

East Coast Basin Atlas Series, the Scotian Shelf

J. P.A. Noble

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Book Review

East Coast Basin Atlas Series, the Scotian Shelf

Geological Survey of Canada, Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada. Atlantic Geoscience Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Coordinated by D.I. Ross and C.F.M. Lewis; Scientific Coordinator, D. Cant; edited by J.L. Bates.

The second volume of the East Coast Basin Atlas Series, the Scotian Shelf, is a lavish compendium of just about all the important geological information that has ever been published on the Scotian Shelf. It includes detailed and comprehensive treatments of the regional geology, biostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy, structure, seismic and surficial geology as well as a great deal of information related to gas and oil exploration. Most of this information is in the form of maps, cross-sections, well logs and tables, but there is a brief description and concise commentary and a number of selected references for each section, each written by a team of experts. As with all such multiauthored publications, there is some unevenness in quality of presentation but the overall impression is excellent.

Maps, figures and tables are generally clear, informative and well designed in format and color, and the text is well edited with very few mistakes.

For all the wealth of information on boreholes, I searched in vain for indications of cored intervals, information which could be very useful to researchers or explorationists contemplating further studies on the geology of this shelf. But generally this atlas is a veritable mine of valuable informa-

tion which makes it all the more regrettable that the serious faults in the layout and binding, which I pointed out in my review of the first volume of the series (Labrador Shelf), have been repeated in this second volume. As I was quite explicit in that earlier review, I will merely say here that this atlas is again unnecessarily big and cumbersome with too many wasted blank pages, repetitious bibliographies and maps which could have been reduced without loss of readability. The dual French-English labelling of all figures, maps and tables is again destructive of clarity and readability, and the coil binding system is inadequate for the very large heavy pages.

In spite of this, once again the editors and many contributors to this volume are to be congratulated on producing an encyclopedic atlas which will be the Scotian Shelf bible for a wide range of earth scientists for a long time.

J.P.A. Noble
Department of Geology
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5A3, Canada