

## Re: Phanerozoic Geology, or, Where's the Sequel?

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**From:** don findlay ([don\\_at\\_tower.net.au](mailto:don_at_tower.net.au))

**Date:** 08/05/04

Date: 5 Aug 2004 08:28:45 -0700

"George" <[George@george.net](mailto:George@george.net)> wrote in message news:<[T0iQc.1426\\$zJ4.274@bignews1.bellsouth.net](mailto:T0iQc.1426$zJ4.274@bignews1.bellsouth.net)>...

> "Joe Bernstein" <[joe@sfbooks.com](mailto:joe@sfbooks.com)> wrote in message

> news:cervgm\$9g4\$1@reader1.panix.com...

>> I'm trying to research the history of the continents and life

>> thereon for a moderately, well, trivial purpose. So I'm trying

>> to pick up some geology, but without spending months on it.

>>

>> Alan Goodwin's <Precambrian Geology> appears to be a wonderful

>> book, full of detailed information about its title subject everywhere

>> in the world, and with summaries of that information at several

>> different levels of sophistication, so that one can, as best I

>> can tell, just dip into it as much as one needs and walk away

>> happy. I say "as best I can tell" because I did observe that I

>> would need some vocabulary to read it, and so have been reading

>> a physical geology textbook prior to starting.

>>

>> Anyway, now I'm spoiled. If the Archean and Proterozoic can be

>> so comprehensively and handsomely treated, surely the Phanerozoic

>> can too? But if it can, I don't know where it *\*is\** so treated.

>>

>> The local library has one of the four volumes of <Phanerozoic

>> Geology of the World>, dated 1978. Admittedly 1978 is only 11

>> years before Goodwin's date, but it still unnerves me a bit. Anyway,

>> the one volume in question (Mesozoic A) is all fearsomely long

>> treatments of individual regions, nary a summary in sight.

>>

>> At the opposite extreme we have the many books whose titles are

>> variations on <Historical Geology>. Some of these proceed period

>> by period, and these invariably devote nine-tenths of that space

>> to palaeontology, not to what the *\*rocks\** were doing, which is what

>> I'm looking for. Others put "life" and "geology" in separate

>> chapters. The ones I've seen, however, still give the bulk of

>> their space to the "life" chapters, and in the maybe 40 pages

>> devoted to the Palaeozoic *\*geology\**, will spend well over 30 on

>> North America. Now, I'm aware that the continents have been

>> different in the past from how they are now, but I'd still be

>> willing to bet money that North America was not 3/4 of the Earth's

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- > > *land surface in the Palaeozoic, and anyway the pattern continues*
- > > *up to more recent times.*
- > >
- > > *Should I go hunting for <Phanerozoic Geology of the World> at some*
- > > *other library, because there really are summaries in the B volumes?*
- > > *Are there less one–continent–obsessed historical geology books in*
- > > *the world? Am I just \*stuck\* with <Phanerozoic Geology of the*
- > > *World> because nobody has \*ever\* done anything better since plate*
- > > *tectonics won? (And if so, what do I do about the Cenozoic, whose*
- > > *volumes are apparently unpublished?) Is there some other option?*
- > >
- > > *I see from recent threads that while this group, like many Usenet*
- > > *groups, is dominated by the usual kookwars, there are people here*
- > > *who answer serious questions seriously. Sorry to be asking for help*
- > > *while unable to give any, but y'know, if you ever pop into news.groups,*
- > > *rec.arts.sf.written, soc.history.ancient, or humanities.classics, I*
- > > *may be able to return the favour \*there\* anyway. So thank you for*
- > > *any help you can offer...*
- > >
- > > *Joe Bernstein*
- > >
- > > *--*
- > > *Joe Bernstein, bookseller and writer joe@sfbooks.com*
- > > *<<http://www.panix.com/~josephb/>>*
- > >
- > > *Try these references, and see if they are what you are looking for.*
- > >
- > > *John R. Anderson, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody, GA: The World of Geology.*
- > > *Historical Geology, lecture notes. See also: Paleozoic Life Lectures (keywords).*
- > >
- > > *Ron Blakey, Department of Geology, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff:*
- > > *Global Earth History. This presentation uses a series of plate–tectonic*
- > > *reconstructions to show the broad patterns of Phanerozoic Earth history. Both*
- > > *horizontal and vertical links are provided for viewing the plates: horizontal*
- > > *links provide time–slices (eg Cambrian, Devonian, Triassic, etc.) of different*
- > > *kinds of data on maps and other illustrations whereas vertical links provide a*
- > > *dynamic portrayal of Earth history through a succession of similar*
- > > *plate–tectonic reconstructions.*
- > >
- > > *Carlton E. Brett, Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati,*
- > > *Ohio: GEOBIOLOGY II: Historical Geology.*
- > >
- > > *Board on Earth Sciences and Resources, Commission on Geosciences, Environment*
- > > *and Resources (CGER) 1995 (page images at NAP): Effects of Past Global Change on*
- > > *Life.*
- > >
- > > *Lucy E. Edwards and John Pojeta Jr., USGS Geologic Information – General*
- > > *Interest Pubs, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey: Fossils,*
- > > *Rocks and Time. The printed version of this publication is one of a series of*
- > > *general interest publications prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. This*
- > > *on–line edition contains all text from the original book in its entirety.*

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- >
- > *Museum of Natural History, University of Florence: The Origin of Life. Life*
- > *through time, in a nutshell.*
- >
- > *S. Foley, Institut für Mineralogie, Universität Greifswald (hosted by Deutsche*
- > *Mineralogische Gesellschaft): Die Bildung der Erde, and Die junge Erde. Word or*
- > *PDF files, in German. See also: Liste der Themen für Fortbildungsveranstaltungen*
- > *und Unterrichtsmaterialien.*
- >
- > *Mike Fowler and Roger Suthren, Geology, Oxford Bookes University: Introduction*
- > *To Geology. See the teaching and learning materials index, Lecture support*
- > *material.*
- >
- > *Pamela J. W. Gore, DeKalb College, Georgia: Geology 102 – Historical Geology.*
- > *See also:*
- > *Pamela J. W. Gore, Georgia Perimeter College: Historical Geology Online*
- > *Laboratory Manual.*
- >
- > *Richard Harter, The Talk.Origins Archive: Changing Views of the History of the*
- > *Earth. This web site gives a summary of the way scientists have determined the*
- > *age of the Earth.*
- >
- > *Christoph Heubeck, Sabine Schmidt, Hans–Jürgen Götze, Ulla and Michael Schudack,*
- > *David Völker, Christoph Dobmeier, Joachim Müller, Henry Wuttke and Henriette*
- > *Peters, Institut für Geowissenschaften, Freie Universität Berlin: Die Erde. An*
- > *introduction to Geosciences. Go to: Ereignisse der Erdgeschichte (in German).*
- >
- > *Hooper Virtual Natural History Museum (HVNHM), Ottawa–Carleton Geoscience*
- > *Centre, Department of Earth Sciences, Carleton University, Department of*
- > *Geological Sciences, University of Ottawa: Carboniferous Forests. Easy to read*
- > *publication. Life, death, and afterlife of a coal forest.*
- >
- > *Thomas R. Holtz, Department of Geology, University of Maryland: Historical*
- > *Geology – The History of Earth and Life. Lecture notes.*
- >
- > *! Harald Immel, Institut für Paläontologie und Historische Geologie,*
- > *Ludwig–Maximilians–Universität, München (Paläontologische Gesellschaft):*
- > *Literatureempfehlungen zur "Allgemeinen Paläontologie", and Literatureempfehlungen*
- > *zur "Historischen Geologie". Textbook recommendations, in German.*
- >
- > *International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) ICS is the largest scientific*
- > *body within the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It is also*
- > *the only organisation concerned with stratigraphy on a global scale.*
- >
- > *Martin Lee, Division of Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow: Mesozoic*
- > *stratigraphy.*
- >
- > *Harold L. Levin, Washington University: The Earth Through Time, Seventh Edition*
- > *(provided by Wiley, Higher Education). This textbook provides rich,*
- > *authoritative coverage of the history of the Earth, offering the most*
- > *comprehensive history in the discipline today. Some sample chapters: Chapter 1,*

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- > *Introduction to Earth History. Including geohistorical reflections about Abraham*
- > *Gottlob Werner, James Hutton, William Smith, Georges Cuvier and Alexandre*
- > *Brongniart, etc. Chapter 2. Earth Materials: A Physical Geology Refresher, and*
- > *Chapter 3. The Sedimentary Archives.*
- >
- > *Reinhold Leinfelder, Section Palaeontology, Department of Earth and*
- > *Environmental Sciences, Ludwig–Maximilians–University Munich, Germany:*
- > *Historical geology: Grass roots and principles. Lecture notes, in German.*
- >
- > *Kevin McCartney, Northern Maine Museum of Science, University of Maine at*
- > *Presque Isle: Historical Geology.*
- >
- > *Miller Museum of Geology, Queen 's University, Kingston, Ontario: The Dawn of*
- > *Animal Life. Using exclusively Canadian rocks and fossils, this exhibit*
- > *highlights almost three billion years of early evolution when only simple,*
- > *soft-bodied creatures inhabited the Earth.*
- >
- > *! Volker Mosbrugger & Jörg Loeschke, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie,*
- > *Eberhard–Karls–Universität Tübingen (Tübingen Internet MultiMedia Server,*
- > *timms). Historische Geologie. Video lectures, In German.*
- >
- > *William L. Newman, USGS Geologic Information – General Interest Pubs, U.S.*
- > *Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey: Geologic Time. This online*
- > *edition contains chiefly all text from the original book in its entirety.*
- >
- > *Hugh Rance, City University of New York: The Present is the Key to the Past. An*
- > *electronic, college level, introductory historical geology textbook.*
- >
- > *Steven M. Stanley (W. H. Freeman & Company): Earth System History. An online*
- > *companion for the student and the instructor (interactive exercises, key terms,*
- > *review questions, web links).*
- >
- > *Victor A. Schmidt and William Harbert (mirrored by the Faculty Computer Lab,*
- > *Faculty of Geosciences, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland): Planet Earth and*
- > *the New Geosciences. Go to: UNIT 1: A SENSE OF TIME.*
- >
- > *Cecil J. Schneer, Department of Earth Sciences University of New Hampshire;*
- > *Durham, NH: "STRATA" SMITH ON THE WEB. Strata identified by organized fossils; a*
- > *facsimile edition. William Smith's Geological Table is a summary of the*
- > *paleontology, lithology, topographic expression, location, and useful products*
- > *of the strata of England and Wales. Smith's great geological map of England and*
- > *Wales and part of Scotland (1815) was one of the first if not the first*
- > *geological survey in the modern sense, and a paradigm for the geologic mapping*
- > *of the globe for well over a century.*
- >
- > *Naturmuseum Senckenberg: Earth History. Brief introduction, in German.*
- >
- > *Paul K. Strother, Weston Observatory of Boston College, Department of Geology &*
- > *Geophysics, Weston: Origin and Evolution of Life on Planet Earth. This course is*
- > *being designed to use the www in lieu of a textbook. To use this website most*
- > *effectively, go to the lecture notes and click on a specific lecture topic. This*

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- > *will bring up lecture notes or a content outline (if available) and additional*
- > *www links to specific topics covered in the course lecture.*
- >
- > *Ellen Thomas, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Wesleyan*
- > *University: Macroevolution. Lecture notes. Please, navigate from here. Worth*
- > *checking out: Assignment: Plants.*
- >
- > *Udo Zindel and Detlef Clas, Südwestrundfunk 2: Erdzeit – Wie die Welt wurde, was*
- > *sie ist. Netzwerk ohne Grenzen: Das Zusammenspiel der Arten. Easy-to-understand*
- > *real audio file, online-script and references (in German). Script also available*
- > *via e-mail.*

(...George, ...Kookwarrior.)