

Mary Anning Princess Geologist

From Jacqueline Hawkes 'A LAND 3923

pp 45, 56-7, 83, 95

p. 45
"To my mind (Hugh Miller) and Mary Anning of Lyme are by far the most remarkable because the most spontaneous, of all the manifestations of consciousness roused in quest of its origins."

(In these cases - i.e. of minds seeking knowledge through practical geology -

p.p 66-7.

But if any recent-memory haunts these mouldering cliffs (Lyme Regis) it is the spirit of Mary Anning. - daughter of a carpenter at Lyme. (Her one claim to fame is small transaction with Jane Austen - Mary being then 5 yrs old)
"Now both women are a part of Lyme". "Like Hugh

Miller Mary Anning is a proof that even the simplest-kind of creative force is irresistible, that its possessors will always thrust themselves up through the mass of their "fellows."

Lyme was already conscious of its proximity to the past; a local fishmonger million year old fishes on the slab among the days catch while Mr Anning himself was an established fossil hunter....

"From ^{very} early years Mary went with him to the cliffs and when he died she carried on the trade because she & her family needed the money....

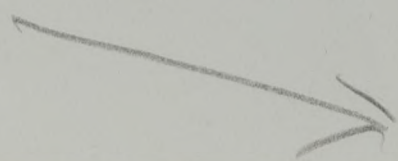
"In 1811, 19 years before the young Hugh Miller saw his first Devonian fish, this 12 year old girl found the first complete ichthyosaur. In 1824 she made the earliest discovery of a plesiosaur and disposed of it to the Duke of Buckingham (It has now come to rest in South Kensington); in another two years she had uncovered the first flying reptile or pterodactyl. Perhaps her own favorite was a baby plesiosaur; and up to Dean

Buckland she commented with pleasure on the presence of its coprolite still resting on the pelvis and added that "the neck has a most graceful curve!"

Mary Anning's extraordinary record of discovery helped to attract many of the great pioneers of geology to the little resort. She was a lifelong friend of de la Beche; and Ennis Killen and Sir Richard Owen used to scramble over the cliffs with her, while Dean Buckland himself in his younger days was often seen in her company "wading up to his knees in search of fossils in the Blue Lias. During a visit from Roderick Murchison it is recorded that Mary Anning and his wife trudged along the beach with patters on their feet. Perhaps her greatest social triumph was a visit from the King of Saxony; he wrote her name in his pocket book and assured her that she "was well known throughout the whole of Europe." As is clear from her portrait Mary Anning was quite unaffected by such triumphs; she remained secure in her own citadel, the simple woman who had made great discoveries, who had recalled much from oblivion."

Writing of Sculptors - Rodin - Moore
 J.H. says "It is hardly possible to express
 in prose the extraordinary awareness of
 the unity of past & present, of mind &
 matter, of man and man's origin which
 these thoughts bring to me." She felt that
 the earliest forms of life were involved
 in this encounter with the sculptor &
 that - the emergent-eternal was
 speaking from the woman he had
 shaped (my own approximation)
 not hers -

"Rodin pursued the idea of conscious
 spiritual man emerging from the
 rock. Moore sees him rather as a
 part of it. Through his visual
 similes he identifies women with
 caverns, caverns with eyesockets;
 shells, bones, cell plasma drift into
 human form. Surely Mary Anning
 might have found one of his forms
 in the Blue Lias of Lyme Regis?"



9.5.

its method of quarrying

The choice of stone for the building of the Houses of Parliament made by a Royal Commission of men who were mainly civil servants showed two major errors -

- 1st The Bobover Moor Dolomite first chosen could not provide enough stone even for the basements -

- 2nd The transfer to the adjacent Andover stone quarries brought in a stone incapable of permanent resistance to London atmosphere.

"For more than ten years the Victoria Tower has stood above Westminster as a scaffolded ruin. There can hardly be a more revealing example of the disaster that threatens remote control, when men deal with practical matters on a diet of words."

That the disaster could have been avoided is proved by the old Geological Museum - built from the same stone but whose quarrying was supervised by Mary Anning's old friend de la

Bick, who knew his rocks both scientifically and humanly. Hardly a block has decayed"

The H of P. stone was quarried and delivered indiscriminately without regard to the nature of the bed, the lie of the rock in the quarry, or the necessary seasoning of the stone."

"These solemn Commissioners had never seen, studied, or understood the land they were attempting to use."

Quarrying for building needs "the lowly selection that went with the old understanding of the uses & values of every pit."

3923

Mary Anning

Jacquetta Hawkes

SUFFRAGETTE FELLOWSHIP

Commemorating Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, July 14th, 7 p.m.

at

CENTRAL HALL (Assembly Room)
WESTMINSTER

Speakers :

Dr. LETITIA FAIRFIELD, C.B.E., M.D.,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW

LADY RHYS-WILLIAMS, D.B.E.

MISS MARY RICHARDSON,
(Author of "Laugh a Defiance")

Chairman : **MISS MARY PHILLIPS**

*Flowers will be laid at Mrs. Pankhurst's Statue
in the Victoria Tower Gardens at 6 p.m.*

Admission Free

Silver collection

Information from MAI. 4551

Jacquetta Hawkes

The author of

A hand - the story
of the formation of our island
from the beginning of
geologic time until today
- note of early geologists -
with wonder, awe &
admiration in their
natures - who found the
first evidence of the
primitive forms of life
in rocks.

She says "To my mind H. (Hugh Miller)
the devout Scottish quarryman -
and Mary Anning of Lyme
are by far the most remarkable
of - because the most spontaneous
of all the manifestations of
consciousness roused in quest
of its origins.

Certainly the imprint of their minds

~~will~~ and lives will remain in the history
of geology with all the sharpness
of their own finest fossil specimens

Jacquette Hawkes

is an amazing writer on
geology & the origin of
life on the earth which
she describes almost with
the music of the drums of
a magnificent.

— Mary
Dunning must be worthy of
note & status in the early
science of Jacquette extols
her —

Look them both up!

Women Prominent in Science

Mary Dunning - ^{Practical Pioneer}
Geologist

Jacquetta Hawkes
archeology (A LAND)

Winters

Rachel Carson

"The Sea Around Us - & another

"Sea

Science

db
in England by
ROS. & CO. LTD.
Castle upon Tyne 1
A3240