

REVIEW

Salt domes, Gulf region—United States and Mexico; by Michael T. Halbouty. P. xvi, 423. Houston, Texas, 1967 (Gulf Publishing Co., \$23.50).—This reference work is the first of its kind to be published on the Gulf Coast region of the United States and Mexico. Although the book is concerned with the salt domes of that region, the author carefully wrote the book to appeal to a broad audience, one that includes not only the Gulf Coast geologist and geophysicist, but also earth scientists working in any diapiric province of the world. Geologists and geophysicists, engineers and economists, university students and faculties, and researchers—interested in diapirism, the petroleum industry, history of petroleum geology, the sulfur and salt industries, mineral economics, drilling problems in diapiric provinces, and the literature of diapirism—will find the book to be an invaluable data source. It will also be of interest to the well-informed layman.

The foreword was written by Dr. Carey Croneis, Chancellor of Rice University. The body of the book consists of 9 chapters (39 percent of the book), an illustrated appendix of 11 different types of domes (6 percent), an author and subject bibliography (27 percent), a catalogue of all known domes from Alabama to Mexico, with lists of all references pertaining to each dome (20 percent), and a subject index (8 percent). Excluding the introduction, the chapters deal with “Evaporite deposition in the Gulf region” (chap. 2), “Origin and growth of salt structures” (chap. 3), “Configuration and composition” (chap. 4), “Classification of salt structures” (chap. 5), “Accumulations of gas and oil” (chap. 6), “Factors affecting quantity of accumulation” (chap. 7), “Economic significance of salt structures” (chap. 8), and “Salt dome drilling and production problems” (chap. 9).

The illustrations are mainly in color. Although there are some black and white figures, the text contains 67 colored cross sections and maps; two large folded colored maps are in a pocket. The color registry is excellent, and the figures illustrate the text very clearly; good selection and balance have been achieved.

The subject matter is handled well. After giving the reader a brief but adequate background on the geology of the Gulf of Mexico region, salt structures and their importance, and the history of salt-dome concepts, Halbouty discusses the practical and economic aspects of salt domes and their effects on our daily lives. It is clear that Halbouty has familiarized himself with every aspect of this subject. He manages to summarize within a single volume, in the space of only 162 pages, 125 years of knowledge, published and unpublished, of the use of science and engineering in developing the huge oil, gas, sulfur, and salt deposits of the Gulf Coast. Although much of the discussion is oriented toward economics, the approach throughout is scientific; Halbouty believes strongly that, without the scientific method, the scientists' approach, and the generation of new scientific ideas, new hydrocarbon, sulfur, and salt reserves will not be discovered, and new uses will not be found for the domes themselves.

Unquestionably the greatest contribution of the book is the bibliography: there are more than 1000 references on Gulf Coast diapiric structures, from Alabama to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, including the Sigbee Knolls in the center of the Gulf of Mexico.

If for no other reason, the bibliography makes this book an essential purchase for every reference library, whether in the university, the office, or the home.

The bibliography is in two parts. The bibliography by authors is arranged alphabetically. If an article is by more than one author, the entry is repeated under each author's name. The bibliography by subjects is also alphabetical, and key words from the title begin each entry. If a title has five key words, the entry appears five times.

Following the bibliography is an index of every known salt dome in the region. The domes are grouped by state and county or parish. Under the name of each dome, all literature pertaining to that dome is listed.

The style is pleasant and sufficiently informal that reading is not dull. A few humorous stories are included—not the least of which is one of the early methods of “manufacturing” low-filtrate-loss drilling muds! These stories punctuate “routine” passages most effectively. The reviewer believes that Mr. Halbouty has made a valuable and lasting contribution to the profession with this book.

A. A. MEYERHOFF

ERRATUM

WATER PRESSURES DURING DIFFERENTIATION AND CRYSTALLIZATION OF SOME ASH-FLOW MAGMAS FROM SOUTHERN NEVADA

Discussion by A. Ewart and Reply by Peter W. Lipman

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We discovered that the last two lines on page 905 should have been the first two lines on page 904.