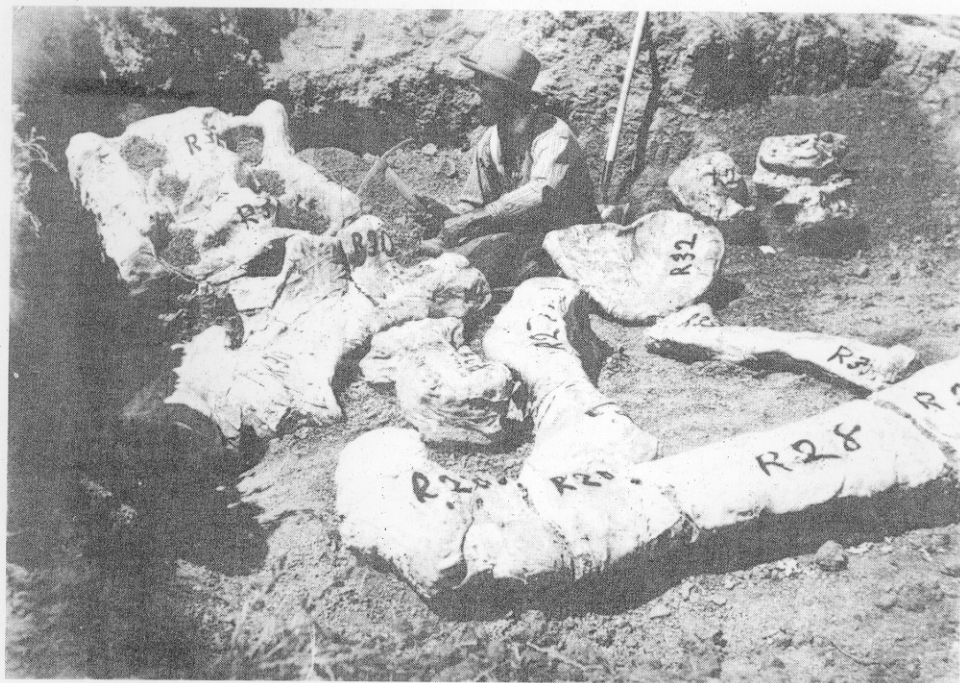


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History of Vertebrate Paleontology
in the Rocky Mountain Region

EDITORIAL

Earth Sciences History: Past, Present and Future

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With this issue we mark the beginning of the ninth year of publication for *Earth Sciences History*. Since its inception, the journal has consistently provided a forum for new and interesting ideas in and about the history of the earth sciences. *Earth Sciences History* has what is becoming a long tradition of publishing symposia or topic-oriented collections of articles. Issues have been devoted to various regional histories of geology, the ideas and lives of important earth scientists, and the births and evolution of ideas central to the earth sciences.

Over the years, our journal has evolved. In the beginning, authors were required to submit their own 'camera-ready' copy. In other words, once a manuscript had been approved and revised according to the suggestions of the reviewers, it was up to the author to retype, format, and layout his or her article exactly as it would appear once published. Most of the authors did a fine job of this -- the articles appearing in the first issues are highly readable, and effectively get their points across. There were, however, some obvious disadvantages to this mode of publication.

First of all, typography was not consistent. The differing typefaces were a distraction to the reader, and detracted from the overall appearance of the journal. More importantly, though, the process of piecing each issue together like a jig-saw puzzle created a great deal of wasted space, and a not-for-profit organization like HESS can ill afford to spend its scarce funds on blank paper.

By the second year of publication of *Earth Sciences History*, most articles were being prepared in a consistent format here at the Northeastern Science Foundation. The journal's look became more professional, and we were able to pack more information into each issue. The look was still somewhat ragged; underlining was done by hand, *italics* and **boldfaced** fonts were not available, and columns were not justified (although our reviewers ensured that the ideas expressed within the columns were justified).

Through the development of electronic publishing techniques, and the acquisition by the Foundation of a laser printer, it has become possible for us to efficiently produce a journal containing articles consistent and highly professional in appearance. Readability has been enhanced through the use of a smooth and well-formed typeface, and the distraction of differing typestyles has been eliminated.

Most importantly, however, we have been able to choose a typography that, while of small size, is still eminently readable.

This means that each page, and hence each issue, can contain more information. For this issue, the space between columns has been decreased, and a new and slightly smoother typestyle has been adopted. You may have noted that as a result of the new print face and size, the amount of material printed in each issue has increased dramatically.

After completion of Volume 8, No. 2, our managing editor Sheila Kopaska-Merkel moved on to a new position in the State of Alabama and our new managing editor Steve Buttner jumped aboard. This issue was his responsibility.

As Editor I want to acknowledge the support of authors and organizations for their page contributions, which help make this journal possible. The society's dues are simply too low to allow the journal to pay for itself. I am particularly grateful to the U.S. Geological Survey for its support of page costs, and especially to the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man for its contribution to defraying the cost of publishing Volume 8, No. 2, the Memorial Issue to Claude C. Albritton, Jr. (1913-1988). This issue served as a fitting tribute to Claude Albritton.

When I founded *Earth Sciences History*, I felt that for the first ten years we should publish it using in-house facilities. Fortunately, desk-top publishing advanced to a stage, where this journal now looks almost as good as that which a commercial publisher produces. In fact, commercial publishers were interested in this journal, when I first conceived the idea of publishing a journal on the history of the earth sciences. However, look at the difference in pricing between commercial earth-sciences journals and *Earth Sciences History*: For *Earth Sciences History*, institutional subscriptions for 1990 are \$30, and individual membership is \$20; in contrast are the following 1990 subscription prices: *Chemical Geology*, \$1060.50; *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, \$757.50; *Marine Geology*, \$757.50; *Sedimentary Geology*, \$732.50; and *Tectonophysics*, \$1841.00 -- to name just a few. Some of the commercial publishers have almost doubled their profits recently.

We are looking forward to printing this journal commercially; we will go to a printer, not a publisher.

As *Earth Sciences History* continues to evolve into a ever more efficient and esthetically pleasing means of exchanging information among scholars, I hope that you, the reader, continue to enjoy the results of this evolution.

HISTORY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

*A Symposium held
at the 48th Annual Meeting of the
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*

PREFACE

"Science is the base upon which is reared the civilization of today ...Let none forget those men who laid its first foundation stones"

--Herbert Hoover

Vertebrate paleontology is currently often seen in the public eye. School age children squeal with delight upon entering museums that contain huge ancient animal remains. Adults marvel at the ancient beasts that once roamed, swam, and flew in areas of North America in the geologic past. Fossils of prehistoric beasts elicit visions of a world very foreign to that seen in North America today. Breakfast cereals, t-shirts, pasta, toys, designer clothing, and candy are but a few of the products that use prehistoric animals to sell their products. The public recognition of prehistoric animals (especially those of the Mesozoic Era and Tertiary Epoch) is the result of the current knowledge that scientists have regarding ancient organisms and environments in North America. However, this understanding would not have been possible without the foundational work done in the Rocky Mountain West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Advancements in field collecting techniques, diversity and quality of material found, and discovery of previously unknown forms resulted in a dramatic increase in knowledge of extinct organisms that provided important implications with regard to the worldwide understanding of ancient animals.

A special session of the 48th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada was created to commemorate some of the pioneers of paleontology (e.g., William Harlow Reed, Thomas C. Weston, John B. Hatcher, Jacob L. Wortman, William D. Matthew, Edward D. Cope, Earl Douglass, to name a

few) and their discoveries (e.g., Jurassic Morrison Formation sites in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah; Cretaceous sites in Canada and the Dakotas; and Eocene localities in Wyoming and Utah) during the late 1800s and early 1900s in the Rocky Mountain West. These individuals and events influenced our current understanding of paleontology, evolution, and extinction, as well as the architecture of museums worldwide. Papers (excluding that by Leo Laporte, which was added later) were presented at this session on October 14, 1988.

I appreciate the efforts and insights that the various individuals involved with the session provided. Richard Cifelli and Phillip Currie graciously allowed me to organize this session for the S.V.P. Meeting in Canada. Many thanks to those individuals who agreed to review manuscripts and to the editors Gerald Friedman and Steve Buttner for their work carrying this volume to completion. Hopefully, this issue will provide useful information to: a) paleontologists and geologists that continue to return to the Rocky Mountain region to do field work, b) those scientists who utilize the collections made by pioneer paleontologists for their research, c) those individuals who base their current paradigms on concepts, ideas, and theories that were developed and/or shaped by the discoveries made in western North America in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and d) anyone interested in a better appreciation of the science of paleontology through accounts of the conflicts, hardships, serendipity, and philosophies of fossil collecting in the Frontier West.

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Cover Photo: Marsh pick in hand, an early vertebrate fossil collector (William Harlow Reed) is surrounded by plaster jacketed sauropod dinosaur bones found in the Jurassic Morrison Formation of southeastern Wyoming. The foundations of modern North American paleontology were developed upon such discoveries as these in the Rocky Mountain West in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Important finds in this region led to significant advances in the understanding of paleontology, evolution, and extinction. Photo courtesy of the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center, ca 1905.