One possible criticism is that the book provides little in the way of synthesis: although it offers a series of detailed windows onto Triassic environments, it does not trace the underlying evolutionary patterns in depth nor does it offer any novel perspectives on these events. In addition, the most recent references cited in the book date from 2002–3, thereby missing a large amount of new information that became available prior to the 2006 publication date. These issues notwithstanding, the book will be of great interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as providing a useful summary of information for professional palaeontologists and geologists. The large number of colour illustrations, provision of a comprehensive glossary and appendices that provide introductions to tetrapod anatomy and other specialist topics will also make this volume accessible to a wider, popular audience.

Paul M. Barrett

MORENO, T. & GIBBONS, W. (eds) 2007. *The Geology of Chile*. viii + 414 pp. London, Bath: Geological Society of London. Price £85.00 (hard covers), £35.00 (paperback). ISBN 9781 86239 219 9; 9781 86239 220 5 (pb).
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One of the things that particularly appeals to many geologists, both professional and amateur, is the way that our understanding of the ancient is built upon experiencing the present. Chile is an amazing country that is over 4000 km long and ranges in climate from the Atacama Desert in the north to the temperate rainforests and glaciers of the south. The geology of Chile is dominated by the Andean mountain belt caused by the ongoing subduction of the Pacific plate under the South American continent as part of the Pacific 'ring of fire'. Geology is very much a living science in Chile, with its many active andesitic stratovolcanoes being a draw for tourists and geologists alike (as a petroleum geologist/palaeontologist working just over the border in neighbouring Argentina, my interest in Chile lies somewhere between the two).

The book itself is well put together and nicely compliments the other revamped *The Geology of*... books in the series. It is comprehensive in its scope, covering basement processes, the ubiquitous magmatism and volcanism, economic resources, tectonostratigraphy and neotectonics, as well as aspects of the marine geology, Quaternary geology and early human colonization. One of the ideas that I liked the most in the book is the inclusion of a suggested field excursion chapter – not an easy thing to do in a country as vast as Chile, but the itinerary I think would appeal to a lot of geologists wanting to get a flavour of the large-scale geology of the region.

In short it is a wonderful resource for both the serious researcher looking to get a 'heads up' on current research in Chile, and the geotourist, looking for a text to dip into in order to get some background on the region they are visiting. I have been going to and fro from southern Patagonia for many years and often bemoaned the fact that there was not an easy source of regional geological information. Finally it is here; with the publication of this volume I am much more knowledgeable about the tectonostratigraphic evolution of the area I travel through, the eruption history of the volcanoes, *et cetera*. The authors and editors are to be commended for packing a tremendous amount of information into the chapters in a manner which is highly accessible. I am sure that this book will inspire many geologists to get involved in Chilean geology. I can't wait to go back and look at a lot of things again with my eyes opened.

Duncan McIlroy

BRENCHLEY, P. J. & RAWSON, P. F. (eds) 2006. *The Geology of England and Wales*, 2nd ed. viii + 559 pp. London, Bath: Geological Society of London. Price £85.00, US $153.00 (hard covers), £35.00, US $63.00 (paperback); GSL members' price £42.50, US $77.00 (hard covers), £27.50, US $50.00 (paperback); AAPG/SEPM/GSA/RAS/EFG/PESGB members' price £51.00, US $92.00 (hard covers), £27.50, US $50.00 (paperback). ISBN 9781 86239 199 4 (hc); 9781 86239 200 7 (pb).
doi:10.1017/S0016756808005633

The first edition of *The Geology of England and Wales* was published in 1992 and inevitably the succeeding decade and a half has seen an enormous increase in information and a deepening of our understanding of the geology of this part of Avalonia. The current edition has contributions from 40 authors whose work has been critiqued and refereed by another substantial panel of experts. As a result, we can have a high level of confidence in the overall accuracy of the text and innumerable figures that are so important to a book like this. And then there are the editors, Pat Brenchley and Peter Rawson, who have pulled it all together, with so many contributors – editing such a work is an immense task. Brenchley & Rawson thank their respective spouses for their 'patience, especially when the editing lasted well into our 'retirement''. The whole geological community is lucky that there are still those with sufficient experience and knowledge who are prepared to take on such work from which we all benefit for another decade or more.

Structurally, the bulk of the present edition is arranged chronologically in three sections (Early Palaeozoic, Late Palaeozoic, and Mesozoic to Quaternary), each with chapters on significant intervals of time, from the Neoproterozoic onwards, set against the developing plate tectonic background. For instance the Early Palaeozoic section has three chapters, firstly on the 'Cambrian and Ordovician' and the tectonostratigraphic evolution; secondly on the 'Silurian; the influence of extensional tectonics' and thirdly 'The Lakesman Terrane'.

The complexity and amount of the information in each chapter is so great that they have to be very clearly organized with a considerable use of a hierarchy of headings. For the reader looking for some specific information, the index is a vital tool for direction. Fortunately, the index has been carefully compiled to give as good coverage as possible. Inevitably most references are pre-2005 but I did spot the odd 2006 one. Finally, the illustrations: since they are derived from so many different sources, it is inevitable that they should vary in style, presentation and size so that some could have usefully been larger and others smaller but this does not detract from the overall worth of the book. More importantly, the 40 or so colour images (albeit mostly in a bundle) are a very useful addition, especially as they are well reproduced.

Like its companion volumes *The Geology of Scotland* and *The Geology of Ireland*, *The Geology of England and Wales* is an essential reference work on British geology. Hopefully the Geological Society will continue to encourage the production and publishing of such 'staging posts' in the development of our geological understanding.

Douglas Palmer

*References*

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