Book Review

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The reprint is a facsimile of the 1952 revised first edition; the book first appeared in 1944. In the preface, the author confirms what the title implies: that the book is concerned with landforms of volcanic origin and their geomorphic development rather than with theories of volcanism and petrogenesis. In keeping with this objective, the book is in two parts of unequal length: Part 1, Introductory: the Mechanism of Volcanism, comprising 69 pages, and Part 2, Volcanic Landscapes, comprising 329 pages.

Part 1 is, for the stated objectives of the book, an adequate introduction. It discusses the types of eruptive activity; lava volcanoes and associated magmas; pumice volcanoes and the different types of explosive activity; the important role of volcanic gases; and, as a well-documented example of volcanism, Vesuvius' cycle of activity. Part 2 describes the appearance of volcanic landforms both at different stages of construction and during the early and intermediate phases of destruction, and discusses the processes involved. The headings of the twelve chapters of Part 2 are: domes and cones of basaltic lava—lava plateaux and plains—lava fields—aa and block lava; scoria mounds—viscid lavas; coulees and tholoids—ash showers and nuées ardentes—ash-built and stratified cones—maars and tuff rings; meteor craters—submarine eruptions; pillow lavas—craters and calderas; volcanic depressions and lakes—dissected basalt and ignimbrite plateaux; basalt plains—erosion and destruction of volcanic mountains. A two-page appendix discusses the contribution of volcanoes to the atmosphere and the ocean.

The book is clearly written, uses no unnecessary technical terms, and will appeal to the general reader as well as to geographers and geologists. No other work gives the field of volcanic landscapes such full coverage. Adequate references are given up to the year 1948.

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