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Giant Ore Deposits

Editors

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Patricia Sheahan, Series Editor

SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS, INC.
SERIES PREFACE

The Giant Ore Deposits volume is the second in the Special Publication Series for the Society of Economic Geologists. We have two other successful series, Reviews in Economic Geology and our Guidebook Series.

The Society of Economic Geologists has been offered this volume by the editors of the Giant Ore Deposits Workshop, which was held at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. This volume is substantially different from the course material as all the papers have been updated, modified and peer reviewed.

The Society is proud to have this timely and well developed volume in this series. We wish to thank the authors for their dedicated efforts and the reviewers for their supportive comments. The volume has a comprehensive range of worldwide deposit types and provides extensive use of factual data in placing these deposits in a framework for the explorationist.

We would like to identify and thank Ben Whiting who gave unstintingly of his time in coordinating these papers for the volume. Ben has been instrumental in all aspects of this volume. He was active in organizing the workshop and has been the person responsible for pursuing the authors, reviewers and providing the manuscripts in camera ready format. This is not an easy task and we believe that this volume with Ben's supportive efforts will reflect the emphasis on quality and interest. As a series editor, I have contributed editing comments and encouragement throughout the process and compiled the index for the volume.

The ISBN number is 0-9613074-8-X.

We hope this volume will enhance the awareness and understanding of giant ore deposits for our members and the exploration community.

Patricia Sheahan
PREFACE

The majority of world metal production comes from giant ore deposits, but these represent only a small percentage of total deposits. These giant deposits are thus a prime target of mineral exploration. In order to compete effectively in an increasingly integrated world economy, mining companies have expanded in size and thus have expanded the scope of their operations beyond national frontiers. Large mining companies can economically develop only large deposits. However, they have the ability to consider ore environments on a world scale. These conditions, and the continuing depressed state of metal prices, have brought into sharp focus the problem of distinguishing which, of superficially similar ore environments, is most likely to host a giant deposit. Beyond the defining characteristics of grade and tonnage, the issue of what characterizes giant ore deposits has received very little attention in the geological literature. The conventional assumption is that ore deposit characteristics are independent of scale. We considered that there was sufficient evidence to challenge this assumption for some deposit types. We also felt that the issue was of relevant current interest and that it would be worth examining the available evidence for a variety of ore deposit types.

Accordingly, in early 1992 we decided to organize a workshop on the topic of giant ore deposits. The workshop was held on May 11-13, 1992 at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. A group of 110 geologists from the mining and mineral exploration industry, government and universities participated in the 3 day workshop. This special volume represents the papers prepared for the workshop, which were subsequently revised following critical peer review.

The workshop was a part of the commitment to continuing education undertaken by Queen’s University for QMinEx. QMinEx is an industry support group established to assist the M.Sc. program in Mineral Exploration in the Department of Geological Sciences at Queen’s University.


In the final stages of preparation, the efforts of L. Anderson, J. Charbonneau, B. Mitton, J. Mason, N.A.W. Matheson, and in particular P. Sheahan, Chair of the Publications Committee of the Society of Economic Geologists, are gratefully acknowledged.

We hope that all exploration geologists who read this volume will gain additional insight to assist them in the important task of locating more GIANT ORE DEPOSITS.

Editors:
B.H. Whiting
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