

REVIEWS

DEPOSITIONAL SEDIMENTARY ENVIRONMENTS By H. E. Reineck and I. B. Singh, 1980, Second Edition, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 549 Pages.

Appearance of the revised edition of the book seven years after its original publication is in itself a bold testimony to its wide acceptance. Students of sedimentology in this country will feel highly encouraged with the observation of the authors that much information relevant to environmental interpretation can be obtained even without recourse to specialized and sophisticated methods as are available to their counterparts in the west.

Simplicity in treatment is certainly a virtue of the book; to others this very virtue may in places appear rather simplistic. I believe such 'others' will be in a minority, and hence the book will be welcomed by the general audience. To these detractors, the volume will at least serve as an excellent bibliography up to around 1979.

I fail to appreciate the rationale of adding brief concluding note on the respective ancient analogs in sections dealing with various environments when second part is explicitly devoted to modern depositional environments. The addenda are too sketchy for the readers who have been fed with a heavy dose on modern environments. Literature on ancient sedimentary environments today is no less voluminous and nobody would have blamed the authors, had they discarded these lame excuses. The job has been done for them in Reading's 'Sedimentary environments and facies' referred by the authors.

The second edition, similar to its predecessor, is organized in two parts, and in the process has added about 100 additional pages and an equal number of figures. While the first part deals with primary structures and textures, the second concentrates on modern siliciclastic environments. The sections on current and wave ripples and biological parameters are the best in the first part; comparable texts in the field do not offer such detailed discussion on these aspects. The second part, the heart of the book, deals with twelve domains ranging from typical continental to deep marine through transitional environments. Environments in which the authors draw from their own experiences, such as coast, shelf, beach, coastal lagoon and tidal flat are naturally impressive. In fact, we owe much of our present knowledge on these environments to Reineck and his school. Other chapters, do not lag far behind in marshalling summaries of the present state of the art in respective environments. Significant recent developments in all the fields, e.g., identification of eolian stratification, complex variations in fluvial domain, and deep-sea fan have been duly focused. All the sections are richly illustrated, and the text is almost free from printing errors.

This book, like its predecessor serves a useful purpose in furnishing a wealth of information on modern environments in a single volume and unlike the first part, the second to the reviewer's knowledge has few peers in the field. The book will surely prove as popular as the first edition and the authors deserve credit for bringing out the revised version. Though few Indians now-a-days can afford to own foreign books, I am certain that all soft-rock geologists will make it a point to go through the volume.

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