

## **REVIEW** by TDF

### ***Exploration for Metalliferous and Related Minerals in Britain: a Guide.***

By T.B. Colman and D.C. Cooper. Published by the British Geological Survey for the Department of Trade and Industry Minerals Programme. 2nd edition 2000. 80pp, A4. Paperback. Available: B.G.S. Sales, Keyworth, Nottingham. NO12 500. £20. ISBN 0 85272 357 1.

This magnificent publication is a much revised and expanded version of a report on current mineral activities in Britain produced some 10 years ago for the use of companies interested in investing in our mineral industry. The report starts with a review of Britain by geological context, Precambrian, Lower Palaeozoic etc. emphasizing the mineral deposits known in each. There follows a survey of the various types of mineral deposit - sedimentary strata-bound, mesothermal gold etc. and their occurrence in Britain. Accompanying these surveys is a catalogue of investigations, explorations and their results during the period since 1965. A remarkable amount of effort has been put in by the mining companies, but with very few coming to fruition as productive mines. There is also a review of techniques used. An important aspect of the report is the summary of legislation as it affects mining, together with sources of information, including useful addresses. A comprehensive bibliography concludes the main report but a long appendix surveys the situation by commodity (antimony, arsenic etc.) and who has done what to try to produce these on a commercial basis. There is a list of 146 Mineral Reconnaissance Programme Reports and several other categories of Open File Reports, aeromagnetic surveys etc. available from BGS.

The report mentions that there is no central register of mineral rights, holdings, investments or explorations in Britain, other than those gathered by BGS. It also notes the number of potentially commercial mines thwarted by local planners, e.g. the Coed-y-Brennan porphyry copper deposit in North Wales, an example which illustrates the problems international mining companies face in finding their way through a minefield of local planning regulations.

The book is well-produced and apart from a scatter of spelling mistakes (our founder's name Sarjeant is misspelt) I have only two minor criticisms. There are a lot of abbreviations used throughout with no index. Most, such as BGS, are fairly obvious but others such as PGE (platinum group elements) will be less familiar. Figure 11 (possible Irish style Pb-Zn deposits in the Pennines) has localities labelled with letters but no key. Nevertheless this report should be on every mining enthusiast's bookshelf. It is well worth the price tag.