BOOK REVIEWS

Vic Baker, Book Review Editor

THE NEW SCIENCE OF GEOLOGY: STUDIES IN THE EARTH SCIENCES IN AN AGE OF REVOLUION. *Martin J.S. Rudwick, 2004. Ashgate variorum, Aldershot, Hampshire, UK, and Burlington, VT, USA, xviii + 316 p. Hardcover, £59.50.*

The Variorum Collected Studies Series provides two great services to scholars. First, it gathers in one place articles from many years of diverse periodicals by a single author. These articles often would be impossible to find in a single library. Secondly, the series offers the author a chance to place previously unpublished work (or work published originally in a different language) in the context of many years of scholarship.

The New Science of Geology assembles fourteen articles by noted historian of earth science Martin J.S. Rudwick between two covers. Of these, one appears for the first time, one for the first time in English, seven first appeared in edited books, and six in journals. All share a focus on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, on sciences related to geology, and all have "stood the test of time."

A variorum edition provides Rudwick the opportunity to consider and emphasize the threads that have held his researches together. He divides the articles into three broad themes: Earth-history and the history of geology; Cuvier and earth-history; and geology in the age of Lyell. The first section considers "general issues and syntheses": the historicizing of knowledge of the Earth (in three articles), relations between science and religion, and the "emergence of a visual language" for geology. In all of these, the author counters "modern mythmaking." He argues that Bishop Ussher provides no pre-modern foil to geochronology but rather was part of the enterprise. He argues that the now commonly assumed divide between secular science and religious fundamentalism blinds us to understanding the varieties of relations between science and religion in earth-history.

The rest of the book allows Rudwick to delve deeply into the research practices of Cuvier, Lyell, and their contemporaries. Rudwick places Cuvier against the earlier efforts of Jean André de Luc to calibrate evidences of Earth's history. He examines Cuvier and his collaborator Alexandre Brongniart's reading of the stratigraphic "documents" of this history and on Cuvier's cultivation of distant collaborators and his use of engravings of fossil bones as "proxies" in his publications.

The section "Age of Lyell" devotes more space to Lyell's contexts than to his own researches. Without examining each of these in turn, suffice it to say that examined issues include: (1) how it became accepted in geology to employ artistic renderings of past life-forms, (2) field and institutional practices of geologists in the 1830s, and (3) how debates among geologists related to their field experiences and to the production of scientific knowledge.

Readers who have kept up with Martin Rudwick's books since *The Meaning of*

Fossils (1972) will certainly recognize the continuities of his themes in these articles with those explored at great depth in his books. We've all been challenged in these books to re-examine our historiographic assumptions by his ways of approaching subjects we thought we understood. The articles in this book, which most of us have probably read in a scattered way, help us to refocus our appreciation of a most influential historian of science.

It is, however, absolutely incorrect to see this variorum edition as a swan song. Martin Rudwick has two more volumes immediately in the wings. So stay alert.

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INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

Gerald M. Friedman, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Since the start of this journal, Founding Editor Gerald M. Friedman has prepared this column. Contributors wishing to list recent books and papers of interest to our membership are requested to send them to Professor Gerald M. Friedman, Northeastern Science Foundation, Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology, P.O. Box 746, Troy, NY 12181-0746, U.S.A.; Fax: 518-273-3249; E-mail: gmfriedman@juno.com

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2006

(AS OF OCTOBER 23, 2006)

BALANCE FORWARDED FROM 2005	$ 29,755.19
Less Payments to Patrick Wyse Jackson for *ESH* 24/2 and 25/1.	$ 6,811.43
Less other operating Expenses including Website and postage	$ 1,108.52
INCOME TO HESS INCLUDING INTEREST	+$ 18,750.49
BALANCE AS OF October 23, 2006	$ 40,585.96

EXPLANATION

Two issues of *Earth Sciences History* have been published in the year 2006 up to October 23, 2006. The issues were volume 24 number 2 for 2005 and volume 25 number 1 for 2006. The costs for the two issues including mailing materials was $6,811.43. I would point out that this cost has taken into account the negative exchange rate with regards the EURO to the US dollar. Patrick Wyse Jackson has saved HESS an incredible amount of publishing and mailing costs. HESS owes Patrick Wyse Jackson an immense debt of gratitude and every member should be working with Patrick in every way possible to assist him. The cost of these two issues is less then the cost of one issue with our previous printer, Allen Press. The savings has helped HESS maintain and in fact improve a healthy budget surplus through 2006. However HESS also realized a loss of a number of institutional memberships due to budget cuts and we lost a number of individual memberships through retirements, deaths and delinquency in dues payment. Our income saw nearly a 13% drop from 2005. We need to increase our membership.

Other expenses for 2005 include: Website fees of $109.85. Once again Ed and Mary Rogers picked up a large part of the web site expense. HESS paid a $398 fee for membership affiliation in AGI. HESS paid $489.89 to cover the cost of printing and mailing ballots, dues notices to members and reminder notices to delinquent members. HESS paid $110.78 for handling back issues of *ESH*.

This is my last year as HESS treasurer. HESS remains a fiscally strong society and I hope to see a growth in active membership in the future.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Rogers
HESS treasurer

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Robert H. Dott, Jr. is Stanley A. Tyler Professor (Emeritus) of Geology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Besides specializing in sedimentary geology throughout his fifty-year career, he has also contributed to the history of geology for the past four decades. His historical research has included Charles Lyell's visits to America, the geosynclinal theory of James Hall and James Dwight Dana, the career of T.C. Chamberlin, and the editing of *Eustasy: The Historical Ups and Downs of a Major Geological Concept* (Geological Society of America Memoir 180, 1992). After completing his education at the University of Michigan (B.S. 1950; M.S. 1951) and Columbia University (Ph.D. 1956), he worked in the petroleum industry before joining the University of Wisconsin faculty in 1958. Dott is co-author of a popular textbook, *Evolution of the Earth*, now in its seventh edition.

Gerald M. Friedman is now Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geology of the City University of New York and Professor Emeritus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He also serves as president of the Northeastern Science Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation. He has been Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Cincinnati, Consulting Geologist in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, and Research Geologist and Supervisor for Amoco Production, now British Petroleum Corporation in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Friedman received his B.S. degree from the University of London, and M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He is a former Vice President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, President of the Society for Sedimentary Geology, President of the International Association of Sedimentologists, President of the Association of Earth Sciences Editors, founder of History of Earth Sciences Society, and founder and editor of the History of Earth Sciences Society journal.

He has been honored by many societies including receiving the Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Heidelberg, Germany—an award given in the earth sciences after the University was 500 years old once every 50 years, and an Honorary Doctorate presented by the Queen Mother, London, England at the University of London. Friedman is an American Association of Petroleum Geologists Certified Petroleum Geologist, an American Institute of Professional Geologists Certified Petroleum Geologist, and has been a Chartered Geologist from the Geological Society of London since 1991 and now is an Honorary Fellow. Friedman has had 56 Master students, 47 Ph.D. students, and 31 post-doctoral students. He is the co-author of *Principles of Sedimentology* which has been singled out by *Choice Magazine* as part of its list of Outstanding Academic Books.

Ricardo Conrado Pasquali was born in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1947. He is a Doctor of the University of Buenos Aires in the area of Pharmaceutical Technology. He is professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the University of Buenos Aires. He is author of more than 200 articles of scientific popularization, several articles on the history of natural sciences, mainly geology and paleontology, and, along with Pedro E. Tonni, of four books on the fossil mammals of South America. He made investigations into the geology and paleontology of the northeast of the province of Buenos Aires and collaborates with local paleontological museums. He was integral of the Directive Commission of the Paleontological Association of Argentina during 1998–1999.

Eduardo Pedro Tonni was born in the Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, in 1945. He is a Doctor in Natural Sciences (Paleontological Orientation) of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata. At the moment he is Full Professor in the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo of the Universidad de La Plata

He instituted Argentinian studies in palaeornithology and zooarchaeology, directing the first doctoral theses on both topics. The current central topic of investigation is the birds and the mammals of the late Cenozoic of South America, as well as the environmental and climatic aspects of the Quaternary. He has published many scientific papers in national and international journals, contributed chapters to a number of books, and authored 42 articles and eight books of popular science. He has edited two books on the vertebrate paleontology of the late Cenozoic: *Evolución climática y biológica de la región pampeana durante los últimos cinco millones de años. Un ensayo de correlación con el Mediterráneo occidental* (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid), and *Quaternary Vertebrate Palaeontology in South America* (A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam). From 1978 he has been a Scientific Research of the Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas of the Buenos Aires Province. He has directed research projects supported by national and international organisations. He was vice-president of the Palaeontological Association of Argentina and directed the palaeontological magazine *Ameghiniana*.

Victor P. Tollerton, Jr. is Research Associate in Paleontology at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York, U.S.A. He specializes in the study of eurypterids. His other research interests include general paleoecology, the taxonomy of arthropods and geologistology (the study of geologists). He is currently completing a redescription of the Ordovician eurypterids of New York State, and is doing research on Col. Ezekiel Jewett (1791–1877), third curator of the New York State Cabinet of Natural History (the forerunner of the New York State Museum). He received his Master's degree from SUNY at Buffalo in 1992.

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