

REVIEW

'PALAEOCURRENTS AND BASIN ANALYSES' By P. E. Potter and F. J. Pettijohn (1976). Second corrected and updated edition, Springer-Verlag, New York, 425 pages and 167 figures. Price: U. S. dollars 27.90; Dm. 55.70.

Palaeocurrent and Basin Analysis (1976) by P. E. Potter and F. J. Pettijohn is an indispensable work of reference and manual for students of sedimentary models and palaeogeographic reconstruction. This updated and revised version on the 1963 publication not only provides a wealth of new information, including annotated bibliography, but also embraces stimulating discussions on the palaeocurrent and dispersal patterns, mode of basin filling, environmental interpretation, modern techniques (such as by X-ray studies and scanning electron microscopes) and methodology of palaeocurrent mapping and data analysis including computer programming. The authors have adopted a novel style of revising the work—each chapter has a supplement comprising new material related to the period 1963-1976.

The book covers a wide gamut of studies from small environmental units such as point-bar, through larger basin analysis to full continental-scale palaeocurrent maps. Of special interest are information related to diamictites and olistostromes, volcanoclastics and detrital carbonates, environmental significance of palaeoslopes, experimental studies in deformational structures, palaeoslopes from maps of unconformities, Pleistocene tills and dispersal of pollens and spores, new classification of sedimentary basins in the light of plate tectonics, and different models of sedimentation.

The chapter on sedimentary models deals with the changes of distribution, orientation and make-up of sedimentary bodies with changing current systems, and brings home the point that the fill of the sedimentary basin is an organized response to dispersal pattern. The last two chapters cover the integration of the continental-scale palaeocurrent systems with the evolution of North American and European basins in relation to plate tectonics. The authors have attempted to recognize valid criteria of identifying today's plate tectonic regions in the ancient sedimentary record dating back to billions of years.

I wish the authors had included Indian examples as well, to fit into their global picture of basin analysis. Valuable work on palaeocurrent systems has been done in the Himalayan and Vindhyan basins, and its exclusion from this book by two eminent American authors is disconcerting.

K. S. VALDIYA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMONWEALTH NEW TOWNS CONFERENCE—SEPTEMBER 1979

The Commonwealth Countries are invited to be represented at a five-day conference in Scotland in September to discuss the problems associated with the creation of new towns and cities, with the planning, development and management of new community settlements.

The United Kingdom example of thirty-two New Towns will be critically examined, in the context of Commonwealth experience and, often, differing requirements, in an assessment to benefit individual countries future approach to new development proposals.

The conference is being held in East Kilbride New Town, Scotland situated nine miles south of Glasgow.

For further particulars, please contact:

Commonwealth New Towns conference
Atholl House
East Kilbride G74 1LU
Scotland

MAPS OF METAMORPHIC FACIES OF EUROPE, AFRICA AND ASIA

Since 1967 the CGMW Subcommittee for the Cartography of the Metamorphic Belts of the World is preparing and publishing continental maps showing the distribution and nature of metamorphism.

In principle these maps are based on a division in facies series according to pressures operating during metamorphism, and a subdivision according to grade of metamorphism. This means that P/T regimes are shown on the map. Where a division in facies series proved to be impossible due to lack of knowledge, only the grade of metamorphism is represented. In addition successive metamorphic phases are indicated by cross-hatching of two or more colours. Ages of metamorphism are shown by symbols indicating the orogenic period to which a certain metamorphism belongs. Other features on the maps include various granitic rocks, ultramafics, metamorphosed or unmetamorphosed gabbros, and some other features.

The Metamorphic Map of Asia has just been published. Inquiries about obtaining this map can be made at the following address: USSR, Moscow, 121 200, Vsesojuznoje objedinenije 'Mezhdunarodnaja Kniga'; Cable address: Mezhhkniga Moscow. Telephone: 244-10-22, Telex 160.

26th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS—PARIS 1980

Sessions of the International Geological Congress have been held every four years since 1878. The 26th session will celebrate the Centenary of this organization convened under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Organization Committee: Chairman: Jean AUBOUIN
Secretary General: Paul SANGNIER

Time Table: — 26 June to 5 July — Pre-Congress scientific excursions
— 7 to 17 July — The Congress will meet at the Palais des Congres at Porte Maillot
— 18 to 27 July — Post-Congress scientific excursions.

Excursions: The Organization Committee in association with the National Committees for Geology of 18 European countries has organized an attractive program of geological excursions. The chosen themes make it possible to offer Congress participants a survey of all aspects of the geology of Western Europe. 85 different excursions each lasting for 9 days are planned from 26 June to 6 July 1980 or from 19 July to 26 July 1980. Since only a limited number of persons can participate in the excursions, the places will be reserved by the Organizing Committee in October 1979 in the order in which the reservation forms are received.

State of Advancement of Congress Preparation: 80,000 copies of the first circular were sent out in October 1977. By 1 December 1978 the Organization Committee had received 5,800 answers from 114 different countries and 4,000 persons had asked to take part in the excursions. The second circular is now available and contains the final registration form.

Those interested in participating in the Congress and wishing to receive the second circular should request it from the:

Secretariat General du 26eme Congres Geologique International
Maison de la Geologie
77-79, rue Claude Bernard
75005 PARIS — FRANCE