Ancient artefacts: ornamental beads from Egyptian tombs

Also in this issue:

Who did it?
Bite marks in Jurassic and Cretaceous ammonites

The secret life of starfish
Dr Liam Herringshaw

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center
Dean Lomax
Dear readers...

With the start of a new year, Roy has asked me to write a ‘guest editorial’ and I understand that Alister and Alison will write another later this year. As many of you know, I have been helping to edit Deposits since 2006. During this time, I have been both surprised and delighted by the increasing number of what might be termed ‘popular geology’ books being published. For example, eminent geologists, such as Professors Michael Benton and Richard Fortey, have shown themselves to be excellent writers of geology books for the general public. In the case of Richard Fortey, I rate his books as better written even than those of Richard Dawkins (and, he can certainly string a few good words together).

In similar vein, when Roy and I were growing up, if you wanted to identify UK fossils or research what you might find in a particular area, you were restricted to the (admittedly wonderful) NHM books - British Palaeozoic Fossils, British Mesozoic Fossils and British Cenozoic Fossils. Thankfully, they are still available and every fossil collector should have copies in their book collection. However, the more recent addition of Palaeontological Association and Geology Association guides (one of which is reviewed in this issue by me) has opened up a new seam of information and advice for amateur and professional geologists alike. In addition, a plethora of other books has appeared, particularly about specific regions in the UK. My favourites are ‘Yorkshire Geology’ by Paul Enson (The Dovecote Press) and ‘Death of an Ocean’ by Euan Clarkson and Brian Upton (Dunedin Academic Press).

Of course, the UK isn’t the only source of well-written English language geology books. The US has always been good for this and, in fact, my personal interest in geology was revived by reading Stephen Jay Gould’s peerless book, ‘Wonderful life’ (Penguin Science). There is also a great supply coming from the Antipodes.

At Deposits, we have been keen to publicise this constant supply of new books by including several book reviews in each issue. In addition, we hope that our own magazine adds to the genre, by publishing high quality geological articles. Therefore, with this ever-growing and huge resource for us all, there is no excuse not to carry on educating and entertaining ourselves by indulging in a few geology books in 2011.

From all at Deposits, we wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

Jon Trevelyan, Assistant Editor.
Recent finds: your finds from the Winter of 2010/2011

A field guide to Barbados (Part 3): northern Barbados
Stephen K Donovan (The Netherlands) and David A T Harper (Denmark)

Who did it? Bite marks in Jurassic and Cretaceous ammonites
Adiël Klompmaker (The Netherlands & USA)

Tiny bubble theory of Lake Superior agate formation (Part II): results from other laboratories and inclusions such as crystals and plumes
Wayne Sukow (USA)

The Bradshaw Foundation: rock art
Peter Robinson (UK)

Jon Trevelyan (UK)

Salthill Quarry, Clitheroe: a resource degraded
Stephen K Donovan (The Netherlands)

Directory of societies and associations

Diary of events

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Featured find...
Anthony Rybak came across this outstanding theropod footprint while collecting on his local beaches on the Isle of Skye. It is nine inches long and in excellent condition.