

BOOK REVIEW

LINNEMANN, U. AND ROMER, R. L. (EDS.): PRE-MESOZOIC GEOLOGY OF SAXO-THURINGIA. FROM THE CADOMIAN ACTIVE MARGIN TO THE VARISCAN OROGENY. SCHWEIZERBART'SCHE VERLAGSBUCHHANDLUNG, STUTTGART, 485 PP, GEOLOGICAL MAP AND DVD.

I do not usually write any book reviews. However, in the following case it is my pleasure to make an exception.

I obtained the book Pre-Mesozoic Geology of Saxo-Thuringia edited by Ulf Linnemann and Rolf L. Romer and published by Schweizerbart Science Publishers. As I am involved in some research in the Saxo-Thuringia region I personally have welcomed the publication promising an overview of a large data set and information in a single volume. The book not only fully lived up to my expectations but even exceeded them. It is a very modern synthesis and summary of the most up-to-date information and knowledge on the studied area. It is not a book which in time will become obsolete. At the same time, it represents the accumulated results of research by a middle-aged generation of geologists working in the Saxo-Thuringian, and it is clearly seen that they are at the height of their power.

The book is not only a survey of new information but it is built on a historical base. It is useful and even crucial for the overall context and frame of knowledge allowing the modern approaches to be fully understood.

The book is also a culmination of a major effort to compile a complex compendium on Saxo-Thuringian geology. Some chapters have precursors in comprehensive papers published in journals and, especially, the book is preceded by a pilot and remarkably briefer German version „Das Saxothuringikum“ (Linnemann 2003, second edition 2008). The book is subdivided into five essential sections naturally reflecting main geotectonic stages as well as formal habits of scientific papers. It is very pleasant and comfortable for readers to find a summary of each chapter in the preamble of all sections.

Basic datasets used for interpretations are compiled and processed with German thoroughness as clear even from the condensed and abridged form necessary for book publication. The authors maintain a very good balance between the need for sup-

porting details, and the practical requirements of clarity and communication of results.

For practical purposes an extended bibliography is very valuable. I can recommend to each person who is considering studying any geologic topic in the Saxo-Thuringian or even only seeking references for comparison, including older titles, to start with the book. It is the easiest way to obtain a very fast overview on published data. (It is in fact because the authors did not underestimate the historical context as mentioned above.)

Very likeable and useful parts of the book are a detailed historical geological map and the DVD. The former supplement is a reprinted geological map more than 30 years old of the former German Democratic Republik at a scale of 1 : 500 000. Although it sounds outdated, it is very complex and gives an excellent overview on the geologic framework of Saxo-Thuringia. It is very good choice especially with respect to the lack of modern mapping at such a scale. The DVD contains digitalised historical maps of Saxo-Thuringia from 19th century, figures and supplementary data.

The book also benefits from studies on the IGCP project no. 497 „The Rheic Ocean“ which is immediately concerned with the Saxo-Thuringia. The main leader of the project is also the senior editor of the book and co-author of several chapters, and so has ideally utilised the project possibilities, offers and cooperations and „tuned“ some models and approaches together with his colleagues (and co-authors, of course) and presented them in the book.

I find the main value of the book is in its elaborate complexity. Significant information can be found there by any mapping geologist, tectonist, geochemist or paleontologist (as in my case). Although research presented in this book primarily is documented from the authors' perspective, alternative approaches and models are also mentioned. It is seen that the authors have their interpretations well supported by robust data and can offer detailed models. The book represents inspiration and incentive for future studies in the Variscan, and especially adjacent units. I expect that the book will arouse discussion and debate, and the approaches, models and results will be tested in other areas. The research results presented will have supporters as well as critics. I believe that the book will be very often referred to and will be a very positive stimulus for future studies of Variscan units in Central Europe.

Reference

Linnemann, U. (2003, 2. edition 2008): Das Saxothuringikum. Abriss der präkambrischen und paläozoischen Geologie von Sachsen und Thüringen. *Geologica Saxonica* 48/49, 162 s.

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