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Devonian Events and Correlations, edited by R.T. Becker & W.T. Kirchgasser, 2007. Geological Society (London) Special Publication 278. The Geological Society of London, The Geological Society Publishing House, Unit 7, Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Brassmill Lane, Bath, BA1 3JN, United Kingdom. Hardback, 280 pages. Price GBP 75.00; USD 150.00 (fellow price GBP 37.50; other eligible societies' price GBP 45.00; USD 90.00. ISBN 978-1-86239-222-9.



Some of the main events during the Devonian, such as the evolution of the paleoecological and taxonomical composition of terrestrial, neritic and pelagic faunal and floral assemblages and facies, have been fundamentally problematic for across-facies correlations. Currently all official Devonian series and stage definitions haven been ratified, but all of them were defined in the pelagic facies realm. Their worldwide recognition in other facies belts is still a major task that is partly addressed by contributions in this book.

In March 2004, an international symposium was organised on Devonian neritic-pelagic correlation and events, which was followed by an excursion in the poorly accessible Draa Valley of SW Morocco. That meeting and this book honour the prominent Devonian stratigrapher, Prof. Michael Robert House.

Included in this book are contributions covering, among other aspects, (1) pelagic, neritic and terrestrial environments (Blieck et al.; Marshall et al.); (2) case studies on rare neritic fossils found in pelagic settings and vice versa (Ebbinghausen et al.); (3) studies on specific short-term global events (Marshall et al.), such as mass-extinction events near the Frasnian-Famennian (Riquier et al.; Hartkopf-Froeder et al.) and at the end-Devonian boundary (Brice et al.); (4) correlations of regional sequences that are influenced by the Eovariscan tectonic activity, by geochemistry and magnetostratigraphy (Kaiser et al).

All contributions aim at global correlation or at regional application of established global time definitions, but some papers specifically cover various areas in Morocco, the site of the meeting (Jansen et al.; Kaiser et al.; Brice et al.). Three focus on one of the most classic Devonian areas: Eastern North America (De Santis et al.; Bartholomew et al.; Ver Straeten et al.), where now a holistic-stratigraphic approach is possible, encompassing and combining litho-, bio-, and sequence stratigraphy. Other areas discussed are Germany, France and Algeria.

The contributions all show how classical biostratigraphy, combined with modern sequence-, magneto- and chemostratigraphy, allow a much better understanding of regional and global changes in environments, thus allowing reconstructions of plate-tectonic and climatic evolution that resulted in flooded continents, blooming life forms and mass extinctions.

As usual for publications of the Geological Society, this one is well executed. It certainly is beneficial for Devonian stratigraphers wishing to keep abreast with progress in Devonian stratigraphy and understanding the regional geological context. This publication is a very honourable memento to the lifetime stratigraphic contributions of Dr House and it is fully recommended.

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