

Foreword

This present volume contains fourteen papers which are dealing with the geological evolution of different parts of the Eastern Mediterranean. The volume is dedicated to Gotthard Kowalczyk on the occasion of his 65th birthday that was celebrated on 11 May 2007 when the geo-community had honoured him with a colloquium in the new Geoscience Centre at Frankfurt University.

Gotthard Kowalczyk was born in Oppeln/Schlesien on 22 February 1942. After the end of the world war he had to move to Austria and later to West Germany where he studied geology in Köln and Tübingen. In the frame of his PhD research he investigated Quaternary rocks of the Niederrheinische Bucht (Germany). After finishing his PhD thesis in 1969, he moved to Frankfurt University acting as scientific assistant of Hans Murawski. His habilitation thesis (1979) focused on the Permian strata and paleogeography of the Wetterau and surroundings. From 1986 to 1989 he served as a lecturer at the universities of Würzburg and Kiel and in 1989 he became full professor at Frankfurt University. The scientific outcome of his field studies in Germany (Permian stratigraphy and paleogeography), Greece (sedimentology and tectonostratigraphy of the External Hellenides) and Brazil (Permomesozoic stratigraphy and sedimentation of the Paraná Basin) formed the base for his scientific career. His extended research on Mesozoic and Cenozoic rocks of the Peloponnese was awarded with an honorary membership by the Greek Geological Society.

As professor of the Frankfurt University Gotthard Kowalczyk supervised numerous diploma and PhD theses, most of which were based on field studies in Hessen, Peloponnese and Crete. He also was an impressive university lecturer and very popular with the students. He gave classes in general geology, sedimentology, regional geology, remote sensing and stratigraphy. When leading mapping courses and field trips, he always insisted on the importance of field experience. Most of his former students are now working in the oil, salt and coal business, engineering companies and geological surveys.

The first four papers of this volume (Robertson et al., Klein et al., Zulauf et al. and Frydas et al.) are dealing with Cretan geology, focusing on stratigraphy, tectonics and the



geodynamic evolution since Palaeozoic times. The next four papers (Xypolias et al., Lode et al., Romer et al. and Fountoulis & Mariolakos) are concerned with tectonics and metamorphism of rocks exposed on the Peloponnese and Kithira. The structural development, metamorphism and cooling history of the Cyclades are parts of the following three papers (Hejl et al., Keiter et al. and Tomaschek et al.). The last papers (Kiliias et al., Karipi et al. and Kleinschmidt et al.) are dealing with tectonics and metamorphism in central Greece and the eastern Alps.

As since the 1970s the research of Gotthard Kowalczyk focused on the geology of the External Hellenides in the Peloponnese and Crete, most of the above-mentioned papers should be of great interest to him. This volume is a small gift for the wealth of education, motivation and ideas he gave to us. We present the volume with all the best wishes for a healthy and delightful future.

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