

Book reviews

Almeria. Classic geology in Europe 12, by Adrian M. Harvey & Anne E. Mather, 2015. *Classic geology in Europe 12*. Dunedin Academic Press Ltd, 8 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QB, Great Britain. Paperback, x + 230 pages. Price EUR 35.00; USD 49.50; GBP 24.99. ISBN 978-1-78046-037-6; 978-1-78046-527-2 (e-pub); 978-1-78046-528-9 (Kindle).



Europe is the cradle of the earth sciences; it is the classical area of earth-science research, and it has long been the home of the type areas of the various chronostratigraphic units. How unfortunate it is, in my opinion, that the fundamentals of the earth sciences were destroyed by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) of the International Union of Geological Societies (IUGS) and, more particularly, by the adaptations proposed (and later approved and adapted again) by Gradstein et al. (2012). Much of the old literature can no longer be understood by the new generations of geologists!

In spite of the attack of Europe as the classical area of the earth sciences, this continent fortunately is still recognised as the continent that houses regions that have become of great geological value,

sometimes because of their geological characteristics, sometimes because of their value for educational purposes, and sometimes because of their role in the early days of geology. It is therefore also very fortunate that Dunedin Academic Press has started a book series on such classical areas in Europe. The first books were published in 2001 (on Italian volcanoes and on Auvergne), and since then many more were presented. The present book is number 12 and several more books are being prepared.

The present book deals with Almeria (a province in SE Spain), which is a classical area for Mediterranean Neogene and Quaternary geology, also because of the interaction between the European and the African plates. The consequent initial compression resulted in the Betic Cordilleras, but during the late Tertiary the compressional regime was replaced by lateral shear, resulting in a basin-and-range terrain. Basins preserve the evaporites related to the so-called Messinian salinity crisis, when the Mediterranean desiccated. And the above aspects are only a few of those that make this region a classic!

It is therefore not surprising that the area is frequently visited for university field classes, but also for 'geo-tourism'. This is expressed by the contents of the book, which is not a geological overview at the front of science, but rather a work that forms an excellent basis for student field work, but also for interested tourists with a basal knowledge of geology and geomorphology. This two-fold purpose is found back in the structure of the book: a first part

devoted to the Neogene sedimentary basins (including the famous Sorbas Basin) within the context of the regional structural geology, and a second part with itineraries for field excursions and site descriptions focusing on key locations.

The book is well illustrated in full colour, with maps, field sketches and abundant photographs. The text is well written and easily readable. It has an extensive index, and for the non-professionals a

useful glossary and a time scale. If you ever plan to have holidays in Spain, go to Almeria and spend some nice and interesting time with this book in your hand.

Reference

Gradstein, F.M., Ogg, J.G., Schmitz, M. & Ogg, G. (2012).
The geologic time scale 2012, Elsevier.

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