30+23<br>26+29<br>18+50<br>330+40<br>28,43<br>15,48       | M<br>M<br>N<br>N<br>N<br>N<br>N | Clegg, et al., 1954<br>Creer, 1959<br>Guicherit, 1964<br>Lookeren, 1966<br>de Boer, 1963<br>Guicherit, 1964<br>de Boer, 1963 |
| yland 40N, 77W<br>Mexico 35.5N, 104.9W<br>Mexico 35.5N, 105.2W<br>zona 36.8N, 113W<br>h 37N, 113W<br>h 37.2N, 113W<br>inecticut 42N, 73W<br>sachusetts 42N, 73W | New Oxford Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Chinle Formation<br>Moenave Fm.(Dinosaur Canyon)<br>Moenave Fm.(Dinosaur Canyon)<br>Springdale<br>Lavas and sediments<br>Lavas near Holyoke<br>Corp. Valloy Flores and Dike | Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180) | 334+48 N<br>33+47 N<br>16+9 N<br>339+30 N<br>338+16 N<br>350,2+38,8 N<br>12+14 N<br>10+14 N<br>9+27 N   | Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955<br>Kintzenger, 1957<br>du Bois, et al., 1957<br>Runcorn, 1956<br>du Bois, et al., 1957<br>du Bois, et al., 1957          | Spain 43N, 5W<br>Scotland 55.6N, 5.3W<br>U.S.S.R. 75N, 108E<br>U.S.S.R. 71N, 101E<br>U.S.S.R. 71N, 101E<br>U.S.S.R. 71N, 101E<br>U.S.S.R. 71N, 101E | Sandstone<br>New Red Sandstone, Arran<br>Taimyr Peninsula, Red Sandstone<br>Siberian Platform, Dolerites(1)<br>Siberian Platform, Dikes<br>Siberian Platform, Dikes | Tr (220-180)<br>Tr (230-180)<br>Tr (230-180)<br>Tr (230-180)<br>Tr (230-180)<br>Tr (230-180)<br>Tr (230-180)        | 353+57<br>214-48<br>130+68<br>286-59<br>117+64<br>303-64<br>115+63 | N<br>R<br>N<br>R<br>N<br>R<br>M | Blackett, et al., 1960<br>Leng, 1955<br>Gusev, 1961<br>Gusev, 1961<br>Gusev, 1961<br>Gusev, 1961<br>Irving, 1964             |
| achusetts 42.5N, 72.6W<br>ecticut 42N, 72.6W<br>svlvania 40N, 76.5W   | Deerfield Flow<br>Conn. Valley Flows<br>Newark Group Diabase  | Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)  | 26+14 N<br>12+14 N<br>359,5+23 N  | de Boer, 1968<br>Bowker, 1960, de Boer, 1968<br>Bowker, 1960, de Boer, 1968<br>Beck, 1965   | Alps  | Acid Intrusives   | Trl-m(230-195   | ) 331+40   | N                               | de Boer, 1963  |
| cticut 42N, 72.6W<br>Scotia 43.5N, 66.3W<br>Scotia 40.5N, 74.5W<br>Scotia 40.5N, 74.5<br>Scotia 40.5N, 74.5<br>Scotia 40.5N, 74.5<br>chusetts 42.5N, 72.6W      | East Berlin Fm. Hamden Basalt<br>Lava<br>Neward group Sediments<br>Neward group Dolerite Intr.<br>Newark group Watchung flows(190my<br>Meridan Fm., Lava in Granby Tuf<br>Holyoke lava                                  | Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (197+32my)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>Tru (205-180)<br>y) Tru (205-180)<br>ff<br>Tru (205-180)  | N, R3<br>7+41 N<br>357.2+23.5 N<br>355.8+27.7 N<br>8.6+23.5 N<br>10+76 N  | Kobayashi, Schwartz, 1966<br>Larochell, Warless, 1966<br>Opdyke, 1961<br>Opdyke, 1961<br>Opdyke, 1961<br>Irving, Banks, 1961                          | France 49N, 7E<br>France 48N, 7E<br>France 48.5N, 7E<br>Germany 45.5-50N, 7.5-9E<br>Germany 50N, 7-8E<br>Poland<br>Alps 45N, 11E                    | Vosge Sandstone, negative<br>Vosge Sandstone, positive<br>Vosge Sandstone Combined<br>Buntsandstein<br>Buntsandstein<br>Clastics                                    | Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)        | 10+40<br>218+09<br>25+16<br>17+29<br>149-35                        | N<br>R<br>M<br>M<br>M<br>R      | Nairn, 1960<br>Clegg, et al., 1957<br>Irving, 1964<br>Nairn, 1960<br>Burek, 1964<br>Birkenmajer, Nairn, 196<br>de Boer, 1963 |
| and 72N, 23W<br>nd 39.5N, 77.4W<br>rsey 41N, 75N  | Kapp Biot Sediments<br>Newark group, New Oxford Fm.<br>Brunswick Fm. (Basal)  | Trm-u(215-180)<br>Trm(230-195)<br>Trm(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)  | ) 358+68 M<br>330+35 N<br>6+28 N<br>12+14 <b>N</b> &R   | Bidgood, Harland, 1961<br>Graham, 1955<br>McLaughlin, 1950<br>du Bois, 1957   | Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>U.S.S.R. 59N, 50E<br>U.S.S.R. 48N, 38E<br>U.S.S.R. 48N, 47E<br>U.S.S.R. 49N, 52E                                  | Porphyry<br>Porphyry<br>Vitloosian Sediments<br>Serebryansk Suite<br>Bashunchak Suite<br>Tananyk Suite  | Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)<br>Tr1(230-210)        | 149-39<br>333+40<br>222-19<br>39+57<br>42+56<br>45+46              | R<br>N<br>R<br>M<br>N<br>M      | de Boer, 1963<br>de Boer, 1963<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961                           |
| 38N, 111W   | Moenkopi Formation  | Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)  | 139+23 R?<br>151-6 R<br>148-7,156-4 R,R   | Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Collinson, Runcorn, 1960  | U.S.S.R. 53N, 52E<br>U.S.S.R.<br>U.S.S.R.   | Buzuluk Suite<br>Lower Triassic combined<br>Siberian Traps (1)  | Trl(230-210)<br>Trl(230-210)<br>Trl(230-195)  | 220-51<br>67+84  | R<br>M<br>M                     | Khramov, 1961<br>Irving, 1964<br>Feinberg, et al., 1961  |
| N, 109W<br>360, 111W<br>37N, 112W<br>36.8N, 111.4W<br>do 38.6N, 108.9W  | Moenkopi Formation<br>Moenkopi Formation<br>Moenkopi Formation<br>Moenkopi Formation  | Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)  | 158-4 R   337+36 N   349+28 N   325+35 N   154.6+3.0 R <sub>5</sub> 37.1+20.0 N <sub>5</sub> 174.7+6.4 R <sub>5</sub> 352.1+18.6 N <sub>4</sub> 177.79+13.3 R <sub>4</sub> 339.4+16.2 N <sub>3</sub> 166.4+5.2 R <sub>3</sub> | Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Collinson, Runcorn, 1960<br>Kintzinger, 1957<br>Helsley, 1968<br>unpublished data             | U.S.S.R. 66N, 88E<br>U.S.S.R. 67.0N, 88.8E<br>U.S.S.R. 67N, 92E<br>U.S.S.R. 63N, 114E<br>U.S.S.R.   | Siberian Traps (2)<br>Siberian Traps (3)<br>Siberian Traps (4)<br>Siberian Traps (5)<br>Siberian Traps combined   | Tr1-m(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)<br>Tr1(230-195)                      | ) 90+71<br>62+76<br>92+80<br>179+87                                | N<br>M<br>M<br>M                | Feinberg, et al., 1961<br>Feinberg, et al., 1961<br>Feinberg, et al., 1961<br>Feinberg, et al., 1961<br>Irving, 1964         |
| ona, Utah 36-41N 109,112  | W Moenkopi Formation  | Trl(230-195)  | 40.9+68.8     PF       166.4+5.2     R3       343.7+27.8     N2       165.8+6.9     N2       344.1+24.0     N1       158.8+14.4     R1       128.9+52.4     R7       0.2+27.4     N   | Runcorn, 1956   |   |   |   |  | PI                              | ERMIAN FUROPF  |
| Yyoming 42-43,5N 107.5-111W   | Red Peak member of Chugwater F  | m. Tlm  | 120.5+66 I<br>160-17.5 R<br>348+39 N  | Picard, 1964  |   | Reference List of Paleomagne  | tic Directions a  | and Pole   |                                 |  |
|   |   |   | 131.5-54.5 R<br>131.5-54.5 M<br>339+51.5 M<br>150-16 R<br>310+65.5 N<br>127.5-44.5 R  |   | Location<br>PERMIAN (280-230 m.y.)  | Rock Units Studied<br>Name  | Age   | D <sub>m</sub> ,I <sub>m</sub>                                     | Polarity                        | Y  |
|   |   |   |   |   | NE-Spain 43N, 3E<br>NE-Spain 43N, 3E<br>NE-Spain 42N, 3E  | Andesites, Huesca Province<br>Red Sediments, Huesca Province<br>Andesites, Cantrand   | P-Tr<br>P-Tr<br>P-Tr  | 152-22<br>250-+51<br>163-14  | R<br>R<br>R                     | Schwartz, 1964<br>Schwartz, 1964<br>van der Lingen, 1960   |
|   |   |   |   |   | U.S.S.R. 57N, 54E<br>U.S.S.R.<br>U.S.S.R. 61N, 46E<br>U.S.S.R. 59N, 51E<br>U.S.S.R. 53N, 52E  | Lower Tartarian Sediments (3)<br>Lower Tartarian combined<br>Upper Tartarian Sediments (1)<br>Upper Tartarian Sediments (2)<br>Upper Tartarian Sediments (3)        | Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)                        | 226-44<br>223-39<br>42+48<br>42+48<br>46+46                        | R<br>R<br>M<br>M                | Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961  |
|   |   |   |   |   | U.S.S.R.<br>U.S.S.R. 57.5N, 55E<br>U.S.S.R. 57N, 55E<br>U.S.S.R. 57N, 55E<br>U.S.S.R. 57N, 56E<br>U.S.S.R. 56N, 55E                                 | Upper Tartarian combined<br>Kazanian Red Sediments (1)<br>Kazanian Red Sediments (2)<br>Kazanian combined<br>Ufimian Red Sediments (1)<br>Ufimian Red Sediments (2) | Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (255-235)<br>Pu (255-235)<br>Pu (255-235)<br>Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)                        | 43+47<br>222-42<br>229-44<br>227-43<br>220-38<br>228-40            | M<br>R<br>R<br>R<br>R<br>R      | Khramov, 1961<br>Kalashnikov, 1961<br>Kalashnikov, 1961<br>Kalashnikov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1958<br>Khramov, 1958               |
| PERMIAN - NORTH AMERIC  | 1   |   |   |   | U.S.S.R. 57N, 55.5E<br>U.S.S.R. 54N, 52E<br>U.S.S.R. 61N, 45E   | Ufimian combined<br>Lower Tartarian Sediments (1)<br>Lower Tartarian Sediments (2)  | Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (245-230)<br>Pu (245-230)  | 224-39<br>222-39<br>220-35   | R<br>R<br>R                     | Khramov, 1958<br>Khramov, 1961<br>Khramov, 1961  |
|   | Reference List of Paleomagne<br>Positions of the Permian f  | etic Directions a<br>from North Americ  | and Pole<br>Ca  |   | Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 46N, 12E  | Bolzano Porphyry<br>Bolzano Porphyry<br>Bolzano Porphyry<br>Grodenes Sandstein  | Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)  | 150-22<br>151-29<br>158-31<br>332+26                               | R<br>R<br>R                     | de Boer, 1965<br>de Boer, 1965<br>de Boer, 1965<br>Guicherit, 1964   |
| Location  | Rock Units Studied<br>Name  | Age   | D <sub>m</sub> , I <sub>m</sub> Polarit   | y   | Alps 46N, 14E<br>Alps 45N, 11E<br>Alps 45N, 11E   | Grodenes Sandstein<br>Bolzano Porphyry<br>Bolzano Porphyry  | Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)<br>Pu (260-245)  | 35+24<br>330+37<br>327+29  | M<br>M<br>M                     | Guicherit, 1964<br>de Boer, 1963<br>de Boer, 1963  |
| 37.0N, 110.0W<br>11and  | Cutler Formation (1)<br>Cutler Formation (2)<br>Red Sandstone   | P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P   | 161+33<br>175-37<br>R   | Graham, 1955<br>Bidgood, Harland, 1961  | France 46.5N, 4.5E<br>U.S.S.R. 72N, 102E  | Montcenis Sandstone<br>Ultrabasics of Maymecha-Kotuy  | Pm (265-240)<br>Pm-u (250)  | 197+06<br>295-68   | R                               | Nairn, 1957<br>Gusev, 1959   |
| rado 40N, 105W<br>rado 40N, 105W  | Lykins Formation (lower)<br>Lyons-SS  | Pm-u<br>Pm  | 170-14<br>138-21 R<br>Unstable R  | McMahon, Strangway, 1968<br>McMahon, Strangway, 1968  | France 48N, 6E<br>France 43.5N, 6.8E<br>France 43.5N, 6.8E<br>France 43.5N, 6.8E  | Nideck Porphyry (1)<br>Esterel Pyromeride R4<br>Esterel Rhyolite R3   | P(m?) (265-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)   | 193-07<br>210-16<br>217-23<br>175-13                               | R<br>R<br>R                     | Nairn, 1957<br>Roche, 1957<br>Rutten, v. Everdingen, 1<br>Rutten v. Everdingen, 1  |
| Mexico 35.5N, 105.2W<br>Mexico 34.4N, 106 4W  | Yeso Formation<br>Abo Formation (1)   | Pl-m<br>Pl(280-260)   | 143-01 R<br>149+08 R  | Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955  | France 43.5N, 6.8E<br>France 43.5N, 6.8E<br>France 43.5N, 6.8E<br>Scotland 55.4N, 4.5W  | Esterel Igneous Rocks combined<br>terel Igneous & Sedimentary Rocks<br>Mauchline Lavas  | P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)  | 201–18<br>207–16<br>180–04   | R<br>R<br>R                     | Rutten, v. Everdingen, 19<br>As, Zijderveld, 1958<br>du Bois, 1957   |
| Mexico 35.3N, 108.4W<br>zona,35N,11.6W;34N,110.4W   | Abo Formation (2)<br>Supai Formation  | P1(280-260)<br>P1   | 160+55 R<br>140+20-40<br>165+15 R   | Graham, 1955<br>Graham, 1955  | Scotland 55.4N, 4.5W<br>Scotland 55.4N, 4.5W<br>West Germany 50N, 8E  | Mauchline Sediments<br>Ayrshire Kylites<br>Nahe Igneous Rocks (1)   | P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)  | 187-06<br>190+02<br>195-04   | R<br>R<br>R                     | du Bois, 1957<br>Armstrong, 1957<br>Schmucker, 1959<br>Nijaphyja, 1964   |
| rona<br>h<br>zona<br>t Virginia 39.4N, 81W<br>orado 40N, 105W   | Supai Formation<br>Cutler Formation<br>Supai Formation<br>Dunkard Series<br>Fountain Formation (upper)  | P1<br>P1<br>P1<br>P1<br>P1  | 137+22.9     R       54,5+65     N?       146+8     R       163+8.4     R (&:       169-24     136+6  | Graham, 1956<br>Graham, 1956<br>Graham, 1955<br>N) Helsley, 1965  | West Germany 50N, BE<br>France 53.9N, 5.7E<br>Greenland 72.5N, 23.5W<br>Spain 42.7N, 0.5W<br>Corsica 42N, BE  | Nahe Igneous Rocks (2)<br>Volcanics, Nideck-Donon (2)<br>Sediments<br>Pyrenean Rocks<br>Porphyry  | P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(280-230)<br>P(281)  | 195–15<br>193–13<br>175–37<br>159–14<br>141+8                      | R<br>R<br>R<br>R                | Nairn, 1957<br>Bidgood, Harland, 1961<br>Van Hilten, 1962<br>Nairn, 1963   |
|   | Samara da Grista Formation  | Cu-P1 (290-250)   | 148-6 R<br>175+31 R<br>174+7 R  | McMahon, Strangway, 1968<br>Graham, 1955<br>Roy, 1963, Black, 1964  | Corsica 42N, 8E<br>Italy 46.6N, 11.2E<br>Italy 46.5N, 11.4E<br>W. Germany 49.5N, 7E<br>W. Germany 48-49N 7-8E                                       | Porphyry<br>Bolzano Quartz-Porphyry (1)<br>Bolzano Quartz-Porphyry (2)<br>St. Wendel Sandstone<br>Rotliegende Sediments and Lavas                                   | P(281)<br>P1(280-255)<br>P1(280-255)<br>P1(280-255)<br>P1(280-255)<br>P1(280-255)                                   | 141-8<br>164-11<br>150-31<br>181-09<br>177+01                      | R<br>R<br>R<br>R<br>R           | Nairn, 1963<br>Van Hilten, 1960<br>Dietzel, 1960<br>Nairn, 1957<br>Nairn, 1960   |
| 35.4N, 105.3W<br>land 46.2N, 63.5W  | Red Beds (unnamed)  |   |   |   | Norway 59.7N, 10.4E<br>England 51N, 4W<br>U.S.S.R. 48N, 38E   | Igneous Complex of Oslo<br>Exeter Traps<br>Donbas Red Sediments   | P1(270)<br>P1(279)<br>P1(280-255)   | 204-36<br>189-09<br>225-09   | R<br>R<br>R                     | Everdingen, 1960<br>Creer, 1957<br>Khramov, 1961   |

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The occurrence of five certain, and probably even more reversely polarized horizons of small thickness in the Middle and Upper Buntsandstone of SW-Germany and the comparison with roughly time equivalent (Skythian) paleomagnetic results obtained in North America show that the geomagnetic field in Lower Triassic times was extremely variable and that its polarity changed frequently. Correlation of the stratigraphic positions of polarity reversals provides a means of determining "time lines" within a stratigraphic sequence. Thus, it is possible to use reversals for local fine stratigraphic studies. Determination of these reversals thus can provide more information regarding relative time of deposition than can facies changes in unfossiliferous sediments alone.

The pronounced contrast between the long lasting reversed Kiaman Interval of Late Paleozoic time and the frequent polarity changes of Early Mesozoic times provides useful data for defining the Paleo-Mesozoic boundary on a worldwide scale.

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FIG.1: DIRECTIONS OF SEDIMENTTRANSPORT IN THE SW-GERMAN AND LORRAINESE BUNTSANDSTEIN (compiled from PERRIAUX, 1961 and MULLER, 1954) NUMBERS REFER TO LOCATION OF PROFILES SHOWN IN FIG.10 (CORRELATION-CHART)