

# *The Day the* **DINOSAURS DIED**

*In the dim past of antiquity, giant dinosaurs roamed the earth. Suddenly — the dinosaur's strange world came to a cataclysmic end. This mystery of the "great dying" has been a century-long puzzle to the best minds in paleontology. Its true meaning gives us a much-needed understanding of this earth's history.*

by Paul Kroll

**I**T WAS a bright and beautiful era in that distant past — seventy million years ago, say paleontologists. Strange creatures were roaming this earth. Dinosaurs dominated the land. Pterosaurs (flying reptiles) flitted through the skies. The oceans were alive with giant marine reptiles called ichthyosaurs and mosasaurs.

The landscape of the earth was totally different then. "We might," as one author put it, "well imagine ourselves upon another planet."

None of the mammals with which we are ordinarily familiar existed. There were no dogs, no horses, no cattle, no cats; no man walked upon the earth to view this strange creation.

Few of the common insects with which we are familiar, such as butterflies and bees, are known to have existed.

## Two Different Worlds

Plant life in this Age of Reptiles would seem strange to us. Cycads, ferns, fern-like plants, dominated the landscape. The flowering plants and common trees simply were not in existence. There were no oak trees, no maples, no tomato vines, no orange trees, no marigolds, no sweet peas.

It was a world without the variety of mammals we see today — few if any fish with true scales, no array of feathered fowl, no grains, no fruits, no vegetables for man.

Then suddenly a series of strange and terrible disasters wrought havoc on this earth.

The flying reptiles were completely exterminated. The great dinosaurs vanished completely, leaving only a few small, scattered dinosaur-like creatures for man's world today. The great reptiles of the sea became a thing of the past. The strange plant life of that time long ago was also destroyed. It was replaced in great measure by the modern plants of today — plants upon which man and mammal alike depend for their survival.

With an alarming abruptness, that entire world perished. *The dinosaurs were exterminated!* We do have reptiles with us today, but they "occupy a humble, almost insignificant position," as one author put it. Almost without exception they are crawling, sprawling creatures.

Today's snakes, lizards, turtles or crocodiles are hardly chips off the old block.

But why did the dinosaurs perish — and HOW? Geologists admit they don't know! It is a mystery they have not solved, even after one hundred years of sleuthing.

Yet, the fact that these ruling reptiles perished violently and in astronomical numbers is clear. That they left no descendants is also irrefutable.

## The Ultimate Disaster

Dinosaur expert Dr. Edwin Colbert admits, "There can be no doubt about it. All of the dinosaurs, along with various other . . . reptiles, became extinct.

*"...NOT ONE OF THEM SUR-*

*VIVED,* as is amply proved by the fact that during almost a century and a half of paleontological exploration, the wide world over, no trace of a dinosaur bone or tooth has ever been found in any post-Cretaceous rocks, not even in the earliest of them.

"The proof of the geologic record on this score is IRREFUTABLE" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin H. Colbert, p. 249).

This series of extinctions is one of the most confusing puzzles in the history of paleontology. The greatest scientists scratch their heads in amazement at what occurred.

None claims to have the full answer.

For example, Carl O. Dunbar, in his well-known textbook, *Historical Geology*, is simply awed by this wholesale extinction of life.

## A Time of Crisis

"It is *difficult to account* for the SIMULTANEOUS EXTINCTION of great tribes of animals so diverse in relationships and in habitats of life" (*Historical Geology*, Carl Dunbar, pp. 345, 348).

The expert Edwin H. Colbert speaks frankly of this problem:

"The great extinction that wiped out ALL of the dinosaurs, large and small, in all parts of the world, and *at the same time* brought to an end various other lines of reptilian evolution, was one of the OUTSTANDING EVENTS in the history of life and in the history of the earth . . . it was an event that has *DEFIED ALL ATTEMPTS* at a satis-

factory explanation" (*The Age of Reptiles*, p. 191).

### Suddenly — New Forms of Life

This sudden extinction of reptilian life was certainly a mysterious event. But equally puzzling to scientists was the sudden appearance of entirely new forms of life, totally unrelated to the reptiles.

It is this utter and complete change that confuses paleontologists who seek to find an evolutionary answer for the existence of all life.

Musing about this problem, geologist Carl Dunbar quotes George Gaylord Simpson, one of the most respected men in paleontology:

"It is as if the *curtain were rung down SUDDENLY* on a stage where all the leading roles were taken by reptiles, especially dinosaurs, in great numbers and bewildering variety, and *rose again IMMEDIATELY* to reveal the same setting but an *ENTIRELY NEW CAST* in which the dinosaurs do not appear at all, other reptiles are mere supernumeraries [unimportant, bit-part actors] and the leading parts are all played by *MAMMALS*" (*Historical Geology*, Carl O. Dunbar, p. 426).

### Evolution in Crisis

Why is this sudden change in the character of life so devastating to the evolutionary concept?

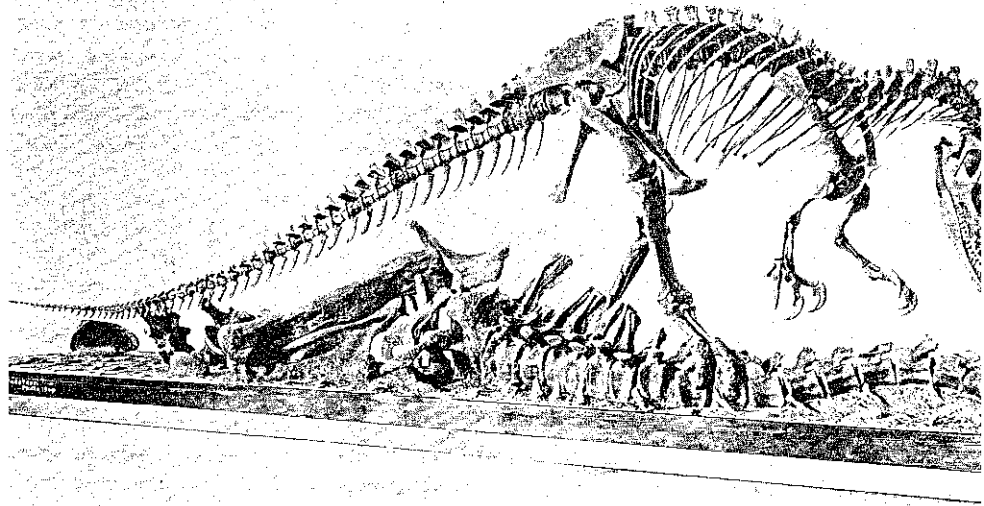
Because evolution demands *slow* change over *long* periods of time. But here the fossil record shows *QUICK* change in an obviously *SHORT* period of time.

Evolution demands *numerous intermediate* living things which can be hooked together in an attempt to show an evolutionary sequence. However, the fossil record reveals a *PROFOUND CHANGE* from reptilian hosts to mammals — and *WITHOUT* any proven intermediaries.

Scientists are thus faced with two unanswered puzzles: How were the dinosaurs destroyed, and what killed them off so quickly? And second, what is the meaning of this abrupt change in the type of life on this earth?

### The Reasons Given

*Not one* of the theories propounded for dinosaur extinction is accepted



Courtesy American Museum of Natural History

**MEAT-EATING DINOSAUR** — Photo shows the dinosaur, *Allosaurus fragilis*, mounted as if feeding upon a brontosaurus skeleton. This allosaurus skeleton from the Morrison beds of Colorado is about thirty feet long.

by all paleontologists. Paleontologist Edwin Colbert's decisive verdict on the ultimate cause of the dinosaur disaster is that, "This is one of the big questions of paleontology for which as yet *NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER* has been set forward" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin H. Colbert, pp. 250-251).

Briefly, let's examine a few of the theories. What about climatic change?

Perhaps it got too cold for the dinosaurs. According to evolutionary time scales, it would take many millions of years for the earth's climate to change. Surely, if evolution were a fact, these reptiles could adapt themselves to it.

Perhaps it got too hot for the dinosaurs?

"It is an ingenious idea, but there is no geological evidence to support the concept of temperature increases at the close of the Cretaceous period" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin H. Colbert, p. 254).

What about food problems?

The fossil record shows that the plants eaten by the dinosaurs were still very much available to them at the time of the Great Extinction. Perhaps some could have been extinguished *IF* the food supply in a certain area or of a certain kind were not available. But this idea cannot account for the extinction of *ALL* dinosaurs *EVERYWHERE*.

Perhaps great disease epidemics swept the earth at that time? This solution is also rejected by most scientists — and for good reasons. Most epidemics are *very specific*, attacking only one species of animal, or are relatively limited in their effects, killing off only a portion of that species.

One paleontologist candidly confesses that "it is stretching credulity far beyond the bounds of reason to suppose that a series of epidemics could have brought about the disappearance of *ALL* dinosaurs" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin H. Colbert, pp. 255, 256).

### Poorly Constructed — or Something?

Could it be that dinosaurs were badly constructed? No! Dinosaurs were *WELL CONSTRUCTED!* And can we, in all honesty, postulate that *ALL* the varied dinosaurs and other forms of life in the land, in the seas, and in the air were *ALL* "badly constructed"?

Another quaint theory has certain so-called "primitive mammals" having a yen for dinosaur eggs — eating the huge reptiles literally off the face of the earth.

Impossible!

The living Nile monitor, for example, avidly hunts and devours eggs of

the Nile crocodile. But it has not succeeded in exterminating its larger relative.

But more important, the fossil record shows that true mammals of the type and variety of today did NOT ARISE until *after* the dinosaurs were extinct. This explanation, as the others, simply doesn't hold water.

The idea of "racial senescence" is an old theory — and that is all it is, a theory! Few competent paleontologists would accept the idea that dinosaurs just grew old and tired as a race or species!

Remember, extremely varied reptilian forms living worldwide, ALL DIED at once. Even if the senility idea were plausible, would all the varied forms of life which became extinct — *all* reach this so called senility state TOGETHER?

So much for one half of the ideas.

### What About Catastrophes?

The other half of the categories usually cited involve some form of "local" CATASTROPHE. However, to do the job of extinguishing the reptilian hordes, these catastrophes would have to be *worldwide* in extent.

Why?

Because we find dinosaur graveyards in all parts of the world. But such catastrophes would need to account for MORE than just the dinosaurs' mysterious obliteration.

The great crisis in the history of life at that time also destroyed the great MARINE reptiles — the ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs, and the mosasaurs. These ALL DIED simultaneously with the dinosaurs — even though they lived in the seas.

Other types of life in the sea, and in the air as well, also totally perished. The great winged dragons, the pterosaurs, had the amazing wingspread of 23 to 25 feet. The final remains of these flying reptiles are found along with the dinosaurs. Their fate was the same.

But scientists are unwilling to accept sudden catastrophes if they are *worldwide* in extent.

"An obvious and all-too-easy explanation is the *catastrophic one*. Did some great event take place that wiped out these reptiles?" Colbert asks.

His answer?

"There is *NO PLACE* for *worldwide catastrophes* in the world of the past or of the present *IF the principle of uniformitarianism* [the idea that existing processes acting in the same manner as at present are sufficient to account for all geological changes] has any validity" (*The Age of Reptiles*, Edwin Colbert, pp. 203, 204).

### Universal Catastrophes Rejected

And that's just the problem! Scattered local catastrophes are accepted. But worldwide catastrophe is denied consideration. The theory that all geological processes have continued at basically the same rate as we see them occurring today is a vital pillar in the structure of modern geology.

But, have all geologic processes continued at the same rate? Is this concept true? WHY have worldwide catastrophes been rejected by scientists? WHY should the "obvious and all-too-easy explanation" of a universal catastrophe have NO PLACE in modern science?

The plain and obvious answer is that

evolution needs time — VAST amounts of time — to make its theory seem tenable.

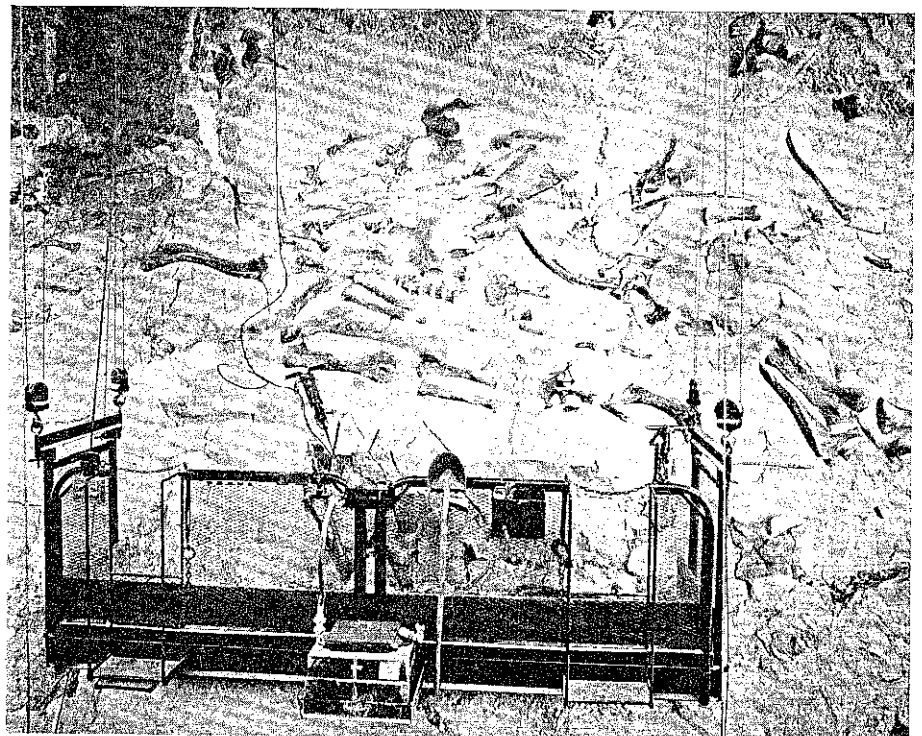
Scientists realize that a major catastrophe could do in a few days or weeks what natural processes might require many thousands or even millions of years to accomplish. A catastrophe enormously speeds up and goes far beyond the pace of the natural processes of erosion and burial. That is why any catastrophic approach is shunned and avoided by scientists who have assumed that all life is due to a slow evolutionary process.

"We may assume," Nicholas Hotton, a paleontologist tells us, "that it [the extinction] resulted from reasonably well-understood processes of climatic change and biological competition... we are fairly sure that it was gradual, NOT CATASTROPHIC" (*Dinosaurs*, Nicholas Hotton III, p. 174).

Yet paleontologists acknowledge that other means could not destroy these creatures. They admit that climatic

**THE EVIDENCE OF CATASTROPHE** — Inside the Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center in Dinosaur National Monument, Utah. The quarry face — loaded with dinosaur bones — actually forms the north wall of the building. Over 300 dinosaur skeletons were removed from 1909 to 1924. This location is merely one of many — all showing definite signs of quick burial under catastrophic conditions.

Ambassador College Photo



change, epidemics, change of food supply and other such ideas cannot possibly account for the worldwide extinction of land, air, and sea life at the close of the Age of Reptiles.

If a catastrophe is to be involved to explain the extinction of the dinosaurs — it would have to be a **WORLDWIDE** occurrence!

European paleontologist Björn Kurtén admits this precise point:

"The catastrophe would have had to be almost **UNIVERSAL IN PROPORTIONS** as we know that dinosaurs were present in most or all continents" (*The Age of Dinosaurs*, Björn Kurtén, p. 236).

Worldwide catastrophe seems to be the only logical path to pursue in looking for an explanation for this mysterious extinction.

Yet, the typical paleontologist simply does not want to face this possibility.

#### Catastrophes — Logical Explanations

"It seems logical," admits Colbert, "to look for some *great change* that took place . . . thereby bringing to an end the multitudes of dinosaurs and other reptiles that then populated the earth.

"This is not to imply that there was of necessity a great **WORLDWIDE CATASTROPHE**, which by the violence of its expression suddenly wiped out the dinosaurs. Catastrophes are the mainstays of people who have very little knowledge of the natural world, for them the invocation of a catastrophe is an *easy way* to explain great events" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 253).

Yet, if a worldwide catastrophe *explains* what happened, why **NOT** postulate — and prove it? What is wrong with an easy or simple explanation? After all, paleontologists have been struggling for an answer to this "great dying" for many decades.

#### Keep Admissions in Mind

"So far no logical way has been found to connect the known cause of the extinction of individual species with these worldwide Great Deaths. Some other cause, *operating on a WORLDWIDE basis*, would seem to be called for" (*The Day of the Dinosaur*, L.

Sprague de Camp and Catherine Crook de Camp, pp. 200, 201).

How can we solve this puzzle of dinosaur extinction? First, we must look for a *worldwide* cause. Second, that cause must be so catastrophic that no dinosaur any place on earth could survive. The evidence in this mystery is the fossil record.

#### Dinosaur Hunting in New Mexico

Let's take a few examples of where dinosaur bones have been found and see how catastrophic their burial really was.

In 1947, an expedition from the American Museum of Natural History discovered an amazing concentration of *Coelophysis* dinosaur bones in northwestern New Mexico.

The explorers began to probe a certain section of land with scratchers and awls, the usual method of preliminary investigation of a possible bone site. It became quickly apparent that the investigators had run upon a most amazing find.

The workers cut a large scallop into the hillside. "As the layer was exposed it revealed a most **REMARKABLE DINOSAURIAN GRAVEYARD** in which there were literally scores of skeletons one on top of another and **INTERLACED WITH** one another. It would appear that some local catastrophe had overtaken these dinosaurs, so that they all died together and were buried together" (*Men and Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 141).

In what condition were they found?

"They were found in the **GREATEST PROFUSION**, piled on top of one another, with heads and tails and feet and legs often inextricably mixed in a jackstraw puzzle of bones."

#### Overwhelmed by Catastrophe

Some of the skeletons were *absolutely complete*. Even the tiniest bones survived. These finds are rated as among the most perfect dinosaur skeletons ever discovered.

"They represent a range of ages, from very small animals to those obviously fully adult. All of this rich material, coming from a single quarry that was perhaps thirty feet square, certainly indicates the remains of animals

belonging to a single species that may have been **OVERWHELMED BY SOME LOCAL CATASTROPHE AND BURIED TOGETHER**" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 61).

The fact that these fossils were perfectly preserved shows they had to be buried **IMMEDIATELY** — before predators and weathering destroyed the skeletons.

The composition of the fossils shows a complete range of a single species, as one might find a herd of some wild animal. It is obvious that a **CATASTROPHE** buried those animals.

#### Just a "Local" Catastrophe?

But was it only a "local catastrophe"? This might be a logical deduction if such graveyards were found nowhere else. However, the reverse is true. No matter where we look, almost invariably we see indication of violent burial for dinosaurs.

In fact, whenever we see fossils of anything from marine invertebrates to mammals — this sudden, and violent type of burial is clearly evident.

The dinosaurs are merely an outstanding case of this.

For example, there is a rich bed of fossil dinosaurs in Alberta, Canada. Here is one of the most **RICHLY** fossiliferous regions of the world in dinosaur bones.

How are these bones found?

"Innumerable bones and many fine skeletons of dinosaurs and other associated reptiles have been quarried from these badlands, particularly in the fifteen-mile stretch of the river to the east of Steeville, a stretch that is a veritable **DINOSAURIAN GRAVEYARD**" (*The Age of Reptiles*, Edwin Colbert, p. 169).

#### Dinosaur Graveyards

Another example comes from a 1934 discovery.

Barnum Brown, famous dinosaur discoverer, was collecting bones in Montana. He heard of large bones on the ranch owned by a man named Barker Howe, who lived at the foot of the Big-horn Mountains in Wyoming.

Edwin Colbert tells us in what condition Brown found the bones as he

began to work the area of the Howe Ranch.

"The concentration of the fossils was remarkable; they were piled in LIKE LOGS IN A JAM" (*Men and Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 173).

If this were an isolated case, it might perhaps be explained as a fluke of nature or a "local" catastrophe. But this example is just one of many.

Such destruction, such mixing up, such concentration could only come by catastrophe!

### A Profusion of Skeletons

In another case, somewhat earlier, bone diggers were making exploratory excursions into the Medicine Bow anticline, a ridge that contains what are called Morrison sediments — somewhat north of Como Bluff, Wyoming. The Morrison formation is known as a tremendous source of dinosaur fossils throughout Western North America.

In the general area north of Como Bluff, on June 12, 1898, the famous Bone Cabin quarry was located. It was named after an old shepherd who had built a cabin out of dinosaur bones he found in the area.

Here is what the bone diggers found.

"At this spot the fossil hunters found a hillside literally covered with large fragments of dinosaur bones that had weathered out of the sediments composing the ridge... the party went to work, digging down into the surface of the hill, and as they dug, more and more bones came to light. In short, it was a veritable MINE OF DINOSAUR BONES" (*Men and Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 151).

Another author gives us more details into what was actually discovered.

"In the Bone-Cabin Quarry... we came across a veritable Noah's-ark deposit, a perfect museum of all the animals of the period.

"Here are the largest of the giant dinosaurs *closely mingled* with the remains of the smaller but powerful carnivorous dinosaurs which preyed upon them, also those of the slow and heavy moving armored dinosaurs of the period, as well as of the lightest and most bird-like of the dinosaurs.

"Finely rounded, complete limbs from eight to ten feet in length are

found, especially those of the carnivorous dinosaurs, *perfect even to the sharply pointed and recurved tips of their toes*" (*Dinosaurs*, W. D. Matthew, pp. 136, 138).

Again, immediate burial was necessary for such perfect preservation. It is as if a complete biota — an entire range of animals — were buried together by water-borne mud.

### Digging Dinosaurs in Africa

One of the most important paleontological expeditions, was the 1909-1914 one to what was then German East Africa, now Tanzania.

"The site contained an ENORMOUS NUMBER of fossils — far more than could be carried off by one expedition. As in most of such sites, the greater part of the remains were fragmentary... there was much speculation as to how the remains of so many dinosaurs came to be CONCENTRATED in beds otherwise *rather poor* in fossil remains. Some German scientists suggested that the animals had been overwhelmed by a *natural catastrophe*" (*The Day of the Dinosaur*, L. Sprague de Camp and Catherine Crook de Camp, p. 250).

Why, of course!

That is the obvious explanation. Here is another example of VIOLENT burial. When you find fossils the world over — in Africa, in North America, in Europe — all looking as though they had been "overwhelmed by a catastrophe," that is the logical conclusion.

There was a WORLDWIDE CATASTROPHE that buried these dragons of the ancient past and preserved them as a record of what occurred in those distant times. Sudden death and immediate burial was the fate of that ancient world.

### Dinosaurs in Belgium

Back in 1878 a remarkable concentration of *Iguanodon* (I-gwan-o-don) skeletons were discovered one thousand feet below the ground in a Belgian coal mine.

Coal miners in the coal town of Bernissart were developing a new gallery at the 1,046-foot depth. Suddenly the miners hit upon large fossil bones.

A second tunnel was driven parallel

to the first at 1,157 feet. Again, bones were struck.

"Thus it could be seen that the FOSIL BONEYARD was evidently one of *gigantic proportions*, especially notable because of its vertical extension through more than a hundred feet of rock" (*Men and Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 58).

The bones were not contained within the regular beds of the coal seams — but were deposited in UNstratified clays that cut crosswise and diagonally *through* the layered coal. It appeared that a deep pit or fissure had extended through the coal-bearing layers.

How is the profusion of bones explained?

"Careful work... would SEEM to *indicate* that within the coal mine of Bernissart there was preserved an ancient ravine — a narrow, deep gully... into which, within a comparatively short span of years, many iguanodons had slipped and fallen and died, to be buried in deep deposits of mud brought in by *flooding waters* after a HEAVY RAIN" (*Men and Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, p. 58).

This, of course, is often the usual explanation. But even then after "careful work" it only *seemed* like a *possible* indication that these iguanodons had slipped and fallen.

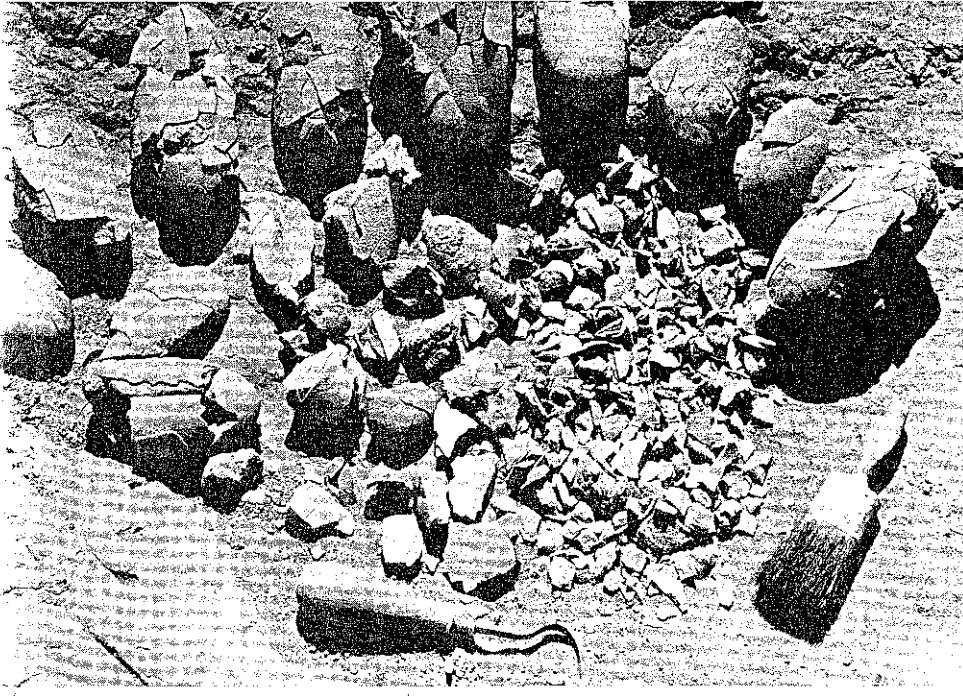
But here we have heavy rains mentioned, flooding waters, deposits of mud. Is it not more logical to have a sudden inundation bury these hapless dinosaurs? Do we not here have another positive proof of some catastrophe obliterating the dinosaurs?

### Digging for Eggs

In 1922, a convoy of automobiles was making its way across the desert plains of Outer Mongolia. They stopped at the sudden sight of spectacular cliffs that shot up from the desert floor.

The cars were filled with scientists sent by the American Museum of Natural History. Part of the Central Asiatic Expeditions, these men were engaged in a large natural history survey of the Gobi Desert.

This 1922 American Museum Expedition made an electrifying discovery of more than seventy unhatched dinosaur eggs! Also, thousands of fragments



Courtesy American Museum of Natural History

**ANCIENT EGGS** — These eggs of the dinosaur, Protoceratops, were discovered in Outer Mongolia. Paleontologists puzzle about how they were preserved.

of eggshells were discovered. This in addition to skeletons that represent all stages of growth from newly hatched baby dinosaurs to full grown adults. Since then, Russian and Chinese workers have found more of the eight-inch-long eggs.

So remarkable was this series of dinosaur eggs, that a few of them even show traces of EMBRYONIC BONE! Most, however, were completely filled with sand.

### The Puzzle of Fossil Eggs

Dinosaur eggs have also been discovered in France, Montana, and Brazil. In Portugal an egg was discovered in rocks classified by geologists as Jurassic along with bones of dinosaurs. Others have been unearthed in East Africa.

But how, you might ask, could FULLY PRESERVED dinosaur eggs be discovered the world over? If you are puzzled by this, so are the paleontologists.

"Some of the dinosaur eggs never hatched. What prevented their development as they lay buried in their sandy crypts is a PUZZLE, all we know is that no little dinosaurs came out of the eggs... in a few of the Mongolian eggs... are traces of fossilized embry-

onic bone, and indication that development had at least gone on for some time before the hatching of the eggs was INTERRUPTED" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, pp. 216, 217).

What "interrupted" the hatching? The answer is very revealing and explains *how* the dinosaurs were killed.

### Conditions of Burial

Briefly, let's notice the conditions under which the dinosaur eggs of Mongolia were preserved. One of the actual discoverers wrote this interesting account.

"Our real thrill came on the second day, when George Olsen reported... that he was sure he had found fossil eggs...

"These eggs were in a GREAT DEPOSIT FULL OF DINOSAUR SKELETONS and containing, so far as we could discover, no remains of other animals or of birds... the deposit was unbelievably rich. Seventy-five skulls and skeletons were discovered, SOME OF THEM ABSOLUTELY PERFECT. Obviously the Flaming Cliffs were a region of *great concentration* of dinosaurs during the breeding season" (*On the Trail of Ancient Man*, Roy Chapman Andrews, pp. 228-231).

How does one explain all this — on the basis of slow evolutionary burial over thousands of years?

One must account for several factors. First, there was a *great profusion* of dinosaur bones here — as though another one of those "local" catastrophes overwhelmed them. The specimens were in a very fine state of preservation. The words "absolutely perfect" were used of some of the bones. The burial must have been *fairly rapid*.

Then there is the problem of dinosaur eggs. What stopped the embryo from developing? A small sandstorm wouldn't. The large dinosaurs would not have been trapped in such a storm. Yet, a catastrophic burial and accompanying temperature change *WOULD HALT* the development of the embryo.

The only answer is obvious.

Remember, the author told us there was a "*great concentration* of dinosaurs." Catastrophes of various dimensions overwhelmed, killed and buried the dinosaurs and the eggs. The embryos ceased to develop, most of the eggs were smashed — but a few being already buried in sand, survived. They survived as a witness that a catastrophe indeed did occur in the region of Mongolia as part of a worldwide pattern of violence and destruction.

### The Remarkable Dinosaur Footprints

Another intriguing type of dinosaur fossil — if we can call it that — is the footprint.

Such tracks are worldwide in extent. They are found in western North America and in New England. In the latter, the tracks have been commercially quarried and sold to tourists.

Dinosaur tracks are also found in South America, especially Argentina. England also has them. And so has Basutoland, down in the southern part of Africa. In this out-of-the-way place, dinosaur tracks are quite abundant.

The dinosaur hunters have also found tracks in such diverse places as Morocco, Portugal and Australia. Canada has not been neglected either. Dinosaur footprints are also found in British Columbia.

As is quite clear, dinosaur tracks are

rather common occurrences the world over. What many of these tracks seem to reveal is even more intriguing. Are they giving us a glimpse of the final moments in the lives of these great beasts — just before they were extinguished by a worldwide catastrophe?

### Tracks Made in Water

Let's begin with the tracks in the Glen Rose Formation near the towns of Glen Rose and Bandera, Texas.

"These great tracks must have been made in shallow water," says Edwin Colbert, "for there are no traces of tail marks, which means that the tail was floating instead of dragging on the ground. Yet, the water was not deep enough to have reached the bellies of the animals that made them" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, pp. 187, 188).

Next, let us skip to the Connecticut Valley in New England. The thousands of dinosaur tracks tell us a fascinating story. They reveal the activity of the dinosaurs in that ominous and distant past.

"Most of the tracks and trackways show us dinosaurs on *the move*, either walking or running. Some of them show that their makers came to sudden stops; some of them show how they slipped in the mud.

"At least one set of tracks, of *Anomoepus* show the dinosaur resting with all four feet and the belly on the ground. Many of the footprints are SUPERIMPOSED UPON RIPPLE MARKS, showing that the dinosaurs wandered across the mud flats following the retreat of shallow waters; perhaps tidal waters or perhaps high waters caused by heavy rainstorms" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, pp. 185, 187).

An amazing story indeed!

### What It All Means

But what do we see here? Let's add more factual material.

"Most dinosaur footprints would SEEM to have been made on mud flats, along the shores of lakes. The tracks are commonly associated with RIPPLE MARKS AND RAINDROP IMPRESSIONS, all preserved in stony immobility, yet in such vivid records of waves

and storms of the distant past there are seldom bony remains to be found" (*Dinosaurs*, Edwin Colbert, pp. 181, 183).

Why are tracks commonly associated with ripple marks, rain, waves, storms, floods, mud? Are these areas former lake bottoms — or land inundated by water due to a convulsing earth?

Other footprints were made across surfaces broken into polygonal shapes — indications of mud cracks made by HEAT. This heat — whatever its source — would have baked the footprints into stony immobility.

And why aren't tracks and bones found together? Could intense heat have cremated the dinosaurs and preserved their footprints? Or was it because the dinosaurs themselves were FLOATED and carried away by the same rising waters that preserved their tracks?

Read the following! You be the judge.

### Swimming or Floating Away — Which?

Sets of tracks often show several individuals of various sizes.

"Their tracks are deeply impressed and include drag-marks of the heavy tails. The tracks of the smaller individuals are shallower and show no tail drag-marks, as though the youngsters were HALF-AFLOAT as the herd made its way through the shallows.

"Another set of tracks, of a single individual, start off deeply impressed, as though the animal were UNSUPPORTED by water, and become less and less well-marked.

"They are finally reduced to the MEREST SCRATCHES, at greater intervals, in what was the bottom of the lake, showing that a big sauropod had ambled into the water, which had supported more and more of his weight as he got in deeper, until finally he was cruising along in a leisurely manner" — or was he FRANTICALLY STRUGGLING to touch bottom, as water rose higher and higher.

And was this dinosaur — along with thousands — CARRIED AWAY by the currents to far distant locations, to be buried in one of the innumerable fossil graveyards around the world?

Someone might ask, "But how were the tracks preserved in spite of the increasing waters?" The answer depends on the area. One example is illustrated by footprints found in Arizona.

### Dinosaur Footprints in Arizona

In June, 1952, William Lee Stokes, well-known geologist was studying uranium deposits in Apache County, Arizona. He discovered a remarkable series of pterodactyl footprints in the Morrison formation.

These tracks clearly reveal how the tracks were preserved.

"The track-bearing unit is a 2- to 4-inch thick stratum of medium-grained, brownish gray sandstone . . . it is ripple marked on the upper surface. . . .

"From the position of the tracks . . . and the apparently unsteady gait of the pterodactyl, it is inferred that the creature was walking . . . in moist to very moist sand.

"Above the tracks is a thin stratum of mudstone which covers and fills them. Evidently the conditions were such that the water ROSE VERY SLIGHTLY and under relatively quiet conditions deposited a mud layer which preserved the tracks from destruction" (*Journal of Paleontology*, Vol. 31, No. 5, September, 1957, "Pterodactyl Tracks from the Morrison Formation," William Lee Stokes, p. 952).

### Back to Connecticut

Richard Swann Lull summarized the conditions under which the tracks and trackways in New England were laid down.

This description reads like a scenario of DISASTER — in spite of the fact that he would interpret fossils in an EVOLUTIONARY context.

Here is a portion of his description:

"There were laid down in a gradually deepening trough in the older rocks the GREAT ACCUMULATIONS OF GRAVELS, sands, and clays, interbedded with vast lava sheets, [the source of intense heat?] which constitute the sediments of the Newark systems. . . .

"Of the organic remains, those of vegetable origin consist of the impressions and casts of trunks of

trees...being of such size as to indicate a **STREAM OF NO MEAN TRANSPORTING POWER**...here and there the vegetal remains were of sufficient abundance to lead to the production of black bituminous shale bands, formed during periods of *accumulation of waters*” (*Triassic Life of the Connecticut Valley*, Richard Swann Lull, p. 24).

Ancient Connecticut is clearly pictured as a disaster area! The cataclysm of water and lava was of such a magnitude as to *literally* erase life off the face of the old New England landscape.

#### Face to Face With Disasters

Everywhere paleontologists look they are faced with this certainty — **DISASTER** wiped out the dinosaurs. These disasters were worldwide. No sector of this globe escaped the tragedy.

Neither is there evidence of transition from reptiles to mammals. Then, where



Ambassador College Photo

Dinosaur footprint embedded in stone.

did the living things of this present age come from?

How did mammals come into existence? What about plant life? Modern fish? And man, himself?

The geological record reveals a profound break between the reptilian life that was obliterated and the modern life of today.

The new forms of life on this planet — the mammals, the insects, the plants, the fishes, the birds, man — are different in most respects from the old.

There is no evolutionary connection between the two. This is proof positive that mammals **DID NOT EVOLVE** from reptiles. Between these two worlds is the geologic evidence that a worldwide catastrophe of astronomical, of inexplicable, magnitude ravaged our planet.

But how — and **WHY**? □

If you are interested in further information, write for our **FREE** reprint “*Dinosaurs Before Adam?*”

It discusses these and other related questions — and gives the surprising answers.