

have been very much improved with the currently available computer facilities

Radiometry today finds application in much wider areas of mineral exploration than only radioactive metals. This book will therefore be of interest not only in field of radioactive metal exploration as the title indicates, but in several other areas of mineral exploration and environmental assessment. The publication would also be a very useful handbook for teaching radiometry to students.

The book seems to have been printed in limited numbers departmentally, as inferred from the high price of Rs 600/-,

which seems quite prohibitive for a book of just 292 pages. Considering the lucidity in presentation and comprehensive contents, the book could be printed as a textbook with improved illustrations and, perhaps, even subsidised by the DAE, so that it will be available to a larger section of earth scientists and educational institutions alike at an affordable price.

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AURIFEROUS FORMATIONS AND GOLD EXPLORATION. M W Y Khan and K L. Rai (Eds.), Special Inaugural Issue, Volume 1, No 1 (2004), Journal of Economic Geology and Georesource Management. Published by South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (India Chapter), New Delhi 168p.

Despite being marginalized by the ever-expanding frontiers of Information Technology, the Indian mineral industry continues to play a significant role in the country's economy. India is bestowed with fairly satisfactory levels of mineral resources whose judicious management has been a subject matter of great concern for both the mineral managers and policy makers. A major problem that is being faced by the country is non-augmentation of its dwindling mineral resources. This is apparent in the case of precious metals and stones in general and gold and diamond in particular where imports worth billions of dollars are being made annually to quench the thirst of the local market. Another area that the industry needs to address is the improvement in techniques of mineral beneficiation so that huge low-grade ores could be converted into usable resources. A point that needs to be hammered again and again to the policy makers is that a mineral is a non-renewable commodity. The shortsighted policy of its export, particularly in its raw form, not only leads to the loss of that commodity forever but also creates man-made imbalances that may lead to environmental degradation among other problems. Groundwater is the most important of georesource of any country. Its current unmindful exploitation in our country may trigger a series of consequences that may cost very dearly to all of us. Amidst this backdrop of general callousness to the problems faced by the mineral industry, it is heartening to note the launch of a new journal on "Economic Geology and Georesource Management" by South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (India chapter). The journal has patronage of the Department of

Science and Technology, Government of India and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. In its inaugural issue, Prof. K L Rai, Chief Editor of the Journal, rightly observes the conflicting scenarios of recession on one hand and globalization on the other faced by the Mineral Industry. He has earnestly sought the support from all segments of mineral industry that are concerned with the sustainable development of georesources.

The inaugural number, edited by M W Y Khan and K L Rai, is a special issue that collates the papers presented at the International Conference on "Auriferous Formations and Gold Exploration" held at Pandit Ravi Shankar University, Raipur during November 12-15, 1997. There are seventeen papers in this issue arranged in three categories that deal with (i) potential auriferous formations having favorable geological set-up, (ii) results of preliminary exploration and (iv) concept based studies as an aid to gold exploration. The papers cover wide-ranging topics. There are papers on gold in (i) greenstone belts of Hutti (two papers, one each by R. Nijagunnappa and P S Sangurmath and N J Sathe and R R Patil), Ramgiri (S K Dutta and others), Gurumahisani-Badampahar (Mukul Kishore and others), Mahakoshal (M K Soni), Sonakhan area (R K Ray and K L Rai) and on Sakoli Group of rocks (R N Padhi and others). (ii) Banded Iron Formations of Ajjanahalli (two papers one each by A Chattopadhyay and S M Hussain and S M Naqvi), Chikkasidavanhalli (A K Mukherjee), BIF of Bastar (S K Sarkar) (iii) in lavas of Dhanjori (Malangtoli area by S K Das and others) and Barren Island (by J V Subbaraman) and (iv) auriferous laterites of

Brazil (O P Goel and I G Carvalho) and Nilambur Valley (Narayanswamy and others). There are two review papers, one each on Archaean gold metallogeny in South India by R Nijagunnappa and on sampling practices of gold ore bodies by K T Shashi Kumar.

The authors have waited seven long years to see their work in print. This certainly does not speak well for any journal. There are several technical and typographic errors

that indicate that the papers have escaped peer review process. The papers however are presented in a good glossy format with excellent reproduction of photographs and line diagrams. The publishers M/s Hindustan Publishing Corporation, New Delhi deserves appreciation for this.

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FAREEDUDDIN

GUIDE TO FIELD GEOLOGY by S.M. Mathur. Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited, M-97, Connaught Circus, New Delhi- 110001, 2001, 203p. Price Rs 150.

This book as a guide to field geology is written by one who has spent over three decades as a professional geologist in the premier organization in this field in the country, namely the Geological Survey of India. He brings to bear his vast experience under different conditions and terrains and has attempted to set forth in simple language all the necessary mental and physical equipment a geologist should start with to execute the different tasks assigned to him, primarily mapping though, under Indian conditions. It must be admitted, however, that the geologist of today is a little better placed than the author in terms of transport and communication facilities making his task less difficult and hazardous.

The 15 chapters written within 189 pages and the 5 appendices in 10 pages ending up with 3 pages of subject index is well structured to help the novice as well as the already initiated to get a real grounding on what to equip with, when and where, how to handle, use and care of a variety of instruments, mostly simple ones though. The do's and don'ts will be felt quite useful.

The Introduction (1-13) is followed by description of the Equipments and Materials including the primary ones of Clinometer, Compass and Toposheets (14-49), how to observe, document and measure features in the field (50-71), prepare a geological map besides collecting specimens and samples (72-109), and gives details of nomenclature of various features and constituents of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, besides methods of mineral investigations (110-177), and ends up with some information on stratigraphic principles and practices (178-189). The Appendices are meant to be used to properly evaluate qualitatively and quantitatively the observed features and collected materials and the methods of representation by conventional symbols. It should, however, be emphasized that the geologist should have a good grounding in the

basics of geology before embarking on to mapping and mineral investigations with a minimum of a graduate degree, though a post-graduate degree is desirable.

There are very few errors. On page 4, last line and on page 5, line 16, it should be 'corrasion' and not 'corraision'. In Fig 1.1 on page 7 has depicted the typical topographic features usually found in an arid to semiarid terrain. Perhaps it would be better to term the last tiny rocky mass as 'koppie' (kopje) rather than as 'monadnock'. The term monadnock is usually confined to isolated hills in a humid temperate terrain in a vast peneplain. On page 30 (line 3) S15°W is indicated as 145° full circle, whereas it should be 195° full circle. On page 44 (line 24) it should be International Date Line and not International Data Line. The term 'aa' is used to refer to the rough, jagged, clinkery top surface of solidified flow (p 136, l 20-21), common in certain sections of Deccan Traps. Perhaps, the author could have just included two idealized figures (maps) one showing the plotted basic data collected in the field in a terrain containing igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks with attitudes, faults, fold axes and then another on opposite page to show the final presentation of the same as an interpreted geological map. This would have added luster to such a detailed text written to help the beginner into the art and science of geological mapping.

Though there are already a few books on this subject published abroad, perhaps even in greater detail (Lahee's Field Geology and Compton's Manual of Field Geology), yet this handy publication will be most useful to a beginner in India to constantly refer to in the field. It is also reasonably priced and deserves to be possessed by everyone interested in this field of activity.

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