

## Good Recent Geology Books

### Earth-wide Views

top notch:

*Earth: An Intimate History.* Richard Fortey . Vintage 2005. 448 pp. The subtitle ought to be “a travelog illustrating the history of the science of geology, and how we came to learn fantastic things about the history of the Earth.” Fortey is a geologist; his third book is remarkably well written, engaging, and builds up an overview of much current knowledge of Earth processes by visiting key sites around the world which illustrate those processes and how they were discovered.

*Night Comes to the Cretaceous: Dinosaur Extinction and the Transformation of Modern Geology.* James Lawrence Powell. . W H Freeman 1998. 264 pp. Since the 1970s a fantastic idea by a mere physicist has led to general acceptance of a catastrophe causing the Cretaceous extinction. This book describes the evidence, the heated controversy over many years a notable example of paradigm shift, and what happened in detail at the end of the Cretaceous. Powell is both a geologist and author of many very good books.

... useful:

*Origins: The Evolution of Continents, Oceans and Life.* Ron Redfern. Univ. Oklahoma 2001. 360 pp. This book can be a sort of companion to Earth by Fortey, supplying photos and diagrams of many of the places and ideas Fortey describes. However, the book can't decide what it wants to be: a collection of fine photos, a geological treatise, or a coffee table book. It is pretty good at all of those but the combination is somewhat unwieldy in more than one sense. Redfern is a photographer and geology enthusiast. The cover will come unglued.

### The Grand Canyon and Canyon Country

top notch:

*Grand Canyon: Solving Earth's Grandest Puzzle.* James Lawrence Powell. Plume 2006. 320 pp. Powell describes in detail the gradual construction through the past 150 years of our current understanding how the Grand Canyon formed.

*Carving Grand Canyon.* Wayne Ranney. Grand Canyon Association 2005. 160 pages. The same theme as James Powell's Grand Canyon book, history and geology, but more concise with more diagrams. Certainly a better starting place for the non-geologist, or if you want a good summary.

*Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau.* Ron Blakey and Wayne Ranney. Grand Canyon Association 2008. 156 pages. A large format book of something new and remarkable. Photo-realistic terrain map views – from before the Cambrian to now. The text is a fine overview of the corresponding geological history. Has good photos and strat columns. Blakey is a top sedimentary geologist of the southwest.

*The Geology of the Parks Monuments & Wildlands of Southern Utah.* Robert Fillmore. University of Utah Press, 2000. 260 pp. The first 150 pages are an excellent description of the geological history and geological setting of the entire area. To being learning about the geological history of canyon country this is an excellent first book. The remainder has road logs from Hanksville through Zion National Park.

*Geological Evolution of the Colorado Plateau of Eastern Utah and Western Colorado.* Robert Fillmore. University of Utah Press 2011. 524 pp. Another excellent review by Fillmore of the geology including the most recent findings. The area covered in detail stretches from the Book Cliffs to the deep canyons of the San Juan River area. Road logs for Arches and Canyonlands.

... useful:

*Utah's Spectacular Geology How it Came to Be.* Lehi F. Hintze. Brigham Young University, 2005. 203 pp. Hintze has decades of experience as a geologist in Utah, and this is one of several excellent books he has written. The book has abundant colorful photos, maps, diagrams, and strat columns.

*Hiking the Southwest's Geology.* Ralph Lee Hopkins. Mountaineers, 2002. 286 pp. Despite a misleading "Four Corners" in the full title, this has hikes located in all the canyon country.