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BOOK REVIEW

Stjepan MARKOVIĆ: Hrvatske mineralne sirovine

(in Croatian - Croatian Mineral Raw Materials)

XVI+544 p., 321 figs., 18 maps, 1 geological map, 31 tables, 700 copies, Institute of Geology, Zagreb, 2002, ISBN 953-6907-01-1

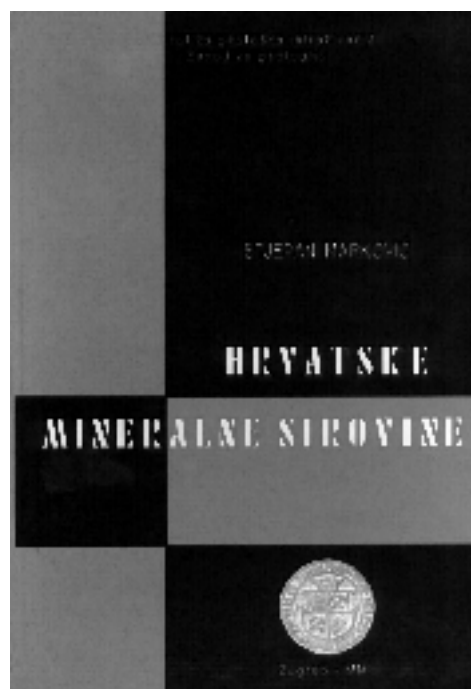
At the beginning of May a new book by Stjepan Marković entitled “Hrvatske mineralne sirovine” was published by the Department of Geology, Institute of Geology, Zagreb. The book was reviewed by the late Prof. Dr. Branko Crnković and Mr. Pavao Bradarić, MSc. Đuro Benček was editor-in-chief, Dr.Sc. Igor Vlahović technical editor and MSc. Ivan Marković language editor. The front page was designed by Oto Basch BSc. Printing of this book was financially supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Croatia and the Institute of Geology, Zagreb.

After several years collating an incredible amount of information from the literature and unpublished data from numerous reports (mostly deposited in the archives of the Institute of Geology, Zagreb), as well as communication with many colleagues, Stjepan Marković prepared a 560 page book with a detailed review of 5-6 centuries of mining activities in Croatia.

The book is hard bound, comprising 6 parts, with more than 300 (mostly colour) illustrations from various sources. At the end of each section there is a map showing the locations of mineral occurrences and deposits (there are more than 3,000 localities mentioned in the text). Descriptions are commonly quite comprehensive, including the history of investigation, general geological, stratigraphical, petrographical and chemical data, information on exploitation and reserves, and also unknown historical notes which add interest for every reader. At the end of each chapter there is a reference list, including not only the major published papers, but also numerous unpublished reports, which broaden the data base of available information (approximately 2,700 references are cited). Described localities are illustrated by numerous figures - geological maps, profiles and columns, photographs and copies of original documents.

The first part comprises 96 pages of text and figures on the occurrences and deposits of metals: aluminium (bauxites), copper, manganese, lead, zinc, silver, uranium, gold, iron and mercury.

In the second, 236 page section, there are descriptions of non-metallic ore deposits: barite, cement,



dolomite, phosphorite, germanium, gypsum, different kinds of clays, graphite, iodine, calcite, architectural-building and technical stone, lake chalk, quartz, talc, pegmatites, pellites, sands and gravel, rare minerals, salt, sulphur and tuffs.

The third part comprises 150 pages on fossil fuels: coal (peat, lignite, brown and pit-coal), petroleum and gas, asphalt and oil “shales” and wax.

Part four (approximately 40 pages long), deals with thermal and mineral waters (natural thermal and mineral springs and thermo-mineral waters discovered by drilling), while the fifth part presents a short overview of peloid deposits.

The sixth part comprises references of all sheets and explanatory notes of the Basic Geological Map that were used during the preparation of the book.

Preparation of every professional and scientific book represents a real endeavour, since the author has

to be very careful to select the best data from the huge amount currently available. This makes this book even more precious: it spans a break (several decades long) in Croatian publishing on raw materials, and the author, Mr. Stjepan Marković has successfully incorporated extensive information in a well-rounded and balanced work. Therefore, this book is more than a handbook: it is very thorough, and therefore will be very useful for all geologists (not only specialists for exploitation purposes or re-evaluation of mineral resources, but also other geologists for information on their work or gener-

al geological culture), but its simple style makes the book comprehensible to people of other professions. Last but not least, this book should appear on the bookshelves of many municipalities, where local people could find a lot of information on the natural resources of their area and interesting stories on the history of their investigation, which are, or would otherwise definitely be forgotten.

The book of Stjepan Marković "Hrvatske mineralne sirovine" can be ordered from the Institute of Geology Zagreb; the price is 280 kn (approximately 40 EUR).

Igor VLAHOVIĆ