

Professor Anthony Hallam (23.12.1933 – 23.10.2017)

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Born in Leicester and having attended local schools, in 1955 Anthony Hallam graduated with a double first class degree in geology from the University of Cambridge. He remained at Cambridge as researcher under the supervision of the great Jurassic geologist William Joscelyn Arkell. His thesis centered on the study of the alternating limestone-shale rhythms of the Lower Jurassic (Blue Lias) of Southern England, and he also tackled the thorny issue of the evolution of *Gryphaea*; this work resulted in the awarded a PhD in 1959. Following a period as lecturer at the University of Edinburgh (1958–1967), Hallam moved to the University of Oxford as Lecturer in Geology and Fellow of New College, Oxford. He was appointed Lapworth Professor of Geology at the University of Birmingham in 1977, a prestigious chair named in honour of Charles Lapworth, the first Professor of Geology at that university. Following retirement in 1999, Hallam remained at Birmingham University as Professor Emeritus.

Professor Anthony Hallam had a hugely distinguished career in stratigraphy and palaeontology, and his diverse work set the agenda for much Jurassic research over the second half of the 20th century. Never a scientist to shy away from controversy, his wide-ranging interests included climate change, sea-level change, evolution, and diagenesis, and his work was particularly notable for advocating a holistic integrated view of Earth history when many contemporaries preferred specialization. The resulting body of work, over 200 research papers, is widely acknowledged to have inspired generations of professional geologists.

Additionally, Hallam was author or editor of more than twelve books, including such influential works as “Jurassic Environments”, “Great Geological Controversies”, “Catastrophes and Lesser Calamities”, and “The Causes of Mass Extinctions”. As a talented writer and popularizer, Anthony Hallam opened the fascinating history of geology to a wide audience. Authoritative and highly readable, his unique works attained attention of all readers interested in the history of science, and especially the origin of



Professor Anthony Hallam addressing delegates at the opening ceremony of the 8th International Congress on the Jurassic System, Shehong of Suining, China, August 2010

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the prevailing ideas in geology, including the great debates involving catastrophe theory, uniformitarianism, the discovery of the Ice Age, speculation concerning the age of the Earth, and the advent of new ideas on plate tectonics and continental drift.

He was awarded the Lyell Medal by the Geological Society of London in 1990. In 2007, he was awarded the Lapworth Medal, by the Palaeontological Association, that Society's highest award. He directly supervised over 35 graduate research students, many of whom have themselves gone on to be influential thinkers in the field of Earth history. Hallam's contributions to Jurassic geology were in many ways pre-eminent, ahead of their time, and Tony Hallam the man will be greatly missed, alongside his contributions to the continuing debates in our field.