



UNTOLDSECRETS

of Planet Earth

Dire Dragons
VANCE NELSON



UNTOLD SECRETS of Planet Earth

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife, Korelei, and my three children: Emily, Hope, and Zoe. They put up with weeks and months of my absence as I explored planet earth looking for the real history of dinosaurs. Without their support and understanding, this book would not have been possible.

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Preface

I have to admit that growing up I never questioned the concept of dinosaurs living and dying millions of years ago. Why would I? Neither school, nor television, nor anything else trained me to question these things. It wasn’t until I was in my early twenties that I started to ask hard questions relating to both science and religion.

My parents taught me early in life not to give in to peer pressure. They taught me to take a stand for what I deemed to be important. At college, I faced peer pressure to simply accept and believe whatever the professors taught. However, I was a free thinker. If I saw problems in logic or evidence, I would challenge them.

Like many “scientific heretics” before me, I began to think “outside the box.” Just to be clear, I loved science. But I started to ask questions that bothered many academics and challenged their sense of “absolute knowledge.” In case you don’t know from experience, a person doesn’t become popular by challenging people’s thought patterns and foundational worldviews.

This book is a challenge to the “absolute knowledge” claimed by some scientists regarding the history of planet Earth, specifically regarding the history and antiquity of those creatures every child loves—the dinosaurs. I have come to realize that everyone’s beliefs, whether logical or not, affect what they do with the evidence. Perhaps your belief system will not allow you to accept the evidence in this book. It is my hope you will be willing to revise your belief system rather than attempt to explain the evidence away. The conclusion will ultimately remain up to you, the reader.

Wherever possible, I have personally investigated the evidence. I have been to most of the locations mentioned in this book. Most of the artifacts you will see, I have held in my hands and personally examined. I am a skeptic at heart. I want to see the evidence with my own eyes, examine it with my own hands, and analyze it with my own mind.

The artifacts, carvings, paintings, and textiles in this book have been subjected to the highest level of authentication procedures available. If the artifacts had been removed from their original context without documentation, third-party authentication by experts was sought, if

applicable. Where scientific tests were available and applicable, these procedures and tests were performed by labs able to scientifically verify or falsify authenticity. Various scientific tests have been performed such as microscopic analysis, carbon-14 dating, thermoluminescence testing, and high-powered x-ray.

A number of artifacts did not make it into the book because these tests and third-party analyses demonstrated they were recent in origin. For example, a number of allegedly ancient Chinese bronze artifacts with apparent dinosaur depictions were recently tested. They were shown to be of recent manufacture via an industrial x-ray machine. Though some of them may be replicas accurately representing originals, and may still become good evidence, they were rejected. Integrity is of the utmost importance.

With the discovery of much more evidence since the previous publication of this book, some original examples of creatures in old artwork have been removed. This allows for the insertion of new examples, and the fine-tuning of the book’s arguments. This in no way should be inferred to mean that the examples which have been removed have been discredited or refuted, since this is not the case. However, in my view, the new examples provide even more devastating evidence against old-Earthism, evolutionism, and deep time due to the secular age assignment of many of these new creatures. At the same time, they provide powerful support for the Biblical account and time frame of creation.

I have always been interested in dinosaurs and other “extinct” reptiles. This book represents about fifteen years of work and many trips to exotic places worldwide in search of the truth.

Though I have worked with many individuals in attempting to be as accurate and “error-free” as possible, any errors that remain are mine alone.

It is my deepest hope that this book will, in some way, be of value to you and your life. Many of my hours, weeks, and years are expressed on its pages.

Dire Dragons

dinosaurs in ancient art



Introduction

Introduction

I learned my lessons well when I was in elementary school. Dinosaurs and humans did not live together. Dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years ago. These were unquestionable assertions. Besides, why would anyone question these ideas? After all, scientists have landed us on the moon, given us life-saving medicines and medical procedures, the most amazing communications devices, and the latest technological advancements.

I *knew* that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, and as *National Geographic* put it, “No human being has ever seen a live dinosaur.”¹

While taking my science degree, I learned words like *assumption*, *presupposition*, and *axiom*. I learned that even in science a certain number of assumptions often had to be made. These were things that were accepted as true but couldn’t be proven. Many so-called “facts” of science weren’t really facts at all.

I found an interesting testimony to this truth when I read a report dating back to 1924. The report was about the Doheny expedition to the Havasupai Canyon in Arizona. This expedition documented rock art. What was interesting, according to the 1924 report, was that one of the petroglyphs looked similar to a dinosaur. It is recorded that one “scientist of national repute, who was then specializing in dinosaurs”² was told about the petroglyph. It is reported that he said, “It is not a dinosaur, it is impossible, because we know that dinosaurs were extinct 12 million years before man appeared on earth.”³ Scientist or not, he felt no need to examine the evidence carefully, since it was a “fact” that dinosaurs went extinct 12 million years before humans appeared.

Now, wait a minute. It is currently taught as a *fact* that dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years ago, but in 1924 it was a *fact* that they went extinct just over 12 million years ago (12 million years plus a few thousand years for mankind). Doesn’t this show that *neither* of these figures are cold hard *facts*? They, like all historical science, are *interpretations* of the facts.

How one interprets the facts depends on one’s starting point. Axioms, presuppositions, and assumptions undoubtedly affect interpretations. Even in science, there are certain biases in most educational and academic institutions to which everyone must conform, the so-called “priority of the paradigm.”

Recently, some well-qualified scientists have not made tenure or have lost their jobs because they have not held to philosophical naturalism—the idea that everything in the universe is the result of naturalistic causes.⁴ This is the idea that the supernatural can never be considered in the area of science. Science has been defined as the search for truth about nature, but recently it has been redefined as the search for naturalistic explanations for both the operation and the origin of the universe and all it contains.

Operational science is based on repeatable observations of patterns and processes in the present, and objectivity dominates. Origins science is dominated by subjectivity and worldview, beliefs about what might have happened in the unrecorded past are used to explain the unobserved origin of objects of current interest, whether that be the universe itself, the first life, an archaeological artifact, or dinosaurs.

Secular scholars have only subjective speculation built on presuppositions to guide them from observable operations in the present to unseen origin in the past. As a record of God’s acts in history from the beginning to the end, however, the Bible unveils key events in the history of planet Earth, liberating the mind to explore and test hypotheses that go far beyond the tunnel vision imposed by the blinders of naturalism.

We are going to look at some intriguing evidence that is entirely consistent with the Biblical view of the history of planet Earth. I contend that the Biblical view of history makes better sense of the evidence than does the secular evolutionary view. I hope you discover that Biblical creation is a view that fits the facts into a logical, coherent, and defensible whole.

Dinosaurs: Ancient or Recent

According to the Bible, everything was created in six literal days.⁵ Based on the chronologies given in the Bible, this occurred 6,000-7,000 years ago. If marine and flying reptiles were made on day five of creation and humans and dinosaurs were made on day six of creation, then we would expect to see evidence that humans knew about dinosaurs *before* the science of palaeontology was founded. Accurate artwork depicting dinosaurs and allegedly extinct creatures is evidence, as we will see, that ancient people saw living dinosaurs and other supposedly extinct creatures. Such evidence is not only consistent with the Bible, it demonstrates that the Bible’s view of history can be trusted.

Carbon Dating of Dinosaur Bones

Carbon dates are established by measuring the amounts of various types of carbon in a sample. Carbon-14 is a radioactive element sometimes referred to simply as radiocarbon. It is unstable. Therefore, it “decays” or “breaks down.”

Plants take in carbon, including radioactive carbon. Animals then eat plants directly or indirectly through food-chain relationships. Willard Libby, who first proposed the carbon dating method, suggested that everything that was once living would have a certain ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 (regular non-radioactive carbon) in its system. Once a plant or animal dies, the carbon-14 in its system starts to disintegrate without being replaced with new carbon-14. Therefore, the ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 (which does not disintegrate) can be used as a type of clock indicating the time of death of the organism.

For the sake of simplification, if you started with one gram of carbon-14 and waited about 5,730 years, there would only be half a gram left. This is known as the half-life. After ten half-lives, the carbon-14 atoms would exist in extremely small numbers.

Theoretically, after about 60,000 years, carbon-14 dates are not considered highly reliable. This is due to the fact that too few carbon-14 atoms remain to be reliably detected. Therefore, if there is carbon-14 left in dinosaur bones, this would seriously bring into question their assumed age of millions of years. Essentially, all the detectable carbon-14 should be long gone after even one million years, let alone 66 million years or more.

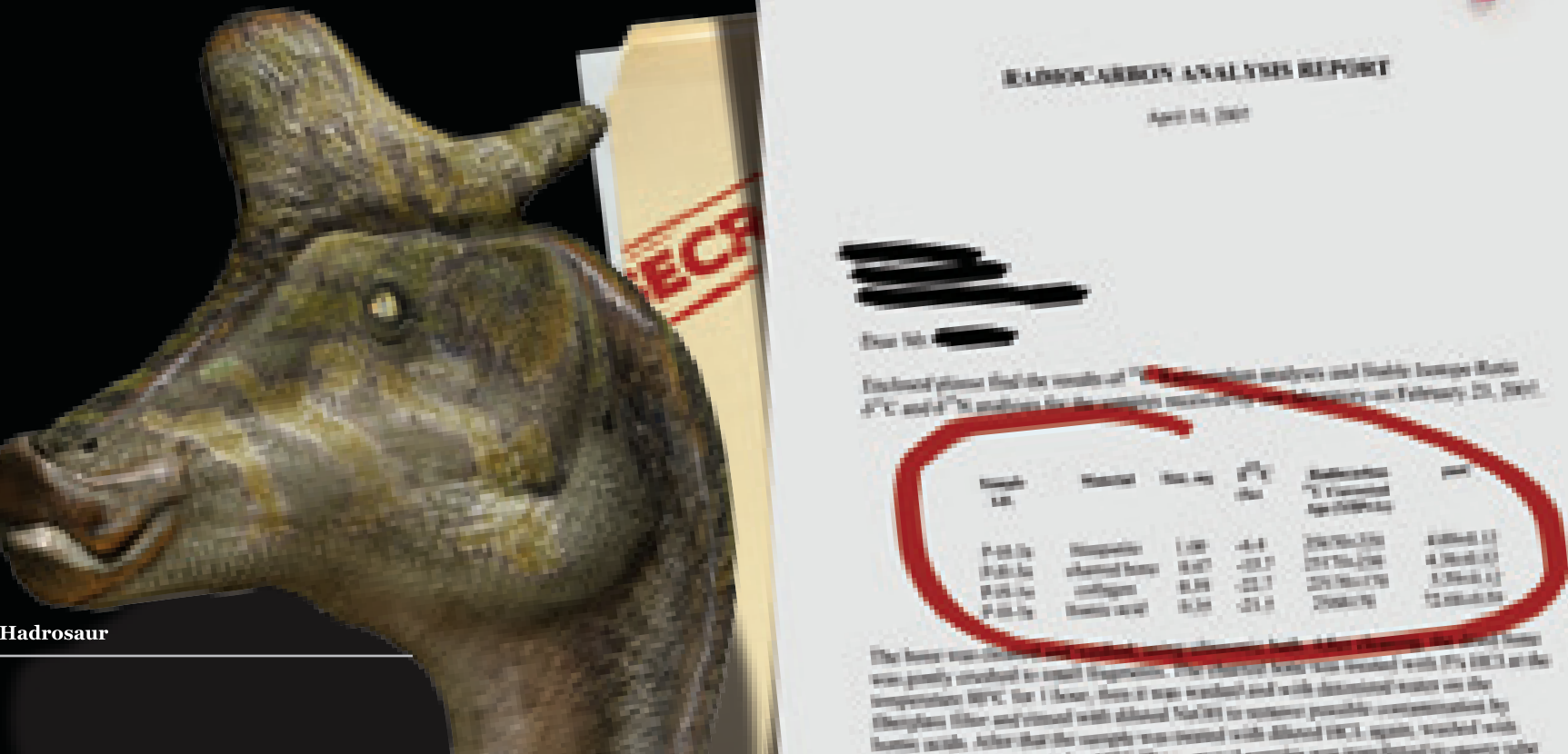
Most evolutionary palaeontologists would *never* consider carbon-dating dinosaur bones. Why not? The answer is simple. According to their *belief*, dinosaurs are all at least 66 million years old. This is an unquestioned assumption. Why waste money on a test to detect the amount of carbon-14 when you already *know* there isn’t any carbon-14 left? One of my mentors put it this way, “You only get the answers to the questions you

ask, and if you don’t ask the right questions, you won’t get the right answers.”

You can see here a duplication of an actual report from a secular lab that has dated samples from a hadrosaur dinosaur bone (Fig. 1). The lab was not told this was a dinosaur bone. So, in effect, they did blind tests. Decontamination was performed. The results are exactly what would be expected and predicted based upon the Biblical view of history. The dinosaur bone contained carbon-14, indicating that it cannot be millions of years old. It can only be thousands of years old. Dr. John Baumgardner reported similar results for the dating of coal deposits⁶ in geological strata which contained dinosaur fossils.

Though radiocarbon dating is *not* a perfect method yielding absolute dates, the dates yielded from these tests are clearly *magnitudes* closer to the Biblical account of history suggesting 6,000-7,000 years, than to the evolutionary belief demanding over 66,000,000 years.

Fig. 1 Secular carbon-14 report



Hadrosaur

Soft Tissue in a *T. rex* Femur

Scientists know a lot about the degradation of biological molecules. We know, for example, that DNA breaks apart very quickly if it is not repaired and maintained in a biological system. The weak hydrogen bonds between the “letters” of the DNA will break apart first. Then in a short time, even under ideal conditions, it will become fragments. Blood cells and soft tissue might last a few thousand years. However, to suggest that soft tissue, blood vessels, and blood cells could be preserved for millions of years is science fiction.

Nonetheless, soft elastic tissue, blood vessels, and blood cells were discovered in a *T. rex* femur by Dr. Mary Schweitzer in 2005 and published in the prestigious journal *Science*.⁷ When Dr. Schweitzer was interviewed about this discovery on MSNBC she said “it was utterly shocking.” She continued that this wasn’t “something that any one of us could ever predict or hope for.” She also lamented that this “flies in the face of everything that we understand about how tissues and cells degrade.”

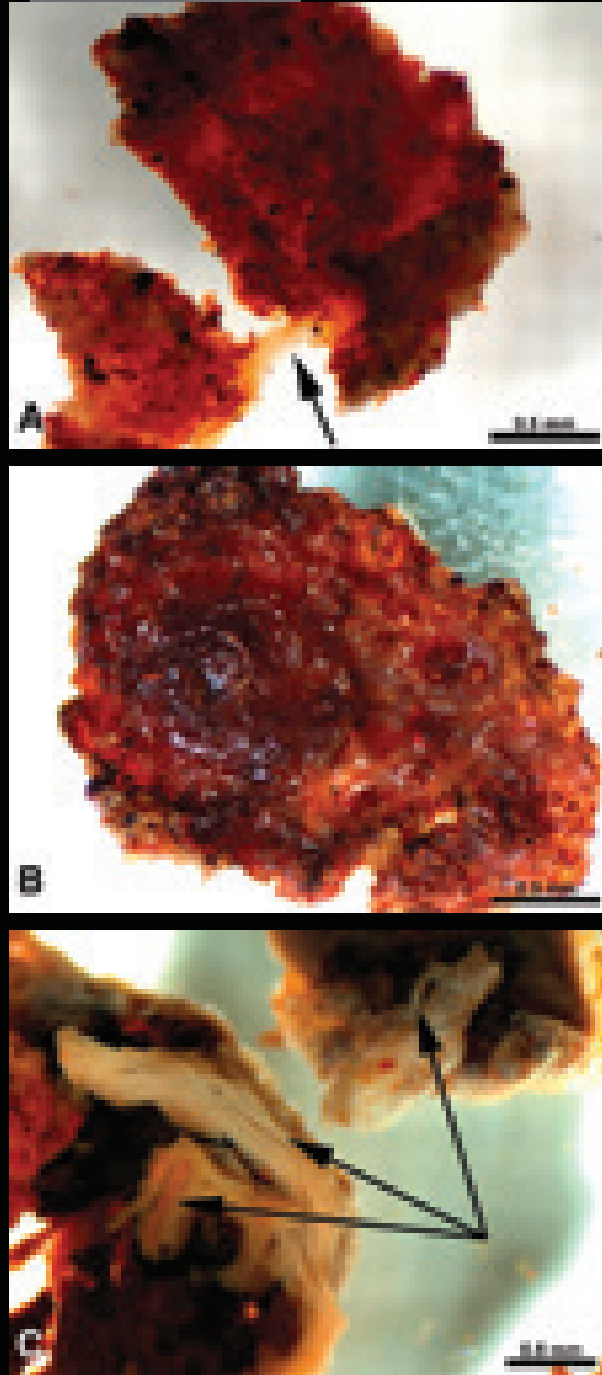
The tissue that was extracted from a supposedly 68 million year-old *T. rex* femur looked fresh (Fig. 2B & Fig. 2C). It was elastic and bounced back into place when pulled and released (arrow in Fig. 2A). It contained very well preserved blood vessels with blood cells. The blood cells could even be squeezed out of the blood vessels in a solution!

Did that *T. rex* live millions of years ago? Real operational science says “No!”

Living Fossils

I have spent many years excavating fossil dinosaurs in Montana. An important fact is that many of the creatures we find buried with the dinosaurs are still here with us today. Organisms like redwoods, willows, figs, crocodiles, alligators, soft-shelled turtles, and garfish are found buried with the dinosaurs (Fig. 3 to Fig. 9). We don’t even give these a second thought when we see them alive today.

Fig. 2 *T. rex* tissue



From Schweitzer, M. H., J. L. Wittmeyer, J. R. Horner, J. K. Toporski. 2005. Soft-Tissue Vessels and Cellular Preservation in *Tyrannosaurus rex*. *Science* 307: 1952-1955. Reprinted with permission from AAAS.

Fig. 3 Fossil turtle shell



Fig. 4 Fossil willow leaves



Fig. 5 Fossil fig



Fig. 6 Fossil crocodile scute

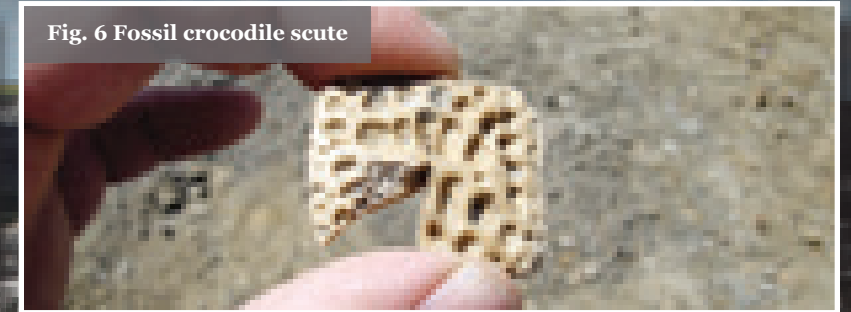


Fig. 7 Fossil alligator tooth

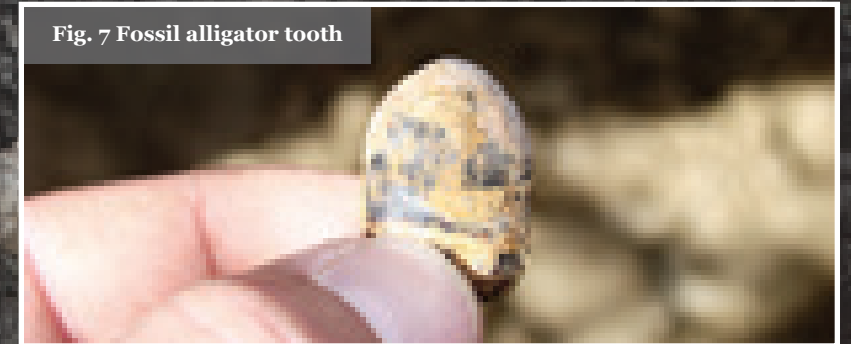


Fig. 8 Fossil redwood cones



Fig. 9 Fossil garfish scale



I find it interesting that evolutionary palaeontologists are so dogmatic that the dinosaurs completely died out “66 million years ago” when they see *living* plants and animals that are *also* found buried with the dinosaurs. What makes the dinosaurs immune from present-day survival? It should be no more surprising to find evidence for the recent existence of dinosaurs than for the recent existence of crocodiles or redwood trees.

The evolutionary community is shocked when plants and animals thought to have gone extinct at the same time as dinosaurs are suddenly discovered alive. These are called “Living Fossils.” One of the most famous living fossils is the coelacanth. Thought by the evolutionary community to have gone extinct about the same time as the dinosaurs, it appeared alive and well in a fishing net in 1938 off the coast of South Africa. It was named *Latimeria chalumnae* (Fig. 10). This was akin to finding a living dinosaur.

Finding any living creature that is supposedly extinct would not surprise a Bible-believer. Starting one’s thinking from the

Bible would lead to the understanding that all of the world’s animals and plants were made within a few days of one another only a few thousand years ago and subsequently lived side by side.

Claimed Sightings of “Extinct” Creatures

One of the most famous locations for possible living dinosaurs is in the Congo of Africa. I remember speaking with Dr. Roy Mackal in 1996. Dr. Mackal was a professor of biochemistry at the University of Chicago. He headed up a number of expeditions looking for dinosaurs in the Congo. Though Dr. Mackal is an evolutionist, he believes that dinosaurs have lived within the last ten years or so in this region of Africa. The most famous creature claimed to have been seen alive in the Congo is called Mokele-mbembe by the local tribesmen. It is described by many as a creature resembling a sauropod dinosaur (Fig. 11).



Fig. 10 Coelacanth

Around the world, sightings have been made of “dinosaur-like” creatures. Though this is not proof, it does add credibility to the idea that dinosaurs have lived until fairly recently. It is not the purpose of this book to elucidate all of the details relating to sightings of supposedly extinct creatures. However, it is important to think about the *types* of evidence that bear on the subject of the timeline of the dinosaurs. In Fig. 12 you can see a copy of *The Illustrated London News*, October 28, 1848. This particular copy has a section on “sea-serpent” sightings. Fig. 13 shows an enlargement from this report of a creature spotted off the coast of Greenland in 1734.⁸

British Zoologist Dr. Karl P. N. Shuker suggested this creature might have been a *Zeuglodon* (also known as *Basilosaurus*)⁹ which had supposedly been extinct for over 30 million years¹⁰ (Fig. 14).¹¹ An article depicting a “[m]ysterious creature, resembling the Brontosaurus, drawn from a description by two natives of Northern Rhodesia” can be seen in Fig. 15. The report was carried by *The New York Herald* for February 13, 1910. Many such sightings have been reported worldwide.¹² Some of these sightings fit the description of supposedly extinct creatures.



Early Palaeontologists Called Dinosaurs “Dragons”

It is easy to prove that one of the antiquated words for dinosaur was *dragon*. The word *dinosaur* was coined in 1841 by a creationist named Sir Richard Owen. Some marine reptiles known as ichthyosaurs are displayed in the Natural History Museum, built by Owen. Several specimens were procured for the museum in 1834 and in 1838. These specimens were obtained *before* the word *dinosaur* was created. Stamped on these specimens is “SEA-DRAG.” (Fig. 16A & 16B), short, of course, for Sea-Dragon. This, along with other evidence¹³ and accounts,^{14,15} shows that the early palaeontologists often referred to these creatures as dragons before, and even *after*, the word *dinosaur* had been coined. This is highly significant since it demonstrates that the words *dinosaur* and *dragon* were often used interchangeably by the founding fathers of palaeontology. Furthermore, it is provable that when some early palaeontologists were using the word *sea-dragon*, they were making a direct and unambiguous connection between the fossils and the sea-dragons mentioned in the first chapter of the Bible.¹⁶ Early palaeontologists had no problem

connecting the fossils of marine reptiles, flying reptiles, and dinosaurs to real animals, known as dragons, in the Bible.

Fig. 17 shows the opening page of Thomas Hawkins 1840 book entitled *The Book of the Great Sea-Dragons*. Hawkins immediately indicates that “ICHTHYOSAURI AND PLESIOSAURI” are the “GEDOLIM TANINIM, OF MOSES.” This Hebrew phrase can be translated as “sea-dragons.” Next notice the contents page for the pictorial plates referencing the collection of fossil specimens (Fig. 18). Each one of these dragons is depicted for the original reader to examine. Two examples are included (Fig. 19 & Fig. 20) to clearly demonstrate that this early palaeontologist simply catalogued the fossil specimens of ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs within a broad group of creatures called dragons.¹⁷

It is also well known among palaeontologists, specializing in dinosaurs, that the ancient Chinese called dinosaur fossils *dragons*.^{18, 19} *Dragon* is a colloquial term still used by some in China today to refer to dinosaurs.



Sir Richard Owen

Fig. 16A Ichthyosaur paddle

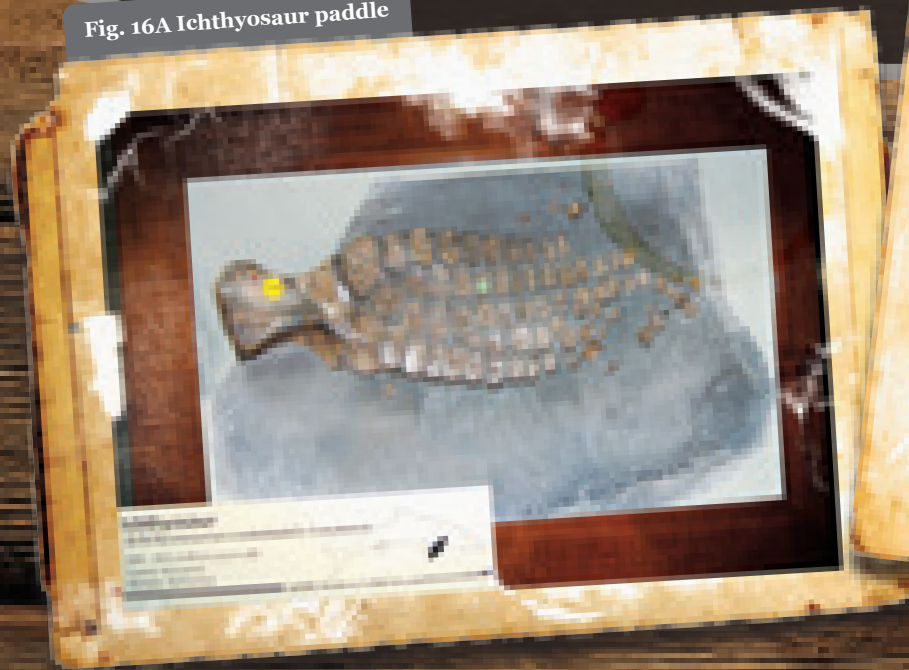


Fig. 16B Sea-Dragon stamp

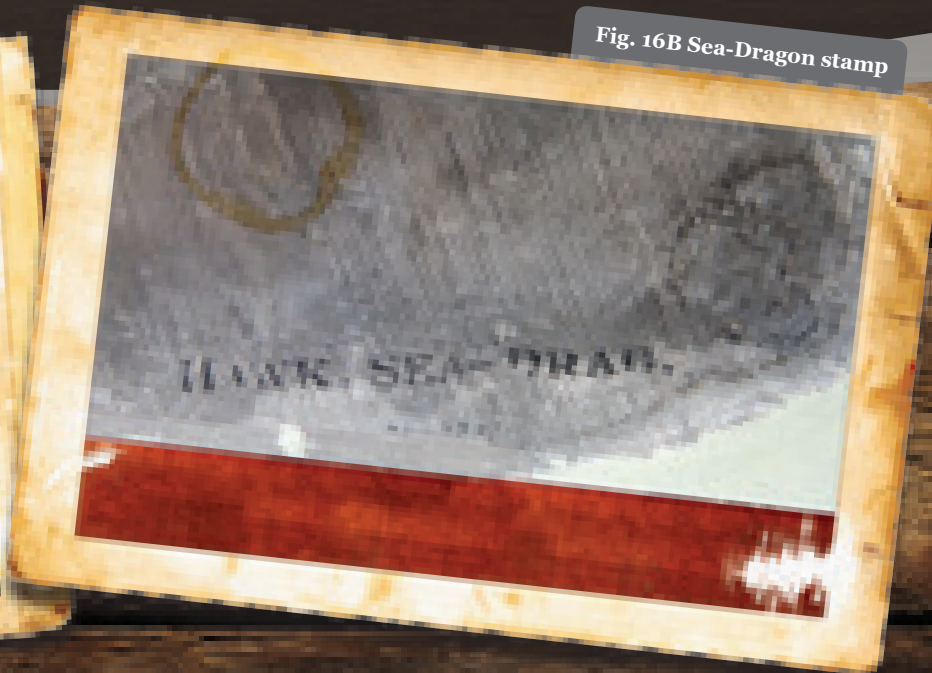


Fig. 17

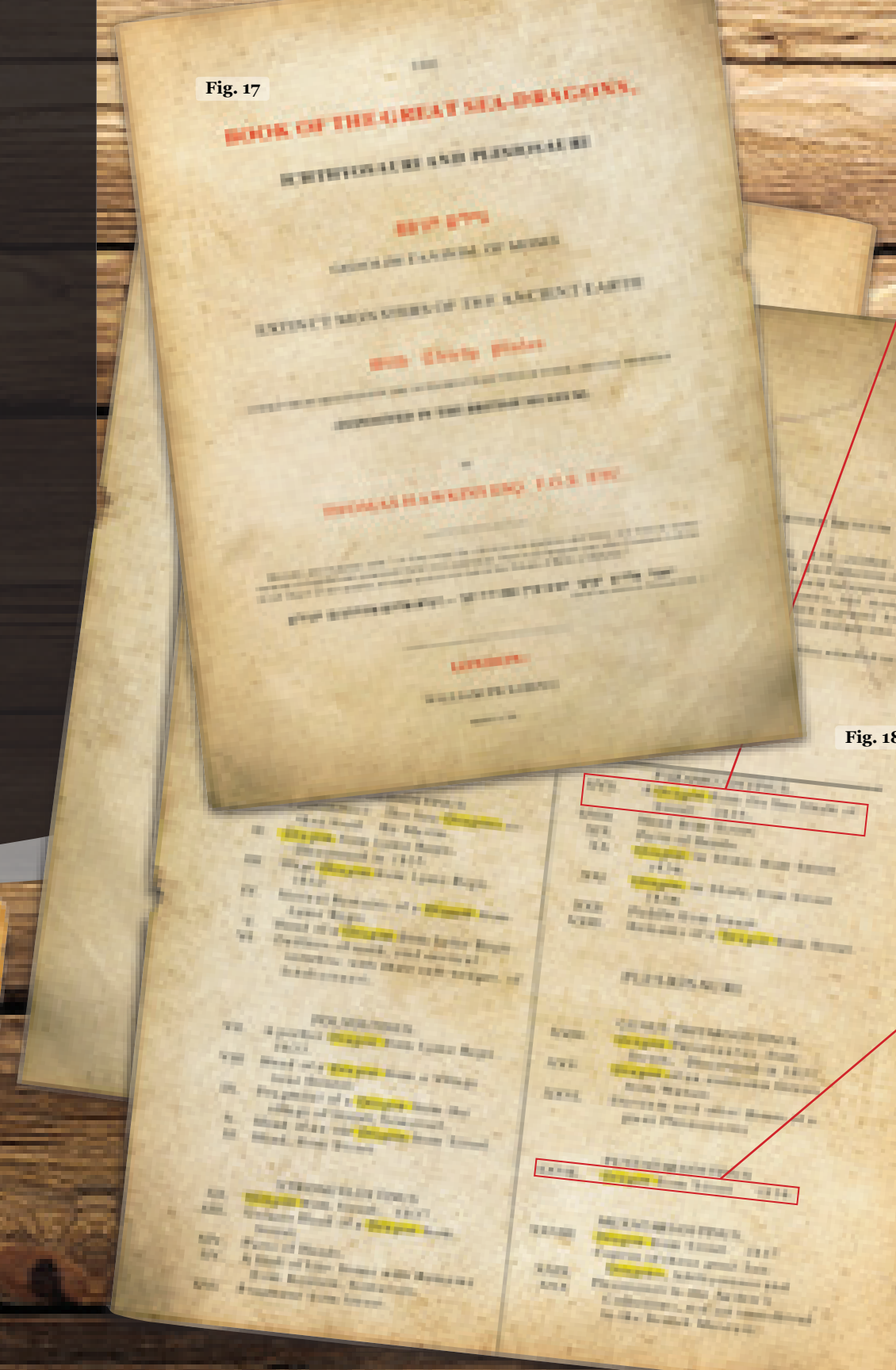


Fig. 19

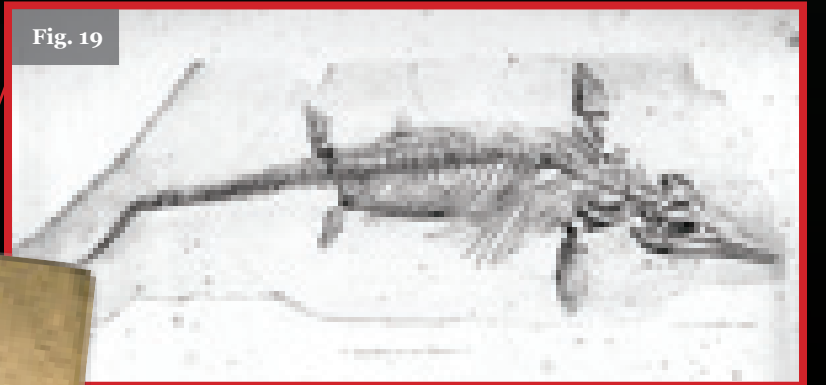


Fig. 18

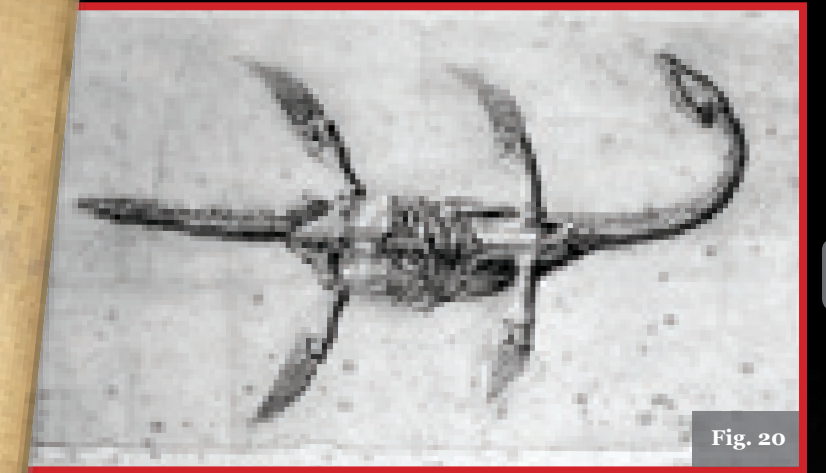


Fig. 20

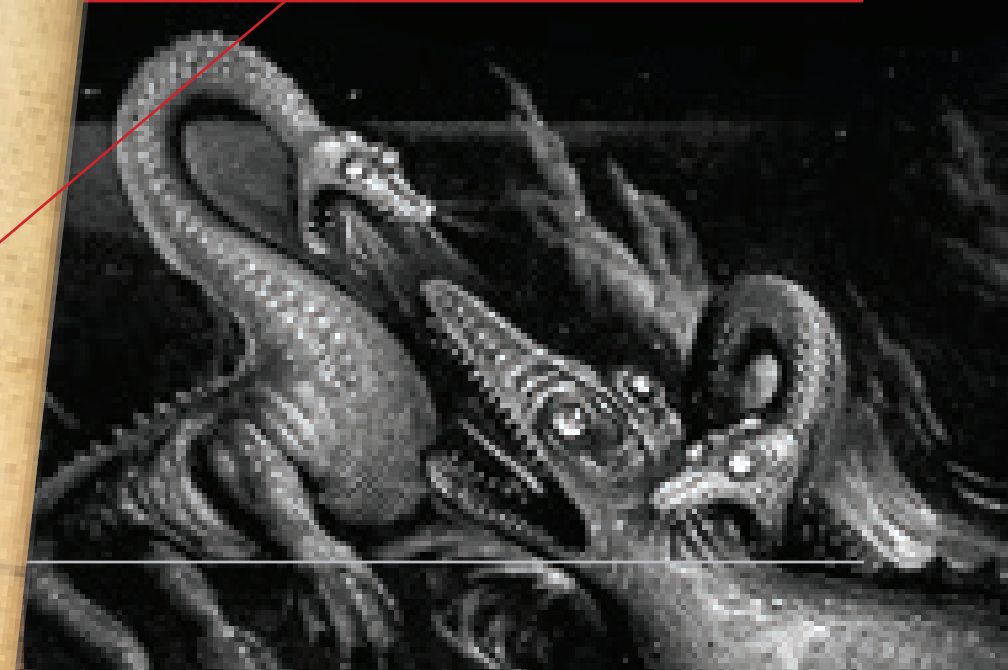




Fig. 21 *Dracorex hogwartsia*

The Dinosaur that Looks like a Dragon

A few years ago in South Dakota, a very interesting dinosaur was found. It was named *Dracorex hogwartsia* (**Fig. 21**) which means “dragon king of Hogwarts.” The name was given after the mythical storyline of the Harry Potter series, which presented a dragon on the big screen.

The specimen was donated to The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Interestingly, one of the signs reads, “Is it a dragon or a dinosaur?” Another sign says, “It’s a new type of dinosaur that looks like a dragon.” Another plaque says, “When we saw this creature’s head, we weren’t sure what kind of dinosaur it was. Its spiky horns, bumps and long muzzle looked more like a dragon.” Had the individuals who studied and named this creature remembered the true history of palaeontology, they would not have been surprised at the similarities between dinosaurs and dragons.

Could it be that dragons and dinosaurs bear striking similarities because they are simply different names for the same creatures? Many of the founding fathers of palaeontology would have given a resounding “Yes!” The evidence is overwhelming that the dragons of old are the dinosaurs of present. The evidence seems to favour a recent origin for these creatures and their coexistence with humans. This really wouldn’t be a surprise, however, to Bible-believers who understand that all animals were made within a day of each other and lived together just thousands of years ago.