

which is solely devoted to recent studies of silver deposits and their exploitation.

This volume contains the proceedings of a conference on silver which was held in Mexico City in November 1988 and was jointly organised by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, the Silver Institute, and the Camara Minera de Mexico. There are 31 papers covering a variety of topics related to the geology, mining, and treatment of silver ores. Five main categories are included: (1) The geology and mineralogy of silver deposits (9 papers); (2) Case histories of deposit development (4 papers); (3) Extraction of silver from complex sulphide ores (5 papers); (4) Flotation methods (4 papers); and (5) The extraction and refining of silver ores (9 papers). The content of the book is more biased towards the mining and exploitation of silver deposits, and in particular those with 'epithermal' characteristics which are located in the western US and Mexico.

This is a well-produced publication containing an interesting series of papers. It is recommended reading for all who are interested in silver deposits of North America, and the mining and metallurgical treatment of silver ores.

D. H. M. ALDERTON

Collins, J. H. *Observations on the west of England mining region* (Facsimile of 1912 edition). Redruth (Cornish Mining Classics, 11a Glenfeadon Terrace, Portreath, Redruth TR16 4SX), 1988. 683 pp., 18 figs. Price £17.95.

J. H. Collins was an experienced geologist who worked in south-west England during the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this period he published more than fifty papers on the igneous rocks and mineralization of the region and these observations were brought together in 1912 to form volume 14 of the Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. In this monumental work he described the diverse mineral deposits of the province and summarized the current thinking on their genesis. Unfortunately this text is not particularly accessible and thus not consulted as often as it should be.

Essentially there are three sections to the book. The first is a discussion on the geology of the region and the characteristics of the ore deposits (mineral content, ore controls, relative ages of mineralization and magmatism, form). This is the most valuable aspect of the book, as Collins was able to study numerous mineral deposits whilst they were still in operation. Furthermore, this was a time when there were no mining geologists as

such, and it is interesting to note how many of the essential characteristics of the deposits were derived from mining experience and successfully applied in mine development. The second part describes the individual mining districts and presents historical accounts of the more important mines. Finally there is an alphabetical list of the more important mines with historical data on production. Several line drawings are also included but, unfortunately, Collins' artistic ability did not seem to match his powers of observation, and many are of doubtful value.

This work is of extreme importance for anyone who is interested in the mineral deposits of the region, and granite-associated mineralization in general. It has been faithfully reproduced and the publishers must be congratulated for making this important work available once more, and at a reasonable price. It is hoped that other 'mining classics' will follow soon.

D. H. M. ALDERTON

Federmann, D. and Hammid, T. *Modern Jeweler's Gem Profile: the First 60*. Shawnee Mission, Kansas (Vance Publishing Corporation), 1988. 131 pp., 60 colour pls. Price \$39.95.

This book presents a collection of market overviews of both traditional and less traditional gemstones from an American standpoint. Although coloured gemstones have been important in Europe and elsewhere for centuries, the diamond has always been the main interest in North America; however, the situation has been changing over the last twenty years with coloured stone imports increasing dramatically. *Modern Jeweler's* monthly column 'Gem Profile' has been appearing since 1983, and here the first 60 of these profiles, revised and updated, are gathered together in one volume, each giving information on supply, demand and price as well as a description of what each species possesses at its best in terms of colour, appearance and cutting. Each essay is accompanied by a colour plate of a high-quality example of the gemstone being discussed.

R.A.H.

Taucher, J., Postl, W., Moser, B., Jakely, D. and Golob, P. *Klöch: ein Sudoststeirisches Basaltvorkommen und Seine Minerale*. Graz, Austria (J. Taucher, Kaiser-Franz-Josef Kaiss, A-8010), 1989. 160 pp., 200 colour photos. Price: Austrian Schillings 1080.00.

This work presents an unusual combination of scientific mineral descriptions and aesthetically inspired mineral photography. More than 70

mineral species are described from the nepheline basanite and basalt of the large quarry at Klösch in SE Austria. They are illustrated by 200 colour photographs and 200 black-and-white illustrations (including morphological drawings and SEM photographs). Calcite, aragonite and numerous zeolites feature strongly.

R.A.H.

Farra, O. and Spencer, C. *Mineral Wealth of Saudi Arabia*. London (IMMEL Publishing Ltd), 1986. 128 pp. Price £23.75.

This book is a photographic record of some of the more interesting of the minerals, rocks, and fossils that the authors have come across during their travels in Saudi Arabia. It does not claim to be a scientific work, although a thread of geological background has been woven into the presentation. In addition to ores of Fe, Zn, Cu, Mo, W and Ti, Au occurs at King Solomon's mine at Mahd adh Dhahab. Also illustrated are olivine nodules, desert roses, fluorite, magnesite, baryte, graphite, diatomite etc.

R.A.H.