

# BOOKS

## GEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Edited by Richard H. Jahns  
California Division of Mines  
Bulletin No. 170 \$12.00

*Reviewed by Clarence R. Allen,  
Assistant Professor of Geology*

THIS BOOK is the first balanced treatment of southern California geology to become available. It represents years of painstaking planning and preparation by Dr. Jahns and the staff of the California Division of Mines, and includes contributions by 103 authors. The result is a monumental publication: 886 double-size pages (including over 500 diagrams and photographs), together with 63 folded geologic maps—many printed in colors.

The editor has attained admirable uniformity of style and continuity of subject matter, but has skillfully avoided elimination of controversial

material; indeed, the widely differing opinions of some authors serve to emphasize current geologic problems of this area. The outstanding achievement of the editor has been the stimulation and solicitation of numerous manuscripts that otherwise might not have been published for many years, if at all.

The contributions are primarily for professional readers, but the coverage is so great that many non-geologists will find articles of interest. Chapter titles include: Geology of the natural provinces; Historical geology; Structural features; Geomorphology; Hydrology; Mineralogy and petrology; Mineral deposits and mineral industry; Oil and gas; Engineering aspects of geology.

In addition, five guidebooks have been prepared for persons interested in geologic excursions in the southern California area. These guides, each with detailed route maps, are entitled: Western Mojave Desert and Death Valley region; Ventura basin and adjacent areas; Los Angeles basin; Southwestern part of the Los Angeles basin; Northern part of the Peninsular Range province.

Any list of particularly significant

individual contributions would certainly include: Levi Noble's map of a 50-mile strip of the San Andreas fault zone between Palmdale and Cajon Pass; Schoellhamer, Vedder, and Yerkes' 4-color geologic map of the Los Angeles basin; Dibblee's map and article on the hitherto-unknown geology of the Imperial Valley region; long-awaited contributions on the Death Valley area by Curry, Noble, and Wright; and the new Owens Valley map by P. C. Bateman and C. W. Merriman. Dr. Jahns himself has written or co-authored seven articles, and his drafting of the Transverse Range map is an artistic contribution in itself.

The 17 individual chapters and geologic guides have been bound separately and come shipped together in a labeled box. This format is probably more useful to the practicing geologist than would be a single 9½ pound tome; for librarians, on the other hand, it may be a headache.

Twelve dollars is a lot to pay for any book, but *Geology of Southern California* is a true geologic bargain at this price.

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