

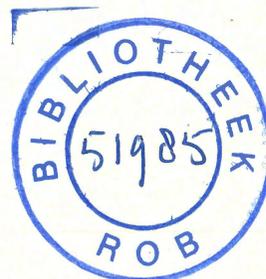
# THE VARISCAN OROGEN IN EUROPE

- Final report of the Study Group 'The Variscan Orogen in Europe' of Working Group 9  
of the Inter-Union Commission on Geodynamics (I.C.G.) -



## PREFACE

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In 1970 the Inter-Union Commission on Geodynamics (I.C.G.) started its activities in a follow-up program of the Upper Mantle Project, which also was a joint enterprise of I.U.G.S. and I.U.G.G. From the beginning it was planned that the work was to be carried out by ten working groups, each with an interdisciplinary character. One of these groups, working group 9, under the chairmanship of Prof. V. V. Beloussov had as its theme 'History and interactions of tectonic, metamorphic and magmatic processes' and consisted of about 17 members. At a meeting of this working group during the 24th International Geological Congress (Montreal, 1976) it was decided to create a number of study groups, each dealing with a part of a specific mountain belt. One of these study groups on the Variscan orogen of Europe was chaired by the first author. The working group proposed that a number of new profiles through each of the selected orogenic belts should be constructed.

After a rather slow start, consisting mainly of correspondence with a number of geologists in Europe, the program for the Variscan orogen got well underway in 1975 when a full-time assistant for 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years became available. In this position, funded by the Netherlands Organization for Pure Research, (Z.W.O.), Dr. U. F. Dornsiepen from Braunschweig was appointed. An informal group of about 20 geologists from various countries in Europe was formed. Every member of this group undertook to contribute to the project, with one or two new profiles through a part of the Variscan belt of Europe (see Fig. 1).

The study group met several times; in Leiden in May 1976, in Göttingen in September 1977, and again in Leiden in Sep-

tember 1978. The latter meeting was followed by an excursion through the Variscan chain, starting in the Ardennes and ending in the Montagne Noire. During these sessions discussions about the project were held.

The final results were discussed in 1978 and since then the maps, and accompanying text have been assembled for publication in this issue. Unfortunately not all members were able to send in their contribution and it is regrettable that the Armorican Massif and the French Central Massif are not represented here. Scientific communications of the 1976 meeting were published in 'Krystalinikum' and those of 1977 in the 'Zeitschrift der deutschen geologischen Gesellschaft'.

During the last years several books on the Variscan chain of Europe have appeared, like the 'Kossmat Symposium' (Karl Marx Stadt), 'La Chaîne Varisque d'Europe, International Colloquium C.N.R.S.' (Rennes); other data appeared in: 'Geology of Europe, 26th International Geological Congress' (Paris, 1980).

Although partly the same authors contributed to these volumes, it is evident that as a result of the type of presentation chosen, much new material is offered in this issue of *Geologie en Mijnbouw*. The main emphasis of these contributions is placed on profiles, maps and other diagrams, whereas the text is relatively short.

The support of the Netherlands Organization for Pure Research both for providing an assistant and for a subsidy towards the printing costs of this volume is gratefully acknowledged here. Moreover, thanks are due to Chevron Oil Company, Mobil Oil N.V. and the 'Leidse Universiteits Fonds' for financial support of the Leiden meetings.

We are grateful to Dr. R. Lisle for correcting a number of manuscripts.

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Fig. 1

Location of the cross-sections through the European Variscides, presented in this issue.

1 = Naylor et al.; 2 = Hancock et al. + Matthews; 3 = Geukens; 4 = Weber; 5 = Maass; 6 = Schwab & Mathé + Suk & Weiss; 7 = Jantsky; 8 = Ebner et al.; 9 = Von Raumer; 10 = Zwart; 11 = Savage; 12 = Julivert; 13 = Den Tex; 14 = Ribeiro; 15 = Carmignani et al.