

**Review: Michael Benton, *Dinosaurs, Living Monsters of the Past*, Tiger Books International, London, U.K., 1992 (1993 edn.)**

Pages: 64

**Dinosaurs With Dogma**

While cataloguing these wonders of creation, the author is careful to "set the science" of full-blown evolutionary dogma. This involves Deep Time radioactive 'dating' and the fossil 'record'. On the former, he deceives by stating "exact" ages of the rocks are found via radioactivity, rates of decay are known [they have only been under observation for under a century], and one can compare daughter isotopes *left* in a sample [which presupposes the original count was known, an impossibility].

Putting the dogma aside, there is some useful information, but it remains an evolutionary book (and targeted at younger people for indoctrination).

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**I) Setting the Scene (pp. 4-5)**

Time is divided into: Eons; Eras; Periods.

**II) The Triassic (p. 6-17)**

The *ilium* is part of the hip.

Dinosaurs (*Dinosauria* order) are divided into *Saurischia* (lizard-hipped) and *Ornithischia* (bird-hipped, i.e., the pubis bone is split backwards) suborders.

The "badlands" of South Saskatchewan are so called due to the difficult environment.

The evidence dinosaurs lived in herds comes partly from large burial sites caused by flash floods (Noah's Flood is omitted).

**III) The Jurassic (pp. 18-33)**

*Apatosaurus* used to be called *Brontosaurus* ("thunder lizard").

Edward Cope and Othniel Marsh fought the "Bone Wars". Between them they names 130 new dinosaur species.

Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, Colorado has vast Jurassic sediments.

The Lesotho Red Beds in southern Africa have produced many excellent fossil specimens.

Megalosaurus was the first dinosaur discovered 1677 in limestone quarries north of Oxford. However, it was thought to be from a giant human.

The author claimed *sauropods* 'evolved' from *prosauropods*. In 1841, Sir Richard Owen first named vertebrae of these as *cetiosaurus* ("whale reptile") since he thought they were from a whale.

Braciosaurus was 22.5m long and Diplodocus 27m. They had cylindrical peg-like teeth.

The author rightly classifies *Archaeopteryx* as a bird.

#### **IV) The Early Cretaceous World (pp. 34-43)**

Most dinosaurs simply opened and shut their mouths like a door hinge. Since food was swallowed unchewed they required gastroliths for digestion.

*Deinonychus* had a sickle-like slashing claw.

*Baryonyx* was found in a brick pit in Surrey, 1983. It's claw was 30cm.

*Ouranosaurus* ("sky lizard") had a dorsal sail for thermoregulation

#### **V) The Late Cretaceous World (pp. 44-)**

The Late Cretaceous had the greatest number of dinosaur species alive. Classic areas are Alberta, Montana, and Mongolia.

*Quetzalcoatlus* was discovered in the Javelina Formation, Texas.

*Therizinosaurus* ("scythe lizard") had arms 2.5m with 70cm-long claws.

*Tyrannosaurus Rex* was named 1905. It was 14m long and 6m tall. Smaller tyrannosaurs include *Tarbosaurus*, *Albertosaurus* and *Daspletosaurus*.

*Anklyosaurus* was 10m long and had two skulls for protection. It's tail was also a double-club

*Euplocephalus* had a bony eyelid cover.

*Corythosaurus* had a large plate-like crest, which was hollow and had breathing tubes from nostrils down to the throat. This would act as a wind instrument.

*Pachycephalosaurus* had a maximum skull thickness of 25cm.

Ceratopsians laid eggs in a circular configuration of 10-20 buried in sand.

*Coelacanth*, a 'living fossil', was fished up off Africa in 1938!