

Paleomagnetism and Tectonics of the Mediterranean Region

Edited by **A. Morris and D. H. Tarling**, published by the Geological Society, London, Geological Society Special Publication No. 105, ISBN 1-897799-55-1, 422 pages, 1996.

Review by Christopher G. Kendall

This book consists of thirty three papers and deals with the extremely complex terrain of the Mediterranean, illustrating how paleomagnetic methodology can be used to determine the paleomagnetic fields for a variety of suspect terrains. The various authors of the papers in this book have put together what the editors refer to as "a stack of jigsaw puzzles" from which "90% of the pieces are missing (and the remaining 10% are no longer their original shape!)."

The text begins with a very nice review of the papers, putting them in the perspective of the Mediterranean in a very complete and professional way. The papers that follow are in geographic order including the Western Mediterranean, Central Mediterranean and Carpathians, eastern Mediterranean, and sections focused in volcanology and archaeomagnetism. Papers describe the geological section from the Permian through the Quaternary, with the last papers dealing with the recent changes within the magnetic field during human occupation and volcanic events. The editors and their assembled authors have created a fine book which undoubtedly represents a most complete synthesis on this topic.

These different papers focused on different geographic locations and different geological time periods provide a coherent picture of the history of the Mediterranean. The editors' strict control on the authors has produced a readable text with clear illustrations. Scientists conducting geological research in the Mediterranean will find this a useful reference book. It should be on the shelves of those of you, should you be professionals or graduate students, who are studying the Mediterranean paleomagnetism or have an interest in earth's magnetic field.

Geologists exploring for oil or minerals will find this text useful in that it provides a geological framework on to which interpretation can be pasted. Clearly without an understanding about paleomagnetic history of the area the reconstruction, particularly of its eastern portions, would be difficult if not impossible to accomplish. This is a well written synthesis of paleomagnetism for the Mediterranean which should be on your shelves if you are studying the Mediterranean or the topic of paleomagnetism.