

SCIENTIFIC PREHISTORY

A Sequel of

**PREHISTORY
AND
EARTH MODELS**

MELVIN A. COOK
Chairman, Cook Associates, Inc.

To My Friend Robert Bas
With Best Regards
Melvin Cook

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 93-74404

First Printing, 1993

Printed in the United States of America by
FAMILY HISTORY PUBLISHERS
845 South Main Street
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Foreword

Publication of

Reviews by

Chapter I Reviews of

A. Bea review

Chapter II Radiocar

ER vs. NER,

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Chapter III Geolog

Dating by U-T

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Chapter IV Dating k

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Chapter V Thermo

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Chapter VIII Floata

CONTENTS

	Page Number
Foreword	v-vii
Publication of PEM; Cover page of PEM;; Preface to Scientific Prehistory- Reviews by T. Barnes, J. Read, Rev. W. Lang mentioned.	
Chapter I Reviews of PEM	1-9
A. Bea review; R.L. Numbers comments on Author, "Man, His Origin andDestony"	
Chapter II Radiocarbon and Tree-Ring Dating	10-22
ER vs. NER, Developments since PEM; Tree-ring dating;; "Calibrated" vs, Ordinary C-14 dating; Ages of Pharaohs; Zoser's Great Architec, Imhotep (Joseph?); ER Dating before the Flood and NER Dating afte The Flood.	
Chapter III Geological Chronometry	23-46
Dating by U-Th-Pb; Rb-Sr and K-Ar methods wrong; Zone melting; natural non-radiogenicand non-radioactive abundance variations; Neutron-promoted lead transformations (NPLT), the X* reaction; Phy sics of X* reactions; Fission- chainm asking of U-Th-Pb, Rb-Sr and K-Ar dating; Non-radiological dating by salt, sedimentation, helium, radiation damage; Astronomical dating by periods of rotatoion, red shifts, "big Bang"	
Chapter IV Dating by Galactic Cosmic Rays and the Photosphere.	46-52
Purely observational dating with none of the guesswork of geological dating; age of the solar system, whole earth age; age of earth's surface. moon rock; Simpson and Garcia-Munoz dating of "containmen t time" confirmed.	
Chapter V Thermodynamic Equilibrium, in Galactic Cosmic RayS, and Age	53-104
Theory and equations of NTE; parameters of NTE equations; tables of computed results including age determinations; questions on calculated vs. observed relative abundances by what nuclides are observed. Comet Howard-Keemen- Michels and Bearded Comet Arnedt Roland; Comparisons with Detonation- Generated Plasma and implication on universal gravitation, solar wind, a <i>trampoline</i> <i>effect</i> of GCR; the Heliosphere; cosmic jets and NTE -generation of nuclides; Novae and Supernovae; Bang and Crunch vs. "big bang" and "big crunch"	
Chapter VI Mantle Convection Currents	105-115
Orowan article goes against MCC and my "Letter to the Editor", Scientific America. Articles with leading geologist, Dr. Armend J. Eárdley; Opposition to Eardley collaboration among local geologists; Viscosity disproves MCC; Reviews of Ice Cap Model and the "Geologic Time <i>Mental Block</i> ; Ocean-floor fossils high up Cordillera; Age of Greenland ice ca	
Chapter VII Rock Mechanics and Earth Tectonics	116-163
National Geographic Society 16" Globe Relief Map and Hard Rock Blasting Provide Answers. Pangaea and Continental Drift in Historical Geology; Carey's "rheid"concept false; Carey teminology and modifications; Mapping Pangaea; Types of brittle facture (Fig 7-8 for definitions of ITB, OITB, BTB, CTB,SB, CSB, F, FB, SZ, Sh); Distortions: plastic wave ridges,pwr; unstable shock wave (or shear) ridges, uswr; shock wave ridges, fracture and melting (swr, swf and swm); spall, crumplingor "welts", "megashear (not really shear); Photos of examples. Two OITB's in rupture of Pangaea; Opening of Atlantic Basin; Mechanism of Continental Shifts, CS; 'spicules' as proof of spall ; boundaries of Pangaea; Earth- Girdling Rift and Ridges, EGRR. Photos of examples	
Chapter VIII Floatation in Continental Shifts	156-184

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CONTENTS

Experiences with deep water, oil and gas wells; Fluid pressures in deep wells (normal hydrostatic, subnormal, abnormally high and geostatic); Sudden deep burial as source of abnormal, subnormal, abnormally high and geostatic pressures Hubbert and Rubey mechanism of high and low pressures and pressure gradients in deep wells; Birch criticisms and modifications leading to mechanism of continental flotation. Stacking of sediments; shortening of earth's crust; Rheology of earth's crust; Batholiths; upliftsand major discontinuity-bounded sequences; blast model of some western USA uplifts; Continental Flotation.	185-195
Chapter IX Coal Chemistry and composition of different coals. Occurrence and orientation of coal beds; Coal beds from overthrusts. Overthrust model of coal; Cyclothem.	198-211
Chapter X Oil and Gas Chemistry and mechanism of formation; C-14 dating of petroleum; Geographic and Geologic occurrence of oil and gas. Trap-reservoir relations and time of formation of oil salt domes, chalk, carbonates and reefs; Unconformity and fault traps; Conclusions;	212-220
Chapter XI Palaeomagnetism "Natural" and "Thermal" Remnant Magnetization, NRM and TRM. They 'melt' at "Curie temperature"; NRM as a chronometer; Palaeomagnetism and continental shift.	221-235
Chapter XII Evolution vs. Creation Theory of Evolution described by protagonists (they are bitter toward creation); Wald's dilemma of no mechanism for organic evolution; Weisskopf's non-science to overcome evolution violates second law of thermodynamics, entropy. They get around entropy only by coining new word, "negentropy", not by any semblance of science. Macro-evolution (by man's creations, does not establish the dogma of speciation; there is no speciation. Facts of Biblical time, fossils, sedimentation destroy "historical speciation; Natural Selection a myth; theistic evolution an irrational compromise; Theistic evolution at BYU; My poll of LDS Church Presidents: 9 to 1 against organic evolution with 2 providing no way to tell.	236-252
Chapter XIII Anomaly vs. Reality Polystrate fossils; unfossilized trees in pre-Cambrian taconite mine; The Bill Meister discovery of footprints in "trilobite beds near Delta, Utah; "Cold fusion" Attempted hoax; Earthquakes from pumping of GSL; "The Einstein Myth and the <i>Eyves Papers</i> " by Turner and Hazlett	253-269
Chapter XIV Moon Tectonics Chemistry of Moon rock from "Tranquility Base"; Lunar rock dating by U-Th-Pb; Rb-Sr and K-Ar, and non-radiogenic methods; What is happening on moon surface; Reviews of my "Letter to the Editor"; Rare gas adsorption on moon rock; Shock wave melting from meteor impact in moon craters; Moon tectonics from large meteor impact-explosions; Photograph of ITB by Lunar Orbiter V; swm, Ro, volcanic cones, CTB's on moon surface; Crater Orientale from Giant meteor impact with swm, uswr, welts, and brittle fracture rays; Crater Tyco; Altai Scarp, a "giant bathtub; Moon far-side.	270-275
References	276-277
Summary and Introduction to Appendices	278-332
Appendices	
I Anomalous Chronometry; II Isostasy and Metastasy; III Particle-Light Theory; IV; Classical Model of Chemical Bond; V Many Electron Atoms;	
VI Bond Energy in Diatomic Molecules; VII Unification; VIII Universal Gravitation	
Shear-Spike Field on Mount Everest	233
Resume of Author	

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FOREWORD

Publication of PEM

Prehistory and Earth Models (PEM) was published more to answer scientific critics than any notion it might sell well. Twenty-five hundred copies were printed by Max Parrish Co. Ltd., London. About half were donated to libraries and non-profit organizations, the remaining sold slowly. PEM was out of print by 1973 when *Science and Mormonism* (S&M) coauthored with (son) M. Garfield Cook began a third edition. S&M included some aspects of PEM, but also emphasized scientific contributions of the authors' LDS background. The difference in popularity of PEM and S&M, had to do with style and the readers to which they were directed. Even those who liked PEM complained that it was difficult to read.

The manuscript of PEM was finished by August, 1964 and Plenum Press had agreed to publish it. In passing through New York on a trip to South Africa to introduce my new "slurry blasting agent" into the Rio Tinto Zinc mine at Palabora, the manuscript was hand-carried to Plenum's Editor O'Connors. With obvious chagrin and apologies, he reported that Plenum Press had decided they could not afford to publish PEM because "six men you would know" had just sent him a letter threatening reprisals if they published PEM. The identity of the six attempting to block publication of PEM was learned five years later when one of them filed a lawsuit against the authors of *Science &*

Mormonism for an alleged violation of the copyrighted geologic section from Bryce to Grand Canyons. (See below) Plaintiff dropped the case when he learned defendants knew it was Plaintiff who had been violating the copyright. We obtained permission from the rightful copyright owner and the second and third editions of S&M carried the proper acknowledgement. (See below) The manuscript was thus carried on to the Palabora mine where Andrew Buxton, present from London for Rio Tinto Zinc to observe the introduction of the new "slurry" blasting system, liked PEM, and wrote Oliver Colman, editor of Max Parrish Co., Ltd., London, to arrange a meeting to discuss publication. About a week later, following a pleasant luncheon at the London Hilton, the manuscript of PEM was accepted for publication by Max Parrish & Co., Ltd.

Cover Page of PEM by Editor

"If the earth is billions of years old, Prehistory and Earth Models argues that all but the last few thousand years of scientifically readable Prehistory has been erased perhaps by world-shaping catastrophes. The observed unbalance of radiocarbon, the abundance and influx of uranium in the oceans and helium in the atmosphere, the instability of palaeomagnetism in the rocks, and reinterpreted systematic discrepancies in the radioactive 'time clocks' are among the substantiating arguments.

"Continental Drift' is described as a recent catastrophic rupture of 'Pangaea' and sudden shift of the continents under the tremendous forces of polar ice caps. Crustal uplifts and depressions, shield-geosyncline-welt interrelationships, the

185-195

198-211

212-220

221-235

236-252

253-269

270-275

276-277

278-332

233

nature and occurrence of coal, oil and fossils, overthrusting and stacking of strata, for instance, in the Canadian Rockies, and other geologic information substantiate this novel reconstruction of Prehistory. Biological Prehistory is discussed from time implication and a central argument that spontaneous generation and organic evolution go counter to 'time's arrow'. Differentiation, adaptation, mutations vs. speciation and anomalous fossilization are among the topics considered. Since "Life feeds on negative entropy" (Erwin Schroedinger) it is an amazing, unnatural, intricately engineered phenomenon".

There would seem to be no better way to highlight the contents of PEM than to quote the excellent and extensive 1988 review by Alasdair Beal, now Editor of C&C Workshop of SIS, Great Britain. There were three other, also favorable reviews by Creationists including those of Dr. Thomas Barnes, Professor of Physics, University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. John Read, Publisher, Northridge, California, and Reverend Walter Lang, Editor, *Bible Science*, Caldwell, Idaho. Attention is called also to the 1992 book, *The Creationists*, by Dr. Ronald L. Numbers, Professor of the History and Science of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. The Beal review of PEM is given in Chapter I along with comments from Dr. Numbers on how the author was "catapulted" into the long-standing evolution vs. creation debates.

Scientific Prehistory

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which the author is a member, teaches that the *creation* was a *refashioning and reforming*, understood to involve only the creation (or remodeling) of the surface features of the earth, not the earth as a

whole. This is the sense in which *creation* was treated in PEM and also in this book. As stated in early 1956 correspondence with Dr. Willard F. Libby, quoted in my *Autobiography, Volume II, 1977*, regarding radio-carbon dating, and in the preface of PEM, nothing written in those publications about the age of the earth's crust, the atmosphere and hydrosphere had anything to do with the age of the globular earth. The age of the earth is treated here for the first time.

Chapter II is an updated treatment of radiocarbon dating with a calibration based on gravity anomaly dating. It verifies the non-equilibrium radiocarbon, NER, dating method and shows that the conventional equilibrium radiocarbon dating method of Libby is incorrect. Also it brings scientific dating into agreement with Bible dating of the Flood, and the separation of the continents "in the days of Peleg", or *Continental Shift*. (It occurred too rapidly for "drift" to be a proper description.)

Chapter III deals with the *still conventional* long-period 'time clocks' with an emphasis on neutron-promoted lead, potassium and oxygen transformations, respectively. Only neutron-promoted lead transformations were treated in PEM, but developments since PEM lend fundamental and important meaning to what is happening in the earth as a result of spontaneous fission and α -recoil reactions designated X* for brevity. There is really no need for further arguments regarding the validity of the conventional U-Th-Pb; Rb-Sr and K-Ar 'time clocks'. Intellectual honesty would lead to abandonment of these fallacious time clocks. Since they have not yet been abandoned some of the more important reasons for abandonment are presented also in Chapter III.

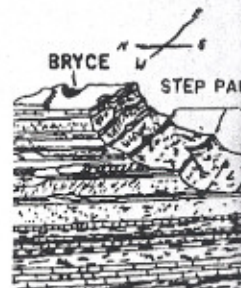
Studies to extend knowledge of explosives to novae and supernovae, led to two major discoveries since publication of PEM:

(1) A simple wholly observational dating method to replace the above

fictitious ones. (The age of the earth is out to be about half that of the geophysicists, but the age of the earth is to be about the same as the geophysicists. This gala photo-sphere method of dating surface features of the earth in thousands, not billions of years, determined in the earth's crust (see PEM.)

(2) Nuclides were formed (and are being formed) by galactic cosmic rays, and nuclear thermodynamics starting at a thermal energy of a few electron volts, MeV)

The simple method of dating treated in Chapter IV and V is also treated in Chapter IV and V of Chapter V which also provides a wholly theoretical solution to the Supernova 1987A and the "neutrino problem" which is leading also to the discovery of the composition of comets and meteorites with all necessary data. The Handbook of Chemistry and Physics direct measurements of the ages of the earth and the solar system possible the determination of the age of the earth and the solar system.



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fictitious ones. (The age of the earth turns out to be about half that claimed by geophysicists, but the solar system is found to be about the same as claimed by earth scientists. This galactic cosmic ray and photo-sphere method still shows that the surface features of the earth are in the thousands, not billions, of years of age as determined in the early work leading to PEM.)

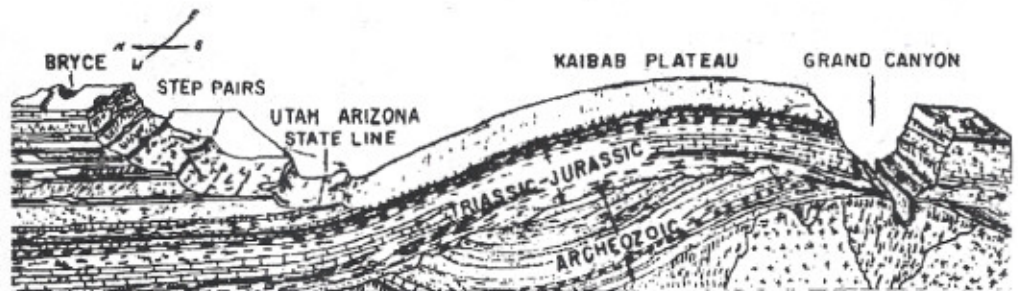
(2) Nuclides of the solar system were formed (and are forming today) in galactic cosmic rays, GCR, in a state of nuclear thermodynamic equilibrium, NTE, starting at a thermal energy of 0.9 million electron volts, MeV)

The simple novel dating method is treated in Chapter IV and NTE is the subject of Chapter V which adds to Chapter IV by providing a wholly theoretical chronometry. Supernova 1987A and its answer to the "neutrino problem" were the motivations leading also to the discovery that the true composition of common lead is that in GCR with all necessary data given by Lange, Handbook of Chemistry and Physics and in direct measurements of nuclide abundances in the earth and moon. This made possible the determination of the age of the earth and the solar system based entirely

on observed data with none of the guesses characterizing the 'geologic time clocks.' *Scientific Prehistory* also includes results of recent studies in applying rock mechanics to interpret modern relief maps of the earth's surface.

Today the excellent National Geographic Society relief map is available for the story I wish to tell; good relief maps were not available when PEM was written. Chapters VIII to XI are updated from PEM. Chapter XIV summarizes unconventional ideas on gravity and the nature of the universe each drawing heavily on the authors LDS Church background.

Partial blindness made difficult preparation of this book. Hopefully readers will overlook errors not found. Caustic remarks dispersed at places would ordinarily be avoided. Really one should never strike back in kind. However, it is difficult to avoid this in answering earth-science antagonists portrayed in reviews, opposition letters and public displays. Hopefully the (difficult to avoid) darts herein will serve to reveal the general attitude unfortunately too prominent in the earth sciences. This book might have been a fourth volume of autobiography except that it contains many facts ignored by earth scientists needed to tell the "history of the earth written in the rocks".



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