

SURTSEY RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

IX



THE SURTSEY RESEARCH SOCIETY · REYKJAVÍK 1982

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Introduction

Surtsey was created in an eruption which started in November 1963 20 miles off the south coast of Iceland. It immediately aroused much scientific interest which led to the Surtsey Research Society being formed shortly after the eruption. The founders were Icelandic scientists, administrators and many volunteers who in different ways supported the scientific work on Surtsey. Several foreign scientists became associate members.

The Society was quite active during the eruption and for several years after. It sponsored and coordinated the scientific work, several international scientific conferences were held and financial support was obtained both from Icelandic and foreign sources.

In order to facilitate this work Surtsey was soon after its creation declared a nature reserve to be protected for scientific purposes.

Reports on the scientific work on Surtsey have been published regularly by the Surtsey Research Society, this one being the ninth in that series. Thus the Society wishes to make results from this

interesting work available to the scientific community with as little delay as possible.

The editing committee in charge of this report consists of the following scientists:

Adalsteinn Sigurdsson, marine biologist.

Eythór Einarsson, botanist.

Sveinn P. Jakobsson, geologist.

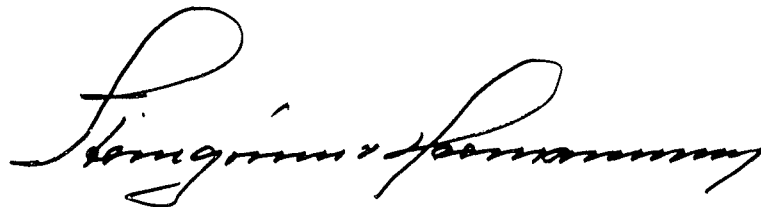
During the 20 years of Surtsey's existence much has changed. The island itself is being shaped by nature's forces, the material out of which Surtsey is made is changing and life which soon settled on the island is progressing fast. But there is still much to be learned.

Several outstanding scientists and individuals who pioneered work on Surtsey have passed away. Others continue and new ones have taken up work on Surtsey. The island will remain and the scientific work must continue.

The well documented work already done will serve as invaluable background for continued studies of the development of Surtsey.

Surtsey was and is a unique opportunity to further man's knowledge of nature.

For the Surtsey Research Society,



Steingrímur Hermannsson,
chairman