



Despite these minor quibbles, I think this is a very nice book. It contains new information and new images, and at such a low price deserves a place on the shelves of anybody interested in amber, in addition to those interested in the cultural history and folklore of Scotland. It will also no doubt encourage many new people to delve deeper into the fascinating world of amber.

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REFERENCE

PENNEY, D. (ed.). 2010. *Biodiversity of Fossils in Amber from the Major World Deposits*, Siri Scientific Press, Manchester, 304 pp.

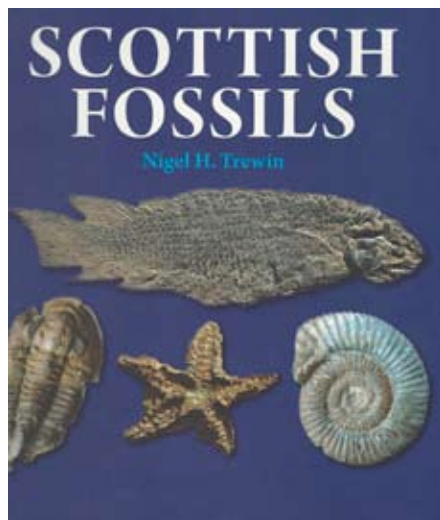
Scottish Fossils

Nigel H. Trewin. 2013. Dunedin Academic Press Ltd, UK. 118pp.
£30.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-1-780460-019-2.

For a small country Scotland boasts some of the most famous and scientifically important fossil localities in the world. This book provides a 'virtual museum' of more than one hundred scientifically important, interesting or controversial fossils and has been compiled and written by one of Scotland's leading palaeontologists. Hence, the information presented can be considered accurate and up to date.

The introduction provides the history of the author's interest in fossils and a brief history of Scottish palaeontology. This is followed by brief summaries of the variety and range of fossils found in Scotland (recorded in ascending stratigraphic order), with information on collectors, collections, preservation, palaeoenvironment and relevant palaeontological literature. There is also a list of palaeontology displays that can be visited at various Scottish museums. The introduction concludes with a summary table including the geological periods, major fossil deposits and geological events with respect to the region covered.

The majority of the book consists of photographs of the fossils with associated classification information, including phylum, class, species, locality, age and stratigraphy. Included are (number of fossils): Bacteria (2), Algae (1), Plants (12), Sponges (1), Corals (5), Worms (2), Bryozoa (1), Brachiopods (5), Cephalopods (8), Bivalves (6), Gastropods (2), Echinodermata (9), Graptolites (3), Arthropods (14), Fish (15), Amphibians (4), Reptiles (5), Mammals (2) and Trace Fossils (7). Each of these sections is accompanied by a brief introduction to the group and each fossil





is provided with additional information relating to morphology, lifestyle, preservation, history of collection and identification. Many of the entries are accompanied by illustrations, either of models or artistic reconstructions. The latter vary in quality and it is easy to distinguish those that have been reproduced from published papers from those provided by the author. The book concludes with a list of specimen locations, a list of references cited, an index and a gazetteer.

The text is written in an easily readable style. It will no doubt inspire readers to venture further into the history of Scottish palaeontology and the characters involved, for example to find out more about the fearsome mantrap employed by Hugh Miller to safeguard his fossil collection. Maybe some will even be tempted to try deep-frying brachiopod pedicles. Other interesting accounts include the destruction of a particularly nice Devonian eurypterid by an RAF WWII bombing mission.

Overall the physical production quality is good. However, typographical and inconsistency errors were noted on 19 pages (= 16%). The scale bars on figures 12 and 98 are inconsistent with those in the rest of the book and figures 49, 61b, 66, 70 and 80 appear a little out of focus. Figure 77b should have been labelled as a reconstruction rather than a model.

Despite being published by an academic press, this book is aimed at a general readership. It is not an identification guide, nor a comprehensive reference source. However, it does contain some nice images of some rare and also some type specimens. A particularly fascinating specimen is the oldest evidence of plant–animal interaction in the fossil record, consisting of a nematode worm inside a Rhynie Chert plant! There can be little doubt that Scotland has a very rich palaeontological heritage (every geological period during which life existed is represented), and this book is a celebration of these fossils. It will appeal to anybody with a general interest in British palaeontology.

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