

Buchbesprechung

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **BookReview**

Zeitschrift: **Bulletin für angewandte Geologie**

Band (Jahr): **1 (1996)**

Heft 1

PDF erstellt am: **30.09.2023**

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Treatise on the Geology of Trinidad

History of the Treatise project

In the early fifties, Dr. Hans Kugler initiated the task of preparing a Treatise on the Geology of Trinidad. He did this in cooperation with the geologists and palaeontologists working in Trinidad at that time and in academic institutions elsewhere. It was to include as its central piece a geological map and sections at the scale of 1 : 100'000. Other important parts of the project were a stratigraphic lexicon and 32 detailed maps and sections.

The map and sections at 1 : 100'000 were completed in 1959 and published by Orell Fuessli, Zurich. The stratigraphic lexicon had already been produced in 1956 as a part of the series *Lexique Stratigraphique International* (Fasc. 2b, Antilles, 126 p.).

The Cretaceous to Middle Miocene planktic and benthic foraminifera have been published in considerable detail and their stratigraphic significance discussed in a whole series of special papers. The foraminifera of this time interval are amongst the most completely described and illustrated, not only in the Caribbean region, but also worldwide. These foraminiferal investigations are also to be regarded as an important part of the Treatise project. The zonal scheme arising from these studies was used to date many of the sediments shown on the 1 : 100'000 geological map. It is still valid today.

The published geological map of Trinidad was based on work sheets of much larger scale. The final developmental stage was the production of eight sheets at a scale of 1 : 50'000. Hand coloured copies of these were produced, one of which is housed in the Ministry of Energy in Trinidad, another in the Natural History Museum Basel, Switzerland.

Also drawn at the same time were 32 detailed maps and sections illustrating type localities and areas of special interest. These are, to a large degree, still usable as they are based on surface geology that is still valid.

Detailed geological maps and sections

The Natural History Museum Basel, where documents pertaining to the Treatise project are kept has decided to make these 32 detailed maps and sections available. Not only because of the continuing great interest in the geology of Trinidad, but in particular also as a tribute to Hans Kugler who initiated them.

Offered and included with the set of the 32 uncoloured, detailed maps and sections are also copies of the coloured, published map and sections at the 1 : 100'000 scale.

It contains further a Cretaceous and a Tertiary chart each showing ages, formations, standard and Trinidad planktic foraminiferal zonal schemes, references to zonal localities and descriptions of planktic foraminiferal zones. A stratigraphic correlation chart of Trinidad and eastern Venezuela and explanatory notes on the detailed maps complete the set. The package is offered by the Museum of Natural History, Basel, at cost that covers copying and distribution expenses.

The set can be obtained through the Natural History Museum Basel for US \$ 150.00 prepaid. Checks should be addressed and sent to: Natural History Museum Basel, P.O. Box, CH-4001 Basel.

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