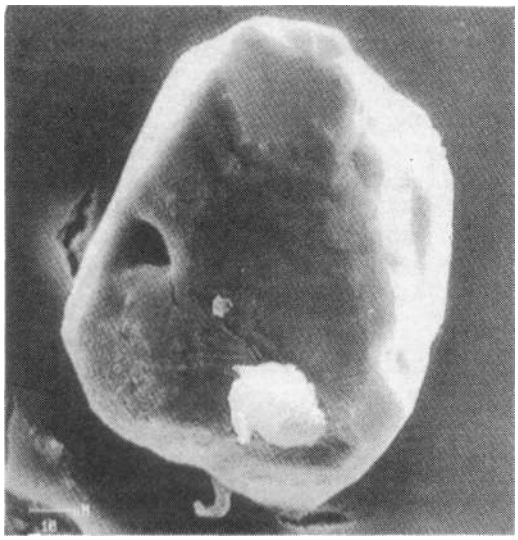

Figure 2. *Scanning electron microprobe image of one of the Norwegian diamond grains.*

go down and come bobbing back up, but a few of them must have'!

Haggerty, however, suggests that the diamonds might have formed without a trip into the mantle. Industrial researchers, he notes, have learned how to grow extremely thin diamond films at very low pressures. Therefore, because the microdiamonds from Norway, Kazakhstan and China are so tiny, he speculates that they may have formed at pressures found in the crust.

'We either have a major tectonic problem, or we have an entirely new way of making diamonds',

says Haggerty.[10]

So should geologists now have to rewrite some basic textbooks as Monastersky concludes? No, not yet, because Haggerty, Ernst, Monastersky, and even Dobrzhinetskaya all overlook one key issue — Dobrzhinetskaya *et al.*[11] admitted that they had not yet identified the microdiamonds *in situ* in the gneiss (they recovered them from crushed rock), and therefore they had no indisputable evidence to support either a metamorphic or an alluvial origin for the grains. That's right — there's still the possibility these micro-diamonds were deposited in the original sediments (by erosion from source rocks) before they were metamorphosed!

In any case, the uniformitarian (slow-and-gradual) model of plate tectonics, which involves millions-of-years for continental collisions, is hard pressed to explain how crustal rocks could go down to mantle depths of 120 km and bob back up again. On the other hand, catastrophic plate tectonics during the Flood year[12] with metres per second crustal movements would have inevitably resulted in violent continental collisions, the tremendous forces involved buckling crustal rocks to the extent of ramming some portions down to mantle depths. However, this would be short-lived, for as the crumpled collision zone 'relaxed' very soon after the impact, the lower density continental crustal rocks thus rammed into the mantle would rapidly rebound.

No wonder geologists are confounded by these microdiamonds! Perhaps the 'mystery' surrounding them would be easily solved if they abandoned their uniformitarian presuppositions. Maybe catastrophic plate tectonics during the biblical Flood is the better model for earth history?

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A. A. S.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: Chaos and Complexity

'A battle-cry of chaos was that simple rules can lead to complicated behaviour: now it seems that complicated rules can also lead to complicated behaviour. Is that all it needs to keep pop science going?'

Sigmund, K., 1995. Echoes of chaos. **Nature,** 378:453.