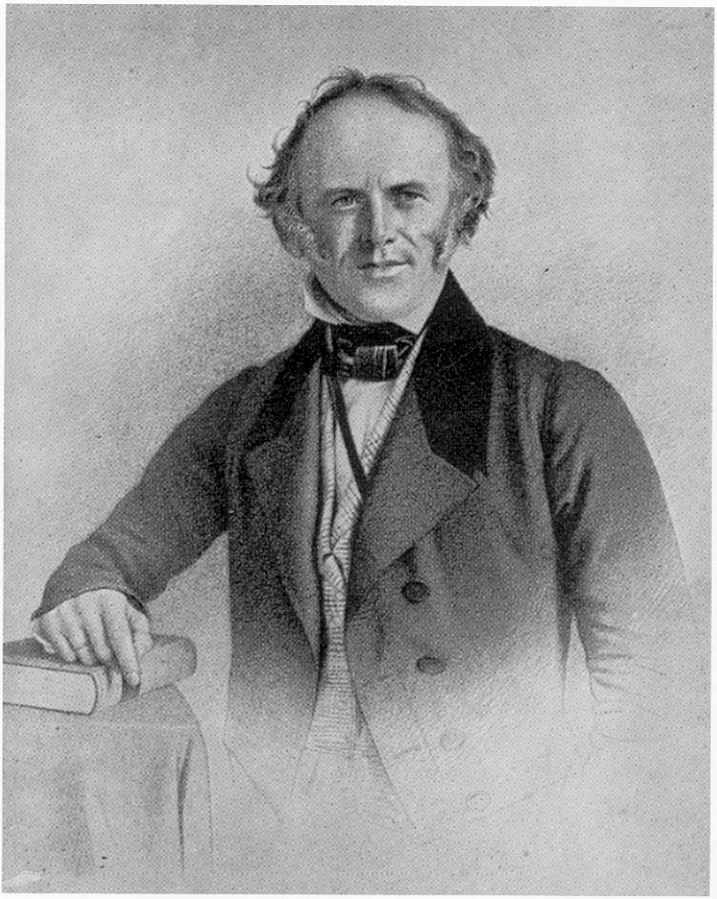
EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY
OF THE EARTH SCIENCES SOCIETY

Volume 15, Number 2, 1996



Charles Lyell as he appeared at the time of his visits to North America in the 1840s. This portrait was reproduced as a lithograph, which was inscribed "From a daguerrotype by J.E. Mayall, P.C. Duval lith Phila. On stone by Abbot Newman. Published by J.E. Mayall, Philadelphia, 1846." A large copy of this portrait hangs in Charles Darwin's study at Down House and it has been reproduced in various books and articles, including T.G. Bonney's biography, Charles Lyell and Modern Geology, *1895, New York: Macmillan. (Details of its origin courtesy J.C. Thackray, The Natural History Museum, London.)*

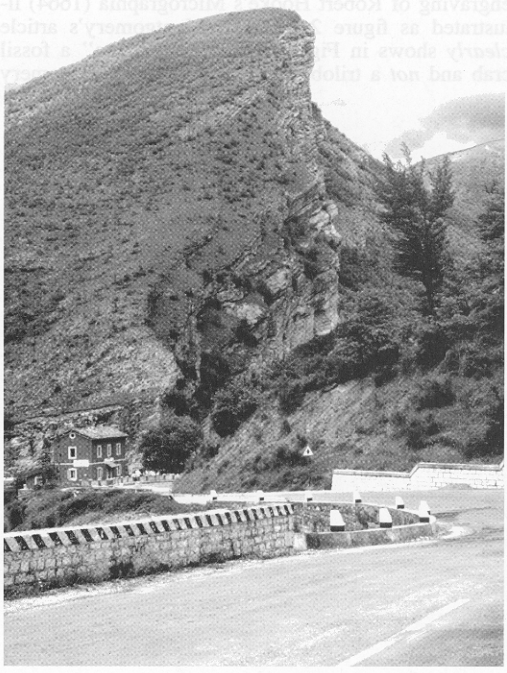
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

On opening the beautifully illustrated issue of ESH (Vol. 15, 1, 1996) I was startled to find two famous drawings by Leonardo da Vinci described as indicating "the low level of naturalism which existed in the Renaissance with regard to portrayal of earth strata" (p. 5). It has to be the first time in 500 years that anybody described work of Leonardo da Vinci as "low level." Readers of the article should review the drawings for themselves. "A man cannot contradict his eyes" (G. W. Knorr, 1755).

The particular drawings, first seen in my student days and only as imperfect reproductions, made such an impression upon me that years later driving through Italy I stopped again and again to photograph exposures and landscapes that already seemed familiar to me, (*cf.* the slates in Umbria pictured below). Geology had prepared me to analyze what I saw but the drawings of Leonardo taught me how to look and see. For five centuries students of his art have regarded the work of Leonardo as the paradigm of Renaissance naturalism. Readers of ESH who can view the Leonardo drawings in the Windsor Collection, even if only in black and white reproductions, will find themselves richly rewarded; geologists especially by his sketches of the Alps above the plains of the Po, his plans and relief maps, the "birds-eye" topographic constructions of Tuscany, and his detailed plans of the braided complexity of the Arno. They are evidences of the 33 years from 1482–1515 during which Leonardo was directly involved in land reclamation, flood control, and excavations for canals, moats and roadways, much of it documented in more than 5000 surviving pages of his sketch/notebooks.

None of this is intended to impugn the genius of Jan van Eyck, the principal subject of the ESH article. On the contrary, art historians regard Van Eyck as the inspiration for the development of the naturalistic landscape tradition in Italian Renaissance art and a direct influence on Leonardo's master Verrocchio and on Leonardo himself. Verrocchio's Baptism of Christ (painted with his student Leonardo) is close in spirit as well as details of palette, natural rock foreground and backdrop, and distant landscape—even composition, to the St. Francis of Van Eyck used as the cover illustration for the article. Leonardo's Virgin of the Rocks, the St. Jerome, the St. Anne . . . are all of similar genre—sacred figures in the foreground on a stage of weathered, horizontal rock and mountainous land-



scape vanishing in the distance. Even in reproduction these details convey the essence of the Tuscan landscape, a combination of topography, vegetation and climate—artists speak of "light"—that is unmistakeably Leonardo country—the Northern Italy of his paintings, maps and sketches. If so many travellers over the centuries consider this as arguably the most beautiful country in the world, it is because they have seen it first through the eyes of the artists of the Renaissance.

Cecil J. Schneer
Emeritus Professor of Geology and the History of Science
The University of New Hampshire

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

Just a note regarding the Scott Montgomery article [Vol. 15, #1, 1996]. The "high level of detail" in the engraving of Robert Hooke's Micrographia (1664) illustrated as figure 2 of Scott Montgomery's article *clearly* shows in Fig. 2 of Hooke's "plate" a fossil crab and *not* a trilobite as stated in the Montgomery article. The quality of Hooke's Fig. 2 also shows that the crab is probably preserved in a concretion, a common method of preservation for this kind of fossil.

Dr. Bruce L. Stinchcomb
Department of Geology
St. Louis Community College
Florissant Valley

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

1. *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* promotes and publishes historical work on all areas of the earth sciences—geology, geography, geophysics, oceanography, paleontology, meteorology and climatology. The journal honors and encourages a variety of approaches to historical study: biography, history of ideas, social history, and histories of institutions, organizations and techniques.

2. Submit **manuscripts** (original and two copies) to the Editor: Mott T. Greene, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, 98416, U.S.A. Please include an **abstract** of approximately 150 words. Contributors should retain a copy for reference, and should include return postage or international reply coupons if they desire return of submitted material.

3. Manuscripts should be **typewritten** or processed on a **letter quality** printer and **double-spaced** throughout, including quotations and notes, on paper of standard size and weight. Margins should be wider than usual to allow space for instructions to the typesetter. All copy should be flush left, with the right hand margin left ragged (unjustified) to maintain even spacing and readability.

4. Revised manuscripts should be submitted in double-spaced hard copy and, whenever possible, on **3.25″ diskettes** identifying both the platform (Mac, PC or Other) and the word-processing program used (WordPerfect 3.0, Word 5.1 etc.). All diskette copy should have **formatting stripped out**: it should all be flush left, unjustified, with no special character formats other than underlining (italics).

5. Bibliographic information should be given in **endnotes** (not parenthetically in the text), typed separately from the main body of the manuscript, **double-** or even **triple-spaced,** numbered consecutively throughout the article, and keyed to reference numbers in the text.

   a. References to **books** should include author's full name; complete title of the book, underlined (italics); place of publication and publisher's name for books published after 1900; date of publication, including the original date when a reprint is being cited; page number cited. *Example*:

      Eduard Suess, *The Face of the Earth,* 5 vols., Vol. I (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1904), p. 17.

   b. References to articles in **periodicals** should include author's name; title of article, in quotes; title of periodical, underlined (italics); year; volume number, Arabic and underlined (italics): number of issue if pagination requires it; page numbers of article; number of particular page cited. Journal titles are spelled out in full on first citation and abbreviated subsequently. Example:

      David R. Oldroyd, "The Archaean Controversy in Britain: Part I—The Rocks of St. David's," *Annals of Science,* 1991, *48*:407–452, on p. 434.

   c. Succeeding citations of books and periodicals should use an abbreviated version of the title with the author's last name. Example: Oldroyd, "Archaean," p. 446.

6. **Figures** are welcome in illustrating articles. Line drawings should be directly reproducible, glossy prints must be furnished for all halftone illustrations. Where authors elect not to make voluntary page contributions (see 8 below), there is a charge of US $15.00 for each figure in excess of two.

7. Manuscripts should be submitted to *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* with the understanding that upon publication, **copyright** will be transferred to the History of Earth Sciences Society. This understanding precludes *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* from considering material that is under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere.

8. *EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY* requests **voluntary page contributions (at $10.00 US per page)** from authors, but acceptance of manuscripts and publication are not contingent on payment of page charges.

ERRATA

The Geologists at Prague, Earth Sciences History, v. 14, no. 2, 1995, p. 172–201.

p. 175, lines 16–19. The invitation by Dr. Zoubek was in 1960 at the Norden Congress. The final invitation accepted accepted at New Delhi in 1964 was tendered by Dr. Milan Šnajdr. (A. Dudek, letter of 11/12/96).

p. 177, line 3. for 'appointed Professor at the Charles University' substitute 'to teach at the University'. A. Dudek, loc. cit. writes that records show that Kasík served on the faculty of the Technical University of Prague.

p. 180b, line 26: the President's reception was not scheduled for the 'next day' (August 20) but for August 21.

p. 181, 3rd par. cf. p. 198 notes 55–57: A. Dudek "selected this programme [Šárka],... No Vltava, nothing from Dvořák", (loc. cit).

p. 185, left column: line 18: for "Otto Benes", read "Eduard Beneš".

p. 191, 2nd. par.: The General Proceedings were distributed to all congressistes "with exception of Czechoslovak citizens which was prohibited by local authorities." A. Dudek, (loc. cit.).

p. 197, note 20: a) Jan Masaryk (the son of the first President of Czechoslovakia) was in 1948, the Foreign Minister.

b.) The number cited by Chapman (40,000) Jews victimized after the 1952 purge trials is wrong. There were barely six thousand Jews in Czechoslovakia by then. (D.H. Yaalon, letter of 6/26/96).

p. 197, note 22: A. Dudek, (loc. cit.) points out that the Czechoslovak Geological Service of 1968 included all employees of petroleum and mining concerns. "The real number of employees of the Geological Survey of Czechoslovakia ... was about 800."