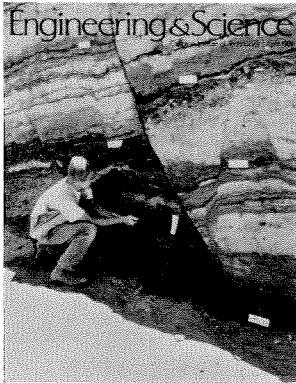


# In This Issue



## Time Line

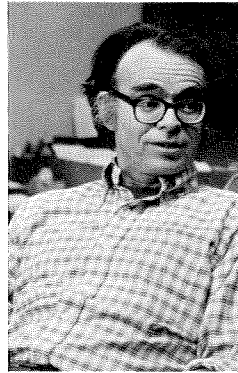
On the cover — Kerry Sieh at work on the exposed sediments of a cut at Pallett Creek near Palmdale, California. Sieh is an expert in neotectonics, a relatively new science that involves the study of currently active movements of the earth, particularly faulting. He applies his expertise to determining what has happened on a particular segment of a fault in the course of repeated earthquakes, with emphasis on those that have occurred during the last few thousand years. He hopes eventually to be able to forecast when similar phenomena will recur. In "Is California 'Overdue' for a Great Earthquake?" on page 4, he reports on his methods and progress, and his prognosis for our future. The article is adapted from a recent Watson Lecture.

A native of Iowa, Sieh received his AB from UC Riverside in 1972. He did his graduate work at Stanford under former Caltech professor of geology Richard Jahns and received his PhD in 1977. He then came to the Institute as assistant professor of geology.

Kerry Sieh



Thayer Scudder



Eleanor Searle



## Dam-nation

When some 55,000 Gwembe Tonga people in Zambia had to be relocated because of the construction of the Kariba Dam between 1957 and 1959, the resulting dislocation of their lives was severe. It was so severe, in fact, that Thayer Scudder, professor of anthropology at Caltech, has been doing research into those effects ever since. A couple of years ago he gave an overview of what he has observed, in a Watson Lecture on "What It Means to be Dammed: Local Impacts of River Basin Development in Africa."

Since that time he has expanded his research to include a wider variety of large-scale development projects in rural areas of Africa and Asia. In "What it Means to be Dammed: The Anthropology of Large-Scale Development Projects in the Tropics and Subtropics" on page 9, he discusses a development model he has worked out generally over the last 25 years and specifically in the last 2.

Scudder, whose AB and PhD are both from Harvard, came to Caltech in 1964 after doing research and teaching for several years in Northern Rhodesia and Egypt. He hasn't spent all the subsequent time in California, of course. His many trips for field work, meetings, and consultations in Africa and Asia add up to a total of more than five years — almost a third of his time with the Institute.

## Historic Rights

"The real source of female self-confidence in the Western world has thousand-year-old roots," says Eleanor Searle in "Women and Marriage in Medieval Society" on page 16. As a specialist in medieval history, with particular interest in the institutions of marriage and the family, Searle speaks with some authority. She has been delving into the subject throughout her professional life, which began when — with her brand-new LMA degree (Licentia Medaevorum Studiorum) from Toronto's Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies — she was a visiting research fellow at Oxford in 1961.

Searle spent the following year at Caltech as a lecturer in history and then the next five years at the Australian National University. She returned to California in 1969 as professor of history at UCLA, and in 1979 came back to Caltech as professor of history, having been awarded a papal doctorate in 1972. Her research has been based largely on the Huntington Library's great medieval collections. She is the author of three books on the medieval period and has one in progress — on women's property rights, family inheritance, and the functioning of feudal society. She has recently been awarded a fellowship for independent study and research from the National Endowment for the Humanities and will use it to continue her research next year in London and at Cambridge University in England.

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