

Erasmus Darwin, Arthur Russell and Bob King. Local and national museums and university collections with notable mineral collections are described. Mineral dealers from the 18th Century to the present day are also discussed, with examples of catalogues. Finally there is a chapter on decorative stones, such as alabaster, Ashford black marble and of course Castleton Blue John, all with excellent illustrations.

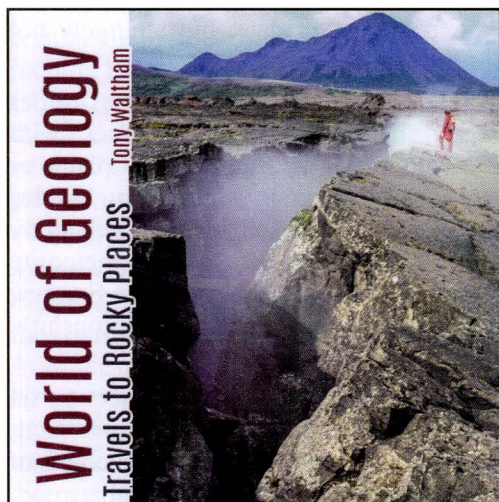
The book will appeal not just to mineral collectors, who will find much of interest from Roy Starkey's indefatigable research, but also to anyone interested in the natural history of the English Midlands and who appreciates a very good, beautifully illustrated and truly interesting book.

*Tim Colman*

**World of Geology: travels to rocky places.** Tony Waltham, 2019, Whittles: Dunbeath. 219 pages, 119 colour plates, 978-184995-437-2, £18.99.

Tony Waltham is well known to Mercian Geologist readers. He has occupied the editorial chair with distinction for almost two decades; but sadly, this year's issue is to be his swan song. For even longer he has been on the editorial board of *Geology Today*, the bi-monthly magazine of the Geologists' Association and The Geological Society (currently published by John Wiley). He became solely responsible for producing the magazine's hallmark back cover which has featured his superb geologically themed photographs, each accompanied by an extended explanatory caption.

Last year he created a book for private circulation which was mainly drawn from some of the *Geology Today* back covers and its warm reception has encouraged him to produce a revised version for a wider readership – *World of Geology*. Over several decades he has literally travelled the world, frequently to remote areas off the beaten track. Camera in hand, he has invariably been accompanied by his wife Jan who frequently acts as the human scale in his photographs. *World of Geology* is essentially a physical geological grand tour of six main continents (Antarctica is not in there). Naturally the choice of the 110 sites selected for the book is influenced by his professional background, ensuring a degree of



applied geology with respect to civil engineering and mining. For example, Site 6 shows the stupendous open pit copper mine in northern Chile which covers an area of 4.5x3.5 km and currently attains a depth approaching one kilometre. Unsurprisingly, karst in its widest sense is well covered, as are the all-time favourites of geysers, glaciation and volcanism. Just one palaeontological site is included. This displays some spectacular dinosaur footprints consisting of two parallel sets exposed on a steeply dipping bedding plane in a Bolivian limestone quarry. The continental distribution of the localities is: South America 9; North America 26; Europe 31 including 14 from UK and Ireland; Africa 6; Asia 28 and Australia/New Zealand 8.

This collection makes a splendid coffee table type book, one to be periodically dipped into rather than read continuously from cover to cover. In order to also appeal to non-geologists and to help appreciate the site contexts, Tony has provided a very brief introduction to the basics of earth dynamics.

Your reviewer's outlook is primarily that of a Quaternary geologist, hence his nit-picking eye is focussed in that direction. Site 36 is the famed communal cellar excavated in the permafrost at Tuktoyaktuk on the Canadian shore of the Arctic Ocean. Readers might be puzzled by the kind of exposure in the cellar walls. This is not typical permafrost as it is extremely ice-rich and the key to this is the likelihood that the material is relict glacier ice in origin – a glacial influence is hinted at by the caption. Possibly the most interesting site demonstrating human-geology interaction is not a 'rocky place' but rather a peat-cutter working a blanket peat bog. This is Site 41 from County Mayo in western Ireland. Rather idiosyncratically, the caption suggests that peat is 'a green resource' due to it being a 'feature of human activities'. However, Irish peat commenced accumulating following total deglaciation, c.10 ka, and its subsequent growth has been heavily influenced by climate and relief; it is true that some Neolithic structures were later buried by peat growth but a causal link to anthropogenic activity is weak. Peat is a fossil fuel and is not green if dug, which is why the Irish are currently working towards the abandonment of peat cutting. Tony's photograph may well survive as a reminder of times past.

Until very recently this kind of book would be welcomed as an encouragement to world travel. Indeed, earlier in the year your reviewer, while on an ophiolite safari, sat at a café opposite the Nizwa souk in Oman (Site 76). The possibility of a flash flood sweeping across the parking area was farthest from his mind. Yet as the extinction rebellion campaign gathers pace and the reality of climate change becomes increasingly apparent it clear that global tourism is unsustainable. Although Tony's excellent book provides an inspiring insight into the Earth's magnificent landscapes, the 'inconvenient truth' is that our long-haul wanderlust urges must be restricted.

*Peter Worsley*