

The Geology of Alaska

*edited by **George Plafker and H.C. Berg**, 1994, the Geological Society of America, 1.066 pages, 1 microfiche card, 13 oversized plates, ISBN 0-8137-5219-1, list price \$135.00.*

Review by Christopher G. Kendall

This immense book is another of the volumes in the series for the Decade of North American Geology DNAG project. This text consists of 33 chapters and has attached a separate box which contains 13 color plates. The book describes the geology and geophysics of most of Alaska's principal onshore and offshore regions and focuses on their physiography, lithotectonic terranes, igneous and metamorphic petrology, geochronology, geophysics, geochemistry, sedimentary basins, mineral and energy resources, glaciation, permafrost, neotectonics, and tectonic evolution. The text deals with the geology of rocks stretching from the Arctic Northern Alaska to the Seward Peninsula, Saint Lawrence Island, east-central Alaska, the Yukon-Tanaa area of east-central Alaska, west-central Alaska, the eastern Bering Sea continental shelf, southwestern Alaska, south-central Alaska, the Aleutian arc, the southern Alaska and southeastern Alaska. There is even a section on interior basins of Alaska. There are chapters on the crystalline rocks of Alaska including metamorphics, plutonics, volcanics, magmatic, and ophiolitic rocks from the different volcanic, metamorphic and plutonic zones of Alaska. There is a section of papers on paleomagnetism and two sections on Quaternary geology. There are also discussions of the resources Alaska including its metallogeny and major mineral deposits, petroleum resources, coal, and geothermal resources. Then there is a final chapter which synthesizes the geology and tectonic evolution of Alaska.

This all encompassing volume is packed with information. There are numerous references, many of which are extremely recent. There are series of clear maps, both in color and in black and white, accompanied by cross-sections showing tectonic reconstructions and the general regional stratigraphy. This is a fine source text. Each of the chapters are useful compendiums on the geology and geophysics of Alaska and even where detailed information is lacking represent a great starting point. This volume has been a long time a coming but for those of us who are studying the geology of Alaska its arrival is still timely. With my involvement with studies of the geology of Alaska I have found this book to be extremely useful and I am pleased to have it in my library, as I am sure others who are studying Alaskan geology will find. If they cannot have this book on their personal shelves too then they should at least have it in the local libraries, be they at a company or university. There is an extremely helpful text and the editors have done an extremely fine job in producing it. The narratives of the most of the papers are clear and the content of the papers are tends to be complete. Obviously some of you are going to be dissatisfied by the information in some of the papers but the text is so well referenced that it should be possible to track down more complete information that may be lacking from the volume. It was definitely a monumental task to produce this book and the editors, authors and the Geological Society of North America should be congratulated on producing another great DNAG volume.