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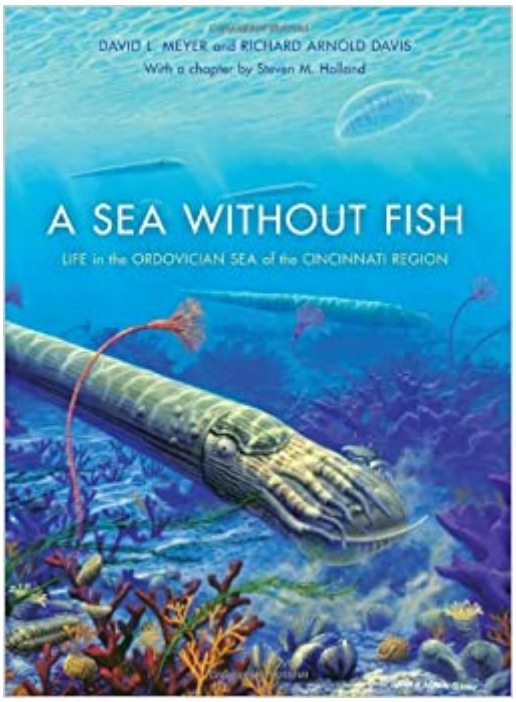
A Sea Without Fish: Life In The Ordovician Sea Of The Cincinnati Region (Life Of The Past)



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Synopsis

The region around Cincinnati, Ohio, is known throughout the world for the abundant and beautiful fossils found in limestones and shales that were deposited as sediments on the sea floor during the Ordovician Period, about 450 million years agoÃ¢â ¬â ¢some 250 million years before the dinosaurs lived. In Ordovician time, the shallow sea that covered much of what is now the North American continent teemed with marine life. The Cincinnati area has yielded some of the world's most abundant and best-preserved fossils of invertebrate animals such as trilobites, bryozoans, brachiopods, molluscs, echinoderms, and graptolites. So famous are the Ordovician fossils and rocks of the Cincinnati region that geologists use the term "Cincinnatian" for strata of the same age all over North America. This book synthesizes more than 150 years of research on this fossil treasure-trove, describing and illustrating the fossils, the life habits of the animals represented, their communities, and living relatives, as well as the nature of the rock strata in which they are found and the environmental conditions of the ancient sea.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The authors provide a comprehensive view of the grand panorama of Ordovician paleontology in the Cincinnati region. This volume belongs in the libraries of those interested in the Ordovician Period, the geology and paleontology of the Cincinnati area, and the history of science." Ã¢â ¬â ¢David J. Bottjer, Professor of Earth and Biological Sciences, University of Southern California"In this excellent introduction to the Cincinnatian fossil beds, A Sea without Fish offers a

fascinating glimpse of a long-extinct ecosystem.... interesting, well-written, and profusely illustrated... Highly recommended." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Choice, August 2009"A Sea without Fish is superbly written, richly illustrated, up-to-date, fairly thorough, and downright entertaining in places.... [It] is a fantastic book. Casual collectors will learn something; advanced collectors and geology students will learn something; even professionals will learn something, guaranteed." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Rocks & Minerals, October, 2010"A Sea without Fish is a lavishly illustrated introduction to a marvelous underwater realm preserved in the 450-million-year-old fossils of the Cincinnatian." Ã¢â ¬â ¢SirReadaLot.org, March 30, 2009"Anyone with an interest in the life found during the Ordovician period will want this book!" Ã¢â ¬â ¢Birdbooker Report 5 (blog), March 2009"Paleontology is all about roots. A Sea Without Fish is an excellent example of how the history of a discipline and the history of life in the Cincinnati area come together to provide a fascinating, clear understanding about how our knowledge of fossils of the region has evolved....This is an attractive, well-written, and beautifully illustrated book describing the geology and paleontology of one of the best-known and most fossiliferous regions of the world. The book belongs in the personal library of all those interested in paleontology and in college and university libraries." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Northwest Ohio History, Spring 2010

David L. Meyer is Professor of Geology at the University of Cincinnati. He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. Richard Arnold Davis is Professor of Biology and Geology at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati. He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. Steven M. Holland is Professor of Geology at the University of Georgia, Athens. He lives in Athens, Georgia.

I have been enjoying reading this book for a couple of weeks, and for a variety of reasons. First, it is not a simple or general overview of the Ordovician; it is not an introductory text--though it would be accessible to people without a great deal of background in paleontology. [I myself am an amateur enthusiast.] The authors describe the various fossil assemblages present from a particular area -- around Cincinnati, Ohio -- from a paricular time in Earth’s history; about 450 million years ago, near the end of the Ordovician. I appreciated the detailed treatment of the various plant and animal species that are represented in the Cincinnatian strata and was engrossed in the diagrams and drawings presented by the authors. There are chapters on everything from algae to Crinoids, and from mollusks to nautiloids. Each group is given a clear and vivid description.Beyond this, I was struck by a whole chapter on the paleontologists who have studied these strata and collected the fossils; both the professionals and the amateurs--over the last century. Finally, the book ended on an imaginative note (!) -- with the authors engaged in a time-travel excursion to the Ordovicisn,

where they saw many of the species that had been discussed in the book in a plausible life-situation. This reinforced my own experience that I was on a journey to another time and place as I was reading the book.A very engaging read!

This book should be in the library of every collector of invertebrate fossils. Even if you don't collect, this book will help youunderstand what the Ordovician world and the animals that inhabited it were like around 450 million years ago,as revealed via the fossils of the Cincinnati region. Meyer and Davis have delivered a treasure that has been sorely needed.Way more enlightening than the introduction to invertebrate paleontology course that I took as an undergraduate. The book wouldbe a bargain just for the myriad photos of fossils and the captions that accompany them.Both of these generous professors have my profound gratitude for writing this wonderful book. Thank you both, Jerry Rush

Since I'm interested in paleontology, I always find something interesting to learn and remember in a book. This is also the case with this book, which I recommend for those people who are curious to learn more about our past ancestors.

I grew up in Cincinnati and have lately taken to daydreaming about the serene, extreme other-worldliness of what it must have been like... 400 million years ago. My hometown has made me a fossil snob. 80 million-year-old bones? Meh. Dinosaurs? Newbies. And then there was the fabled diorama at the local Natural History Museum: where oh where has it gone? This is a very readable survey of the men (all men back then though the wondrous "amateur" Cincinnati fossil group, the Dry Dredgers, currently has many women members) and the sea that over time yielded the famous Cincinnatian strata. Lovely color plates that take one back in time (though the black and white technical drawings needed a massage) and there is even an image of the old diorama. Highly recommended for anyone at any knowledge level of Ordovician fossils.

Well organized, thorough research work about the Ordovician sea.Recommended to all students of Paleozoic studies.Excellent diagrams, charts, and photos.

Text is well written. Content is technical but readable. The information has application beyond the specific region/era for which it was written. It would make a nice textbook for an introductory college course.

Love this book,... easily to follow...

Would like more illustrations of fossilsLiked the geophysical descriptions of the time of the fossils along with the layering

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