# BOOK REVIEW

Wilhelm MEYER, 2013. **Geologie der Eifel.** *Schweizerbart, Stuttgart*, 4th completely revised edition, 704 p., 157 fig., 12 tab., 8 photoplates, annex with geological map and block diagrams. ISBN 978-3-510-65279-2 (hardcover). Price € 68,00

Prof. Wilhelm Meyer has devoted a lifelong career at the University of Bonn to the study of the Eifel region. From an initial interest in Lower Devonian stratigraphy and tectonics (with publications starting in the 1950's) he moved up the stratigraphical scale to cover the Quaternary volcanism and associated landforms. For many decades Prof. Meyer has guided (amateur-) geologists through the Eifel and has generated a series of guidebooks. Prof. Meyer is a founding father of geotourism sensu stricto (not the more generic geographical tourism) as a viable branch of commercial tourist services, by developing a holistic approach linking the geological substrate to the vegetational cover (his ability to determine plants is phenomenal for different parts of the world) and cultural land use. Prof. Meyer was also among the staunch supporters of the once famous Meuse-Rhine Euregio Geologists Meetings and hosted this meeting in Bonn. So, a compilation on the geology of the Eifel could not be written by a better person.

The book starts with a very brief introduction to old studies covering the whole area, the overview of published 1:25,000 geological mapsheets to which continuously is referred throughout the text and some useful remarks to allow the reader to localise himself in front of the described phenomena.

The book follows a stratigraphic approach, going from old to young. The description of the Paleozoic starts with an overview of the Cambro-Ordovician stratigraphy, tectonics and intrusive of the Stavelot Massif (Venn Sattel). Reference is made to only pre-1994 Belgian literature; the geological map shown is the well known Geukens map but he is not referred to. However, the Cambro- Ordovician as well as the Carboniferous is marginal for the area discussed in this book and treated accordingly. The main attention goes to the Devonian, which covers 200 pages, described in sufficient detail to understand its facies development and regional variability. The post-Paleozoic from Permian to Tertiary and Quaternary reach 150-100 pages. The whole sequence is also presented as an overview until the late Tertiary volcanism is treated: each volcanic (and also or) occurrence is located without lengthy explanation: no copy-paste from existing publications is admitted, with exception of the illustrations. For the Quaternary the balance is tipped towards volcanism, followed by the associated mineral water, seismicity, terrace geomorphology and prehistoric man. It is amazing how many precursors there were for the Eifel volcanism and how these fit into an evolutionary scheme. Anyway the reader is referred to the original studies and books by H.-U. Schmincke. The text part of the book ends with 70 pages on the different geological subregions, from Stavelot Massif in the northwest via the Middle Devonian Kalkmulden basins, as an introduction to their field reconnaissance (by other means). This is a regional summary of the main events that have marked each region, illustrated by many block diagrams. The book terminates with more than 50 dense pages of reference, a glossary (10 p.) and a locality register.

Geologie der Eifel is not meant to be entertaining lecture or to be used as a guidebook. The number of illustrations is limited; just a few photoplates showing the landscape are included. The author himself refers the reader to more lavishly illustrated 'popular' books about the Eifel, and to combine this compilation with more practical guidebooks when touring the Eifel. Many guides are available addressing a wider audience, covering the Eifel as a whole (e.g. Deutsche Vulkanstrasse, a trail of 280 km through the Eifel compiled by Wolfgang Blum and Wilhelm Meyer) or dedicated to more localized areas (e.g. Begleitbuch zum Geo-Pfad Hillesheim/Vulkaneifel). It should be noted that there exists a UNESCO Global Network of Geoparks Vulkaneifel Geopark, covering the western volcanic area of the Eifel, and a national Geopark Osteifel, covering the larger and more populated eastern volcanic area.

Publication of this voluminous book is facilitated by the interest shown by the Deutschen Vulkanologischen Gesellschaft and the Geomuseen des Geo- und Naturparks Vulkaneifel. Persons or groups who are willing to know more about the geological history of this fascinating region or dig into its geological archives will find this compilation most useful. The easy to follow systematic overview and the extensive literature list make this German-language book a compulsory acquisition for all libraries collecting information on the regional geology of NW Europe.

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