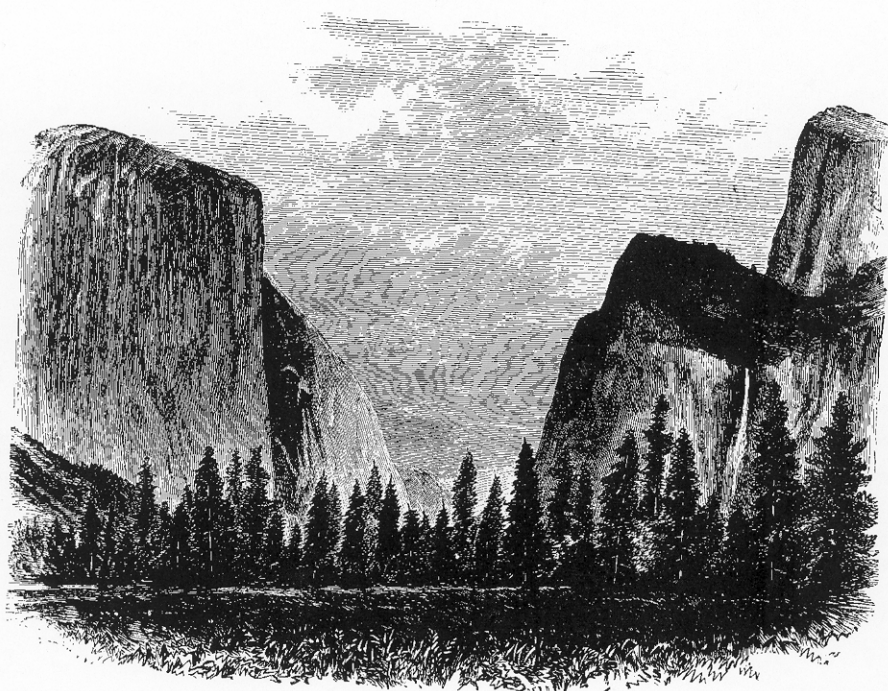


# ***EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY***

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Yosemite Valley, showing El Capitan and the Bridal Veil Falls. From woodcut in  
Whitney's *The Yosemite Guide-Book* (1870).

# EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

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## EDITORIAL

### ÉLOGES, AUTHORS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE JOURNAL AND SOCIETY, WOMEN GEOLOGISTS IN THE MIX, THE METAPHORICAL HUTTON, AND CONTROVERSY IN THE HIGH SIERRAS

GREGORY A. GOOD

During the last few years an unfortunate number of prominent historians of the geosciences have left this Earth: François Ellenberger, Stephen J. Gould, Fritz Rehbock, Bill Sarjeant, John Sinkankas, and Malcolm Weiss, among others. The officers of the History of the Earth Sciences Society have decided to re-establish the tradition of publishing notices of these departed colleagues. We discussed the best name for these essays and decided on Éloges, a term that has a long and distinguished history, stretching back at least as far as those notable efforts of Bernard Bovier de Fontenelle (1657–1757) for the Paris Academy of Sciences.<sup>1</sup> Éloges are a lamentable necessity, but provide also an opportunity for the living to express appreciation for the scholarship and personality of these close and valued colleagues. Guidelines are currently being developed and the first essays will appear in the next few issues of **EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY**. Eligible individuals should have written significantly about the history of the earth sciences or in some other way shaped this field.

The editor and treasurer of HESS have worked very hard in the last year to bring the journal back onto schedule and to strengthen the fiscal position of the society. The new board of associate editors is now helping in both of these matters, too. Authors can also contribute in two significant ways to this joint effort. First, they can submit manuscripts that follow the journal's guidelines as closely as possible. While most authors make a good faith effort, some papers are submitted with little attention to the journal style. This costs the society money and delays the publication of the journal. Someone has to copy edit, fix inaccurate or incomplete citations, and replace un-useable illustrations. Since we have no staff, that someone is usually the editor or an associate editor, all volunteers. In the future, manuscripts will be returned to the author before being sent to referees unless a basic effort has been made to help us out. The various guidelines are published again at the back of this issue of the journal, as well as on the journal web page.

The second way authors can help us is further into the publication process. We learned the hard way that changes submitted in the final proof stage are costly in the extreme. One author (who will remain nameless) ignored requests for revisions for months as his article worked its way through several stages of preparation. Assuming everything was then acceptable, the article was submitted to the press, the pages designed, and the proofs produced. The author didn't respond to galleys or first revisions. Finally, at the eleventh hour, when it was too late to pull the article, a long list of changes was received. The changes were entered, at significant cost, to save embarrassment to the author and the journal. In the future, the policy of the journal must be more stringent. If an author does not

1. See Charles B. Paul, *Science and Immortality: The Éloges of the Paris Academy of Sciences (1699–1791)* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1980) for an extended discussion of this remarkable literary form.

respond in the early stages, no such changes will be made in the later stages. It is not fiscally responsible to do so.

Now to more pleasant matters. This issue of **EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY** includes three, wide-ranging articles. Martina Kölbl-Ebert provides a close examination of the roles of women in geology in one of the most exciting settings in the history of the science, early nineteenth-century Britain. She discusses details of the work and experiences of well known individuals such as Mary Anning (1799–1847) and the wives of famous male geologists. But more, Dr. Kölbl-Ebert discusses factors that distinguished the British situation from those in other countries, how social situations affected the relative participation of women, how they obtained their geological educations, and other matters.

Stephen Norwick takes on the interesting question of how common, eighteenth-century metaphors of nature affected the geological researches of James Hutton (1726–1797). Without elevating Hutton to a stature of uniqueness, Dr. Norwick asks how Hutton's important re-framing of questions about geo-processes was shaped by his larger views of nature. Specifically, he looks at Hutton's use of the following metaphors: the great flux of nature, the macrocosmic-microcosmic analogy, nature as a machine, the book of nature, nature as a fabric, mother nature, the creation, and the globe of the planet. He concludes especially that these metaphors supported Hutton's view of a dynamic and cyclic planet, whereas other common metaphors of the time which he didn't use supported a static or a directional view.

Lastly, Stephen M. Testa delves into the intricate and often contentious interactions of two of the most important contributors to nineteenth-century geology in the western United States: William P. Blake (1826–1910) and Josiah D. Whitney (1819–1896). Both scientists came from distinguished backgrounds and were educated by some of the best geologists of both America and Europe. Their careers were shaped by the needs of the U.S. to survey geological resources, first in the eastern states and later in California and the west more generally. Questions that interested both researchers included the potential for gold and oil resources, the origin of Yosemite Valley, and the history of humanity in the Americas. Blake and Whitney also vied, of course, for professional positions and reputations. All of this became a complex mix, which the author carefully separates for the reader.

I should add a last word on the progress being made toward bringing the journal back on schedule. We are one issue short of complete compliance. That issue is almost ready to be sent to press and should be just a month or two behind the one you now hold in your hands. That issue will include not only the usual group of articles, including a variety of topics from around the globe and across the geosciences, but it will also include a series of cumulative indexes for the first twenty volumes of **EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY**. The editor especially looks forward to the appearance of the last issue in this mad-cap effort of catching up. He thanks all of the authors, referees, and associate editors who have contributed to this process, as well as the student assistants at West Virginia University—Jeremy Robinson and Stephen R. Orr IV—who helped in many ways.