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Book review

Recent Advances in Understanding Precambrian Gold Deposits. S. E. Ho, D. I. Groves (eds). Geological Department and University Extension, The University of Western Australia 1987. 368 pp., ISBN 0-909-70455-4, price: on request

No doubt it is an impossible task to compress recent investigations of the geological evolution of Precambrian gold deposits into one volume containing only 370 pages. Nevertheless, the title of the publication is somewhat misleading and seems a bit overstated, because the main emphasis is undoubtedly paid to Archean gold deposits of Western Australia. Younger Precambrian Au mineralization (e.g. Proterozoic) are hardly referred to, along with an outline of their world-wide distribution which would seem more than appropriate in this specific context. Of the 24 papers presented, 20 specifically deal with the geological framework, tectonics, mineralization and geochemics of gold deposits located in Western Australia. Those papers offer comprehensive and detailed information on the contrasting mineralization types encountered on the Western Australian craton and the recent techniques and advances in the investigation of the modes of origin of these deposits. Only four additional papers are devoted to gold deposits outside Australia

(South Africa: Barberton Mountain Land and Witwatersrand. China: mineralization related to Archean Greenstone belts in Northern China).

Some contributors (especially those presenting papers on fluid inclusion studies and isotope-geochemistry) obviously dedicated too much room to the detailed description of their methods of investigation like sample preparation and selection, a topic of only secondary interest within the general framework of the publication.

In spite of that, a solid and complete selection of papers on the regional geological evolution of *Archean* gold deposits in Western Australia is presented along with ample references to previous works and many useful hints to researchers working on similar deposits.

For a future extension of this volume into a series on Precambrian gold deposits, the editors should try to get away from the regional concern of their present publication by including more global information on gold deposits in the period under consideration.

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