

Contents

<i>Preface to the Second Edition</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>Notation</i>	xix
1 The Development of the Concept of Isostasy	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 First Isostatic Ideas	2
1.3 The Deflection of the Vertical in India	10
1.4 Isostasy According to Airy	13
1.5 Isostasy According to Pratt	16
1.6 Fisher and Dutton on Isostasy	17
1.7 The Figure of the Earth and Isostasy	20
1.8 Bowie's Illustration of Isostasy	25
1.9 The Earth's Gravity and Tests of Isostasy	26
1.10 Isostasy and Geological Thought	38
1.11 Nature's Great Isostatic Experiment	39
1.12 Success of the Airy and Pratt Models of Isostasy in Explaining Crustal Structure	45
1.13 Bloom's Test of Isostasy	48
1.14 Summary	52
2 Isostasy and Flexure of the Lithosphere	54
2.1 Introduction	54
2.2 Gilbert and the Strength of Earth's Crust	55
2.3 Isostasy According to Barrell	58
2.4 Bowie's Criticism of Barrell	64
2.5 Putnam and Local versus Regional Compensation	68
	vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	2.6 Vening Meinesz and the Radius of Regionality	70
	2.7 Gunn and the Principle of Isobary	76
	2.8 Isostasy and Plate Tectonics	84
	2.9 Walcott and Flexure of the Lithosphere	96
	2.10 Summary	97
3	Theory of Elastic Plates	100
	3.1 Introduction	100
	3.2 Linear Elasticity	101
	3.3 Cylindrical Bending	102
	3.4 Flexure of Beams	103
	3.4.1 Stresses	104
	3.4.2 Shearing Force and Bending Moment	106
	3.4.3 Winkler Foundation	109
	3.5 Beams of Unlimited Length	111
	3.5.1 Infinite Beams	111
	3.5.2 Semi-infinite Beams	117
	3.6 Hetényi's Functions	124
	3.7 Beams of Variable Rigidity and Restoring Force	125
	3.7.1 Continuous Variation	125
	3.7.2 Circular Plates	125
	3.8 Thin- versus Thick-Plate Flexure	128
	3.9 Spherical versus Flat Earth	130
	3.10 Summary	130
4	Geological Examples of the Flexure Model of Isostasy	132
	4.1 Introduction	132
	4.2 Glacio-Isostatic Rebound	133
	4.2.1 Late-Glacial Shorelines	139
	4.2.2 The Holocene (0–12 ka) Sea Level Problem	143
	4.2.3 Mountain Glacier Erosion and Meltwater Charged River Incision	148
	4.3 Seamounts and Oceanic Islands	149
	4.4 River Deltas	181
	4.5 Deep-Sea Trench and Outer-Rise Systems	199
	4.6 Summary	215
5	Isostatic Response Functions	218
	5.1 Introduction	218

<i>Contents</i>		ix
5.2	The Lithosphere as a Filter	219
5.3	The Gravitational Admittance	222
5.3.1	Uncompensated Topography	223
5.3.2	Airy Model	224
5.3.3	Pratt Model	227
5.3.4	Elastic Plate (Flexure) Model	230
5.3.5	'Buried' Loads	233
5.4	High-Order Terms	238
5.5	Isostatic Response Functions	239
5.6	Estimating Admittance, Coherence and Isostatic Response Functions from Observations	241
5.6.1	Oceans	242
5.6.2	Continents	251
5.7	The Long-Wavelength Admittance	269
5.8	Summary	271
6	Isostasy and the Physical Nature of the Lithosphere	273
6.1	Introduction	273
6.2	The Behaviour of Earth Materials	274
6.3	Flexure of a Viscoelastic Plate	276
6.4	Relationship of Elastic Parameters to Load and Plate Age	281
6.4.1	Oceans	282
6.4.2	Continents	298
6.5	Rheology of the Lithosphere	304
6.5.1	Brittle	305
6.5.2	Ductile	310
6.6	The Yield Strength Envelope	314
6.7	Time-Dependent Flexure	322
6.8	Relationship between Elastic Thickness, Curvature and Yielding	328
6.9	Elastic Thickness and Earthquakes	332
6.10	Summary	338
7	Isostasy and the Origin of Geological Features in the Continents and Oceans	341
7.1	Introduction	341
7.2	Extensional Tectonics and Rifting	342
7.2.1	Continental Rifts	342
7.2.2	Oceanic Rifts	357
7.2.3	Rift-Type Basins	368

7.2.4	Seaward Dipping Reflectors and Magmatic Underplating	389
7.2.5	The Post-Rift Stratigraphy of Rift Basins	394
7.2.6	Rift Flank Uplifts and Erosional Unloading	400
7.3	Compressional Tectonics and Orogeny	406
7.3.1	Crustal Thickening	406
7.3.2	Orogenic Belts and Erosion	412
7.3.3	Foreland Basins	416
7.4	Strike-Slip Tectonics	432
7.4.1	Transform Faults	432
7.4.2	Fracture Zones	434
7.4.3	Transform Margins	437
7.4.4	Strike-Slip Faults	441
7.5	Intra-plate Deformation	441
7.5.1	Intra-cratonic and Intra-continental Basins	442
7.5.2	Intra-plate Volcanism, Hotspots and Mid-Plate Swells	449
7.6	Dynamic Topography	454
7.7	Plate Flexure and Landscape Evolution	462
7.8	Plate Flexure, Inheritance and the Wilson Cycle	467
7.9	Summary	468
8	Isostasy and the Terrestrial Planets	471
8.1	Introduction	471
8.2	Moon	472
8.3	Mercury	486
8.4	Mars	490
8.5	Venus	499
8.6	Earth – Postscript	511
8.7	Summary	521
	<i>References</i>	523
	<i>Index</i>	578