

A NEW BOOK ON KOMATIITES

Our readers involved in the studies of komatiites are familiar with the 526-page book, 'Komatiites', edited by N.T. Arndt and E.G. Nisbet, and published by George Allen & Unwin, London, in 1982. They will now be delighted to know that a new 488-page book, 'Komatiites', authored by Nicholas Arndt, C. Michael Kesher, and Steve J. Barnes, has been published by the Cambridge University Press, in 2008.

Part I of the book has seven chapters: (1) A brief history of komatiite studies and a discussion of komatiite nomenclature. (2) Brief descriptions of six classic komatiite occurrences. (3) Field characteristics, textures and structures. (4) Mineralogy. (5) Geochemistry. (6) Isotopic compositions of komatiites and (7) Experimental petrology.

Part II of the book has seven chapters: (1) Physical properties of komatiites. (2) Physical volcanology. (3) Komatiite-associated Ni-Cu-PGE deposits. (4) The hydrous komatiite hypothesis. (5) Compositions and eruption temperatures of komatiitic liquids. (6) Petrogenesis of

komatiite and (7) Geodynamic setting.

The book has an exhaustive list of 'References' (44 pages), 166 black and white illustrations, 4 colour illustrations, and 29 tables. The size of the book is 247 mm x 174 mm and its weight is 1.1 kg. The cost of the book is Rs.8087.

The following information may interest our readers not familiar with komatiites: "Komatiites erupted billions of years ago as pulsating streams of white-hot lava. Their unusual chemical compositions and exceptionally high formation temperatures produced highly fluid lava that crystallized as spectacular layered flows. Investigations of the extreme conditions in which komatiites formed provides important evidence about the thermal and chemical evolution of the planet and the nature of the Precambrian mantle."

AMD, DAE
Hyderabad – 500 016

V. JAYANTHI
S. VISWANATHAN