

Field Geology in Colour

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fossils, economic and environment geology, and the earth in time and space. The section on mining methods and ore treatment could have been complemented with a treatment of drilling for oil.

Janes writes in a very comprehensive style, sometimes resorting to colloquials - "quartz is a most resistant mineral and tends to hang around for an incredible length of time", "mud over the top of the corals may mean a major storm - a snuffing out of the reefs" and "black-basalt headlands knife out into the lake". All measurements are metric. The illustrations are numerous, regularly spaced on almost every page, and generally of a high quality although some colour transparencies were used for black and white pictures resulting in a loss of definition. The book is remarkably free of typographical errors but the editor is not consistent whether the word data is singular or plural. There is some Canadiana which would have been included - Norman Bowen as author of the igneous reaction series, time subdivisions of the Precambrian, and description of a big oil field such as Leduc or Redwater to complement the two large mines. Some professionals may quarrel with his interpretations but the students should react very positively to this book with its bright orange cover with an attractive picture of some hoodoos.

How can we get a copy in every school library in Canada? Some "concerned" citizens in Alberta will certainly object to Chapter 11 which utilizes evolution. But why not just buy a copy and after you have read it, send it as a gift to the school librarian!

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Field Geology in Colour

by D. E. B. Bates and J. F. Kirkaldy
Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, England
 215 p., 1976.
 £2.75.

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It is now more than a century ago since Canon Charles Kingsley, a noted Anglican leader in England who was also a

popular writer and lecturer, coined the phrase "Geology is the people's Science." To some extent Geology still does hold this special place in Britain, the continued progress of the Geologists Association (of London), and its excellent publications, showing clearly the widespread British amateur interest in the science. One result of this more general interest in Geology in Great Britain is the continued publication of good books on the science, designed for the non-specialist reader. A new example of such books is so good, and in one respect so unusual, that the writer feels it desirable to bring it to the attention of the Canadian earth science community.

Field Geology in Colour is one volume in the "Blandford Colour Series"; its title came quite by chance to the attention of the writer and he managed to procure a copy. It is, in the first place, the best value for the money (in the field of geological books) that he has ever seen. A well-bound, clearly-printed, convenient, pocket-sized (12 by 19 cm) book, it is distinguished by 156 beautifully printed colour plates. How this can be sold for £2.75 (say \$5.00) is, to a North American, a delightful mystery. It raises interesting questions about some of the inflated prices now charged by some European publishers for their books on this continent.

While clearly intended for the amateur geologist (one of the authors, Professor Kirkaldy, is a Past President of the Geologists Association), the volume could prove of great use to many students of geology. There will probably be many older people who not only will be delighted by the illustrations but may also learn from its pages things that they should have known, as the writer certainly has.

The book starts with a 45-page description of the elements of geological field work, admirable in its clarity and followed by 35 pages giving an equally good guide to rocks and structures to be observed in the field. Sixty four pages contain the coloured plates, the same number of pages being used for adequate descriptions of all the plates, aided (where necessary) by 34 simple line sketches. A few more pages present miscellaneous information such as a guide to field photography. In the introduction, reference is made to the *Code for Geological Field Work* published by the Geologists Association,

another indication of the interest of the British public in Geology.

The colour plates naturally dominate the book. They seem to show every conceivable type of geological structure, soil and rock that would normally be encountered in ordinary field work. As would be expected, the majority of the illustrations show exposures in all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, but nine other countries (and the Channel Islands) are also represented in this magnificent collection. Only two of the 156 photographs fail to meet the general high standard; the views of pillow lava in Plates 119 and 120 are not as "pillow-like" as some exposures that the writer has seen (even in the Isle of Man!); but these are minor criticisms indeed. Plate 15, to mention but one example, is a full-page view in excellent colours which combines varved clay, a glacial drop-stone, foreset bedding, and Gondwana Land, the view being of an exposure north of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

It is encouraging to find so few terms that might puzzle North American readers. The old British expression *drift* is used sparingly, more particularly in mentioning the *drift-maps* of the British Geological Survey. Elsewhere the word *soil* is used as it should be, with *top-soil* also correctly used. The somewhat rare word *Head* is used in relation to solifluction deposits. On the other hand the frequent use of *turbidites*, occasionally in a slightly questionable way, would seem to be almost a reflection of current interest in these sediments on this continent.

All told, it is a thoroughly good book, clearly written, beautifully illustrated, and international in its coverage. One can imagine few better introductions to Geology in the Field than this volume. As Geology continues to regain the recognition in Canada that is its due, readers of *Geoscience Canada* may care to remember that there is this little volume available which can add so much to their own explanations given to recruits to the people's science.