

Volcanoes of North America, United States, and Canada

Compiled and edited by **Charles A. Wood and Jürgen Kienle**, 1992 (in paperback), ISBN: 0-521-43811-X. Cambridge University Press. 354 pgs.

Review by **Christopher G. Kendall**

This book is a valuable addition to your library if you have an interest in volcanoes. It contains a very complete listing of volcanoes from the North American continent describing each volcano or volcanic area within a short synopsis. Many of these synopses contain a photo and a description of the kind of volcano involved, its latitude, longitude, elevation, size of the volcanic center, eruptive history, and composition. This is followed by a short description of the volcanoes with two references and a small note on how to get to the volcano. In some cases, maps of the volcano are included. Each description of the volcanoes are written by a local volcanologist or someone with local information. The description of each individual volcano seldom stretches over one half to two pages, though some manuscripts extend to three or four pages. The book contains descriptions of some 262 volcanoes and volcanic fields, and as the editors remark, some of the volcanoes have been so intensely stunning that it is a challenge to limit the space of their description. In contrast, other volcanoes are so little known that this book contains their first published descriptions.

This is a really spectacular book that sets out to summarize an incredible amount of information in as small a space as possible. If one is interested in volcanoes and their occurrence, this is probably a really fine source to turn to. Clearly, the major problem with such text is that the references to every volcano in this volume are restricted to only two pertinent publications, though these can start you on the trail. This magnificent book is the volcanologist's answer to all these guides to the birds, trees or the bullfrog in North America.

This text is in fact more serious than just an amateur's guide to volcanoes, though if you or your child are collectors of volcanoes, this is the book for you. The book is very professionally put together and as a source, it should be second to none. If you're interested in tracking down a particular type of volcano, you should find it in here and then be able to move on into the literature on that particular volcano.

The text is beautifully illustrated with sharp, pertinent photos and some maps. This book is a welcome addition to my shelves.