

dominates the Gemic units, especially the central part. Variscan ages of a first slaty cleavage are only partially preserved at the northern border zone and to a lesser extent in the South. Summarizing, a Jurassic metamorphic event is not justified by the available data.

To understand the evolution in the Meliatic, new information from localized amphibolite grade rocks which have been overprinted under HP-LT conditions (glaucophane bearing) are of importance. These slivers of various micaschist were earlier interpreted as Variscan relics, because the muscovite yielded very uniform Ar/Ar ages at 370 Ma. However, it turned out that these muscovites are not relics but porphyroblasts, grown in a matrix of basic tuffitic material and showing Jurassic Rb/Sr ages.

As a consequence the Meliatic Jurassic subduction started with (localized) prograde amphibolite-facies conditions and later reached HP-LT conditions. Furthermore, these peculiar rocks with identical excess Ar ages are now exposed in form of small slivers along a distance of 60 km along strike direction. Most probably they have been dismembered during a strike slip event after their HP-metamorphism and prior to their emplacement in the present tectonic architecture.

A key for understanding may be the Late Jurassic palaeogeographic situation. Almost at the same time when the Meliatic HP event was active, the crustal block of Tisia - formerly located roughly at the area occupied nowadays by the W-Carpathians - was dismembered from the European continent. The consequences of these movements will be discussed.

Weiters wurden representativ Sedimentproben in Harz gehärtet, Dünnschliffe hergestellt und mittels Durchlichtmikroskopie mineralogisch untersucht.

WINKELBAUER, T. (1992): Von Hüttenmeistern und Glasmachern, Aschenbrennern und Flussiedern. - Das Waldviertel, Jahrgang **41** (52.), Heft 3, 225-252, Horn.

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### Rates and mechanisms of Miocene to Pleistocene exhumation in the Central Himalayas

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The interplay between erosionaly controlled and tectonically driven exhumation is a key factor that determines the morphology of mountain ranges and there is much debate how these processes interact and how exhumation velocities vary with time. We use information from five isotopic systems (<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar white mica, zircon fission track, (U-Th)/He zircon, apatite fission track, (U-Th)/He apatite) to constrain mode and velocity variation of central Himalayan exhumation between Miocene to Pleistocene times. Cooling ages are transferred to exhumation velocities by use of a new technique that relates the spatial distribution of geochronological data with isotherm geometries, displacement paths and topography. Data elaborated across Tethys Himalayas (north), Higher Himalayan Metamorphics, Lesser Himalayan Metamorphics and Lesser Himalayan Sediments (south) display non-steady state exhumation. Tectonically driven Miocene extrusion of the Himalayan metamorphic sequences at velocities of ~ 1-3 mm/yr and a climax around 13 Ma was followed by a period of tectonic calmness. Around 2.5 Ma ago, the high mountain relief was established by accelerated heterogeneous exhumation. Coevally, sediment delivery rates to the southern foreland increased. Within the Higher Himalayan metamorphic wedge exhumation velocities decreased southwards from >5 mm/yr, immediately south to the reactivated South Tibetan Detachment Zone to ~ 3 mm/yr at the Main Central Thrust Zone. At ~ 0.5 Ma tectonic exhumation ceased and erosion rates (~ 2.5-4 mm/yr) exceeded tectonic exhumation.

### Grain boundary systematic by use of fractal geometry

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The shape of mineral grains and grain boundaries during deformation is a result of different operating deformation mechanisms which in turn reflect physical and chemical conditions during