

Contents

Introduction	xi
Nicolas BELLAHSEN and Claudio L. ROSENBERG	
Chapter 1. Cenozoic Magmatism in the Alps and their Surroundings: Relating Magmatic and Geodynamic Events	1
Alfons BERGER, Claudio L. ROSENBERG and Giancarlo MOLLI	
1.1. Introduction.	1
1.2. History of research on Alpine magmatism	4
1.3. Occurrence of magmatic rocks	8
1.3.1. Periadriatic magmatic rocks.	10
1.3.2. Sesia zone area	11
1.3.3. Dykes and stocks in the Southern Alps	13
1.3.4. Dykes and stocks in Tyrol	13
1.3.5. Esterél magmatic province	13
1.3.6. Veneto volcanic province (VVP).	14
1.3.7. Pannonian magmatic province	14
1.3.8. Central Alpine crustal melts.	15
1.3.9. Mortara volcano.	15
1.3.10. Volcanoclastic sediments of the northern foreland.	16
1.3.11. Volcanic-bearing sediments of the southern foreland	16

1.4. Inferred spatial distribution of Alpine magmatic bodies in the retrodeformed Oligocene Alps	18
1.5. Discussion	20
1.5.1. Consequences of the spatial configuration in Oligocene times	20
1.5.2. Subduction magmatism, slab breakoff and syn-collisional magmatism.	21
1.5.3. Magmatism in the Sesia zone	25
1.5.4. The Alps/Apennine junction and its magmatism	26
1.5.5. The Veneto volcanic province (VVP)	28
1.6. Summary and conclusions	29
1.7. Appendix 1: Explanatory notes to the retro-deformation of the magmatic bodies	30
1.8. References	37

Chapter 2. Evolution of the External Crystalline Massifs of the European Alps: From Massif to Lithosphere Scale

Marco HERWEGH, Alfons BERGER, Nicolas BELLAHSEN,

Yann ROLLAND and Edi KISSLING

2.1. Introduction.	53
2.2. General geological setting	58
2.3. Geology and tectonics of the ECM	61
2.3.1. The Argentera massif.	61
2.3.2. The Belledonne-Oisans massifs	64
2.3.3. The Mont Blanc/Aiguilles Rouges massifs	70
2.3.4. The Aar/Gastern massifs.	75
2.4. The ECM embedded in a crustal-scale context	80
2.5. Paleogeographic and tectonic evolution of the ECM	82
2.5.1. Influence of Mesozoic rifting on the later exhumation of the ECM	82
2.5.2. Eocene Alpine convergence.	84
2.5.3. Early Oligocene cover nappe tectonics	86
2.5.4. Late Oligocene onset of thick-skinned tectonics.	87
2.5.5. Early Miocene – early ECM exhumation	88
2.5.6. Early–late Miocene thrust tectonics – late ECM exhumation	89
2.5.7. Pliocene to recent tectonic and surface processes	90
2.6. Geodynamic forcing for the exhumation of the ECM	92
2.6.1. The “Adria-Push” scenario	92
2.6.2. The “Orogeny Slab Rollback” scenario	93
2.6.3. Why the ECM do not continue further to the east?	96
2.7. Conclusion	97

2.8. Acknowledgments	99
2.9. References	99

Chapter 3. A Review of How Our Understanding on the Relationships between the Alps and the North Alpine Foreland Basin has Evolved 125

Fritz SCHLUNEGGER and Edi KISSLING

3.1. Introduction.	126
3.2. Tectonic overview of the European Alps	129
3.2.1. The Central and Western Alps	129
3.2.2. The Eastern and Southern Alps	132
3.3. Overview of the sedimentary basins surrounding the Alps	133
3.4. Stratigraphic development of the Molasse basin	137
3.4.1. Prior to 30 Ma	137
3.4.2. Between 30 and 20 Ma.	140
3.4.3. After 20 Ma	142
3.4.4. Since 10/5 Ma	145
3.5. First order controls on the stratigraphy of the Molasse basin.	147
3.5.1. Migration of the basin axis in relation to the Alpine front	148
3.5.2. Basin subsidence	149
3.5.3. Estimates of sediment supply to the Molasse basin	151
3.5.4. Eustatic variations in sea level and stratigraphic response	155
3.6. Theoretical concepts for exploring orogenesis and sedimentation.	159
3.6.1. Elastic models explaining the subsidence history of a basin.	160
3.6.2. Critical taper wedge models.	163
3.7. Slab load controls	166
3.7.1. Change from Flysch- to Molasse-type sedimentation.	166
3.7.2. The 30 to 20 Ma old development of the Swiss Molasse basin	167
3.7.3. The post 20 Ma development of the Molasse basin	169
3.8. Conclusion	170
3.9. Acknowledgments.	172
3.10. References.	172

Chapter 4. The Detrital Thermochronological Record of Exhumation of the European Alps since the Early Oligocene 191

Matthias BERNET, Peter VAN DER BEEK, Pierre G. VALLA
and Christoph GLOTZBACH

4.1. Introduction.	192
4.2. Principles of detrital thermochronology	195

4.2.1. Single-age distributions and mean age estimates of detrital thermochronology data	198
4.2.2. Peak age, minimum age and youngest age	199
4.2.3. Estimating exhumation rates from detrital thermochronology data	202
4.3. The modern-river signal of Alpine exhumation	204
4.3.1. Detrital white mica $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ data	204
4.3.2. Detrital zircon fission-track data	204
4.3.3. Detrital apatite fission-track data	205
4.4. The pro- and retro-side foreland basin record of Alpine exhumation	208
4.4.1. Detrital white mica $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ data	209
4.4.2. Detrital zircon fission-track data	210
4.4.3. Detrital apatite fission-track data	213
4.5. Discussion	217
4.5.1. Exhumation signal from modern-river deposits	217
4.5.2. Long-term pro- and retro-side foreland basin exhumation signal	219
4.5.3. Topographic evolution of the Alps since the Late Eocene	227
4.6. Conclusion	229
4.7. Acknowledgments	230
4.8. References	230
Chapter 5. The Northern Deformation Front of the European Alps	241
Hugo ORTNER, Christoph VON HAGKE, Anna SOMMARUGA, Samuel MOCK, Jon MOSAR, Ralph HINSCH and Andreas BEIDINGER	
5.1. The deformation front of the Alps – an overview	242
5.2. Regional description	247
5.2.1. The deformation front in Switzerland and France	247
5.2.2. Subalpine Molasse of western Austria and southern Germany	255
5.2.3. Imbricated European margin of eastern Bavaria, Salzburg and Upper Austria	263
5.2.4. Imbricated European margin of Lower Austria	270
5.3. Discussion	277
5.3.1. Timing and sequence of thrusting	277
5.3.2. Relation of shortening at the Alpine front to the internal Eastern Alps	284
5.3.3. Alongstrike changes in structural geometry	285
5.3.4. (Late) Early Miocene changes	286
5.3.5. Exhumation of the foreland in the Late Miocene	288

5.4. Conclusion	291
5.5. Acknowledgments	292
5.6. References	292
List of Authors	313
Index	315
Summaries of other volumes	317