

Rocks and Minerals Information 1976

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Volume 3, numéro 2, may 1976

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/geocan03_02rv14

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

The Geological Association of Canada

ISSN

0315-0941 (imprimé)
unknown (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Middleton, G. V. (1976). Compte rendu de [Rocks and Minerals Information 1976]. *Geoscience Canada*, 3(2), 143–143.

sedimentary structures are not mentioned, nor facies relationships in channel and floodplain successions. The reason for this omission may be the author's view that alluvial floodplains rarely have more than a thin veneer of sediment: "There is no cumulative depositing tendency in any specific region of the river's length except its actual outlet into standing water or into a very much slower current". Again, referring to flood stage: "... most rivers sweep their channels clean to expose, though not to direct observation, a flat basement of worn bed-rock; this exposure of rock is part of the broad flattish floor that underlies continuously the flood-plain carpet of alluvium". Contrary to this view, innumerable modern and ancient fluvial successions show that floodplains are commonly depositional landforms, with considerable net accumulation. Another significant topic which is scarcely mentioned is the importance of river studies in engineering practice.

Aside from these shortcomings (of which examples could be multiplied), I found the author's style wordy, repetitive, and replete with philosophical harangues on the virtues of independent thought as opposed to the acceptance of established ideas. Dr. Crickmay is also fond of criticising ill-defined groups, such as "equilibrists", "textbooks", or "accepted theory".

In all honesty, I cannot recommend the first half of this book to anyone, but the latter part is more authoritative, and may be of interest to those concerned with landscape evolution. However, the reader would find a more balanced account of the same topic in the proceedings of a symposium (to which Dr. Crickmay contributed), reviewed in December 1975 *Geotimes*, and to be published shortly by the State University of New York at Binghamton.

MS received January 30, 1976.

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*Ontario Division of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3, 31 p., 1976.
Free.*

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This unpretentious yet excellent booklet, revised annually, gives information about those geological maps and reports on the geology of Ontario that are of interest to the general public. It also gives full details of who to write to and how much money to send, as well as providing brief notes on many of the publications listed. It lists not only ODM maps and reports (among which the excellent "Geological Guide Books" are naturally given particular prominence) but also publications of the GSC, Guidebooks of the International Geological Congress, and brochures available (many of them free of charge) from industry and from other government agencies. Sources of rock and mineral specimens are also given, and a list of 73 "rock shops" and 13 mineral clubs in Ontario. Eight "rock hound" magazines and two geological magazines (including *Geoscience Canada*) are also listed.

This is exactly the type of information most frequently sought by school teachers, university students, and amateur mineralogists and geologists. The ODM (and particularly E. B. Freeman of the Geoscience Information Office) have performed a valuable service in producing this booklet - but the job is only half done so long as the public does not know about it. Spreading copies of this booklet around should be the task of every professional geologist in Ontario. Get a few copies and hand them on to those who might be interested!

MS received February 23, 1976.