

Das Geologische Erbe der Karnischen Alpen

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The new book summarizes almost 200 years of scientific research in the Paleozoic sequences of the Carnic Alps. Main focus is laid on new results starting in the second half of the 20th century carried out on both sides of the mountain chain, i.e. in southern Austria and northern Italy. We stress the importance of applying not only a cross-border cooperation but also new geoscientific disciplines, methodologies and techniques, which enable a well-founded knowledge basis to decipher the long-lasting history of this region starting in the Ordovician and ranging to the middle Triassic. During this long time the Carnic Alps were travelling from high southern latitudes towards north to tropical and equatorial realms. During the Permian they crossed the equator to drift in the following periods slowly to the present position.

The geological heritage of this well-known sedimentary sequence ranges from spectacular rocks of shallow water to the deep ocean, embracing fossiliferous Ordovician and Silurian shallow to deep water rocks and faunas, lagoonal, reef, fore-reef and off-shore sequences of the Devonian, Flysch deposits of the Lower and Middle Carboniferous ending up in the Variscan orogeny. Following this structural break post-orogenic molasse sediments provide impressive insights into the rich past life of several animal and floral groups which inhabited the land and shallow sea.

References

SCHÖNLAUB, H. P. & FORKE, H. C. mit Beiträgen von Susanne Pohler, Gerlinde Krawanja-Ortner, Herbert Kabon & Fritz Messner (2021): Das Geologische Erbe der Karnischen Alpen, Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein für Kärnten, 304 S.