

## FOREWORD

The study of fossil footprints has undergone a major renaissance in the last decade. The overwhelming number of dinosaur tracksites that have been found around the world in recent years has resulted in an extensive and rapidly growing number of books and publications and new sites are being discovered almost every day. *Dinosaur Tracks and Other Fossil Footprints of the Western United States* is the first book that brings together a comprehensive and illustrated review of all fossil vertebrate tracks known to date from a track-rich region that extends from Texas in the east to California in the west and from Arizona in the south to Washington in the north. The area is the best area in the world to study fossil footprints thanks to extensive exposures of Carboniferous-Recent strata in such classic localities as the Grand Canyon, Arches National Monument, and the Rocky Mountains. Many new and fascinating discoveries are reported and discussed herein for the first time and they are the result of the authors' active ongoing field research.

This book is more than just a review of the known sites in the Western United States, an area already well known for many thousands of body fossils including dinosaur skeletons. It is a demonstration of the importance of tracks for seeing vertebrate evolution in a complete new light. Many who visit the Western United States can find fossils but only a few are able to track the footprints of dinosaurs even though their trackways are abundant. Fewer still can find the tracks of pterosaurs, birds, mammals and other more enigmatic trackmakers. Even fewer have the eye for the big picture, the deductive skills and the persistence that lead to completely new and radical interpretations that can be called a

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revolution in the field of paleobiology. Martin Lockley and his coauthor Adrian Hunt are amongst these people.

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