

Preface

*In 2006, the International Subcommission on Jurassic Stratigraphy hosted the 7th International Congress on the Jurassic System in Krakow, Poland, drawing over 200 scientists from 32 countries. Among the successes of this meeting was the rise in visibility of the journal *Volumina Jurassica*, which published a remarkable set of papers from that meeting. Despite the increasing prominence of the journal, however, it has failed to attract the attention of a substantial number of the geologists working in the Jurassic in North America. Indeed, in the last five years, *Volumina Jurassica* has published only one paper with a North American focus, compared to more than 30 studies based on other continents. This, despite the large number of Jurassic rock formations of the American West that are justly famous for their paleontology or sedimentology, e.g., the Wingate, Kayenta, Navajo and Morrison formations, among others. This volume seeks to rectify this imbalance by dedicating an entire issue to the theme of the geology of the Western Interior of North America.*

The Jurassic is bracketed here by papers that span the entire system. The earliest Jurassic is represented by the Moenave Formation, discussed here in a paper by Steiner that is part of a trio of her contributions to the magnetostratigraphy of the Lower Jurassic. The uppermost Jurassic is well served by several papers covering the Morrison Formation, including a new radio-isotopic date from Trujillo and others, details on Morrison fluvial architecture by Galli and a reassessment of Late Jurassic paleoclimate by Tanner and others. The Morrison Formation is best known for its vertebrate paleontology, however, which receives considerable attention in this volume, as well. Dalman makes two contributions to Morrison paleontology, including a description of a new large theropod (an allosaurid) as well as new data on small theropods, and Foster and Wedel report a rare sauropod find.

The aspects of Jurassic paleontology described here are indeed diverse. The guts of the vertebrates mentioned above are the source of bromalites, and Hunt and Lucas review the record of bromalites from the Jurassic of the Western Interior. Lockley and Gierlinski present a review of the tetrapod ichnofaunas of the Jurassic, while Woodruff and Foster engage in a bit of detective work reviewing one of E.D Cope's long-forgotten "discoveries." Other geological contributions include a close examination of the San Rafeal Group by Lucas and a study of enigmatic folding in the Middle Jurassic Todilto Formation by Lucas and others.

Finally, publication of these papers would not have been possible without the contributions in time and effort by the many reviewers listed here: Bruce Allen, Brooks Britt, Sebastian Dalman, William Dickinson, John Foster, Adrian Hunt, Bart Kowallis, Martin Lockley, David Lovelace, Spencer G. Lucas, Edward Simpson, Lawrence Tanner and Anonymous.

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