

Dinosaur Hunting in Western Canada

By LORIS S. RUSSELL. 1966. Royal Ontario Museum, Life Science Series, Contribution 70, 37 pages, 16 illustrations. Paperback. -1.00.

During the concluding phases of the age of reptiles, between 90 and 63 million years ago, most of the area now included in the prairie provinces was covered by a wide subtropical sea. Sediments from the ancestral Rockies to the west formed a belt of low alluvial plains separating the mountains from the sea. These sediments buried and preserved skeletal remains of numerous varieties of dinosaurs.

Russell describes the history of dinosaur collecting in these "fossil floodplain" deposits, from their discovery in 1873 by the North American Boundary Commission up to 1965. By 1889 geologists had located nearly all of the subsequently important localities, but large scale excavation of articulated skeletal remains did not begin until 1910 when Barnum Brown of the American Museum of Natural History began collecting on the Red Deer River. Brown's spectacular success prompted the Geological Survey of Canada to appoint C. H. Sternberg and his three sons, all veteran fossil collectors, to compete with Brown and make collections for the Survey. From 1912 through 1915 parties led by these two men worked separately in the badlands along the Red Deer River, warily keeping an eye on each other's progress, and working strenuously, sending tons of bones of previously unknown kinds of dinosaurs back to their home institutions. Brown left Alberta at the close of the 1915 season, but the Geological Survey (later the National Museum), and the Royal Ontario Museum from 1918 on, continued to collect dinosaurs on the Red Deer and elsewhere in western Canada.

The paper gives a concise chronological account of collecting activities, together with interesting biographical

sketches of the individual collectors. Photographs illustrating the text show the men in their camps or with partially excavated specimens, and are especially well-chosen. The author was writing primarily for students of vertebrate palaeontology, but a brief description of the geologic setting will enable many westerners to appreciate the geological as well as the historical significance of the dinosaur localities near their homes. Generic names of the more important specimens discovered in the course of each expedition have been included, but it was not the author's intention to describe the form and possible habits of any dinosaur. This paper, written by a distinguished Canadian vertebrate palaeontologist, fills a large gap in the literature bearing on one of the world's most important dinosaur collecting areas.

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Non Flowering Plants

By FLOYD S. SHUTTLEWORTH and HERBERT S. ZIM. A Golden Nature Guide. Golden Press, New York. 160 pp. \$1.00.

A well-presented introduction to some common plants among the algae, fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns and others. Briefly treated are evolution and group relationships, distribution and habitat. A simple outline of reproduction, common characteristics and economic importance of each group is followed by species' descriptions illustrated in full colour by accurate and attractive small paintings, more than 400 in all. Activities are suggested for interested readers.

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