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DINOSAURS-THE ENCYCLOPEDIA, 1997; and Supplement 1, 1999; by Donald F. Glut, McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers, Jefferson (North Carolina) and London; 1076p. and 442p. respectively; hardback \$145.00 and \$60.00 respectively.

How does one bring together, in a comprehensive way, all we know about dinosaurs? Moreover, how can one possibly compile a comprehensive list of all dinosaurs when every week a new discovery increases the number of the world's dinosaur record? Perhaps the answer is that it is not possible, as the task is far too reaching, never mind daunting, for one person, or publisher, to undertake. Yet, Donald Glut, author of the far less ambitious *The Dinosaur Dictionary*, first published in 1972, has risen to the occasion and has produced the most comprehensive overview of dinosaurs ever attempted.

The book has five principle parts. Part 1 is "A Background," which gives the reader information of "The Mesozoic Era" (the "Age of Dinosaurs"), and sections on "Dinosaur Origins and Relationships", "Birds and Dinosaurs" (where he discusses *Archaeopteryx*, which is omitted in his "Dinosaur Genera" section, that, parenthetically, includes "*Protoavis*"), "Dinosaur Success," and a review of the "Warm-Blooded' versus 'Cold-blooded' Dinosaurs" and "Dinosaur Extinction." In all these sections, Glut provides a brief overview, touching upon the salient parts of each. The result is a brief, but relatively balanced, presentation.

Part 2 is concerned with "Dinosaurian Systematics", and here Glut presents a cladistic consensus of the higher taxonomic categories and the accepted monophyletic arrangement agreed on by most vertebrate paleontologists. Glut offers a cautionary note that the systematic arrangement of taxa is ever changing due to new discoveries and re-interpretation of data.

The "meat and potatoes" of this encyclopedia is, unequivocally, Part 3 - "The Dinosaurian Genera". Here we get a list, in alphabetical order, of all the dinosaurs known at the time of publication. Each dinosaur genus is discussed in enough detail to provide the reader with all the key facts pertaining to each taxon. Most entries include one or more photographs or drawings. Many of these illustrations have been borrowed from the original sources, yet a number of photographs have been taken by Glut himself. The result is a cornucopia of visual vignettes intertwined within the course of the text. Many of these illustrations, while not aesthetically pleasing, are nonetheless very informative. The drawings and photographs

show the reader how complete, or in many cases, how incomplete, a number of the dinosaur holotype specimens really are.

Parts 4 and 5 are concerned with "*Nomina Nuda*" and "Excluded Genera" (from the Dinosauria), respectively. Although anticlimactic, these two sections are, nonetheless, necessary in any comprehensive work such as this. A list of (institutional) abbreviations, a glossary of terms (mostly osteological, anatomical and geological) and a hefty bibliography complete the volume.

Since its publication, this tome has been faced with a conundrum: how to update or revise it to include new dinosaur genera. The thought of revising the main work by inserting new taxa, in order to maintain the alphabetical order, would be overwhelming. Fortunately, updated additions to the main volume will appear as their own "mini" volume, more like chronological appendices. Clearly there are drawbacks to this arrangement; however, the cost advantages to both the purchaser and publisher are clear.

Now, who should buy this and subsequent volumes? Certainly libraries, amateur dinosaur enthusiasts, teachers of introductory dinosaur courses (for non-science majors), and even professional dinosaur paleontologists will identify this work as a "must have". I cannot overstate the amount of important information contained between the covers of this incredible book and its first supplement. While there are shortcomings in some of the treatments of the dinosaur genera, these are certainly easily, and understandably, dismissed. On the whole this encyclopedia is an indispensable resource.

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