

C O N T E N T S

Preface	1
I EPISODES IN THE BIRTH OF PALEONTOLOGY	
<i>The Nature of Fossils and the History of the Earth</i>	
1. The Lying Stones of Marrakech	9
2. The Sharp-Eyed Lynx, Outfoxed by Nature	27
3. How the Vulva Stone Became a Brachiopod	53
II PRESENT AT THE CREATION	
<i>How France's Three Finest Scientists Established Natural History in an Age of Revolution</i>	
4. Inventing Natural History in Style	75
5. The Proof of Lavoisier's Plates	91
6. A Tree Grows in Paris: Lamarck's Division of Worms and Revision of Nature	115
III DARWIN'S CENTURY—AND OURS	
<i>Lessons from Britain's Four Greatest Victorian Naturalists</i>	
7. Lyell's Pillars of Wisdom	147
8. A Sly Dullard Named Darwin: Recognizing the Multiple Facets of Genius	169
9. An Awful Terrible Dinosaurian Irony	183
10. Second-Guessing the Future	201

IV SIX LITTLE PIECES ON THE MEANING AND LOCATION OF EXCELLENCE

Substrate and Accomplishment

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 11. Drink Deep, or Taste Not the Pierian Spring | 221 |
| 12. Requiem Eternal | 227 |
| 13. More Power to Him | 231 |

De Mortuis When Truly Bonum

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 14. Bright Star Among Billions | 237 |
| 15. The Glory of His Time and Ours | 241 |
| 16. This Was a Man | 245 |

V SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 17. A Tale of Two Work Sites | 251 |
| 18. The Internal Brand of the Scarlet W | 269 |
| 19. Dolly's Fashion and Louis's Passion | 287 |
| 20. Above All, Do No Harm | 299 |

VI EVOLUTION AT ALL SCALES

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 21. Of Embryos and Ancestors | 317 |
| 22. The Paradox of the Visibly Irrelevant | 333 |
| 23. Room of One's Own | 347 |

Illustration Credits

Index