

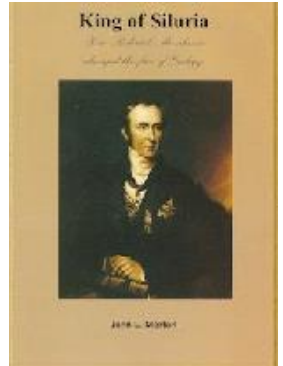
## MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

These are books published by two of the Club's past members, John Morton and Roger Birch.

### ***King of Siluria: How Roderick Murchison changed the face of Geology***

by John L. Morton. ISBN 0-9546829-0-4 (2004) £12.99 (UK)

From joining the Geological Society in 1824, Roderick Impey Murchison (1792-1871) became its President only seven years later. He went about his investigation of older rocks in Wales and Eastern Europe with boundless energy and was the first to differentiate and name the Silurian, Devonian and Permian periods of geological time. Commissioned by Czar Nicholas 1 to report on the mineral wealth of Russia, he undertook in one summer a hazardous journey, by various forms of transport, of over 14,000 miles from St Petersburg via the Urals to the coalfields of the south. The Czar rewarded him with a Russian knighthood; he later received a baronetcy from Queen Victoria. To these honours were added a further seventeen major awards from governments and scientific societies across Europe.



*The result of the author's extensive research, this book presents Murchison's remarkable life story in detail with forty illustrations, sixteen of them in colour.*

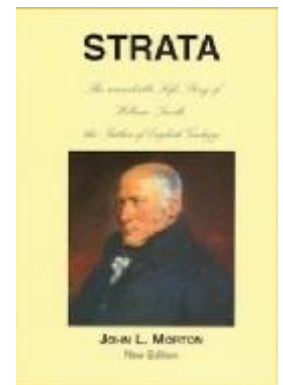
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### ***Strata: the remarkable life story of William Smith, the Father of English Geology***

by John L. Morton. ISBN 0-9546829-1-2 (New Edition, 2004) £11.99 (UK)

William Smith was the first man to realise that rock strata extended right across the country – that fossils found in Dorset were the same as those in Yorkshire, because the rocks were of the same age. In 1797, he drew up a list of twenty-eight rock strata beneath the town of Bath, from the chalk to the limestone underneath the coal. In 1801, he drew the first geological map of any country, and fourteen years later he published a detailed map, measuring 8 feet 6 inches by 6 feet, coloured with twenty different tints, of the rock structures from the Scottish border to the English Channel. He so believed in the significance of his work to the country's economy, that he bankrupted himself for the sake of it, and spent ten weeks in a debtors' prison.



*The book traces Smith's life as a surveyor, canal-builder, land-drainage expert and sea-defence constructor, to his provision of adequate fresh water supplies for the summer resort of Scarborough. Only towards the end of his life was his genius fully recognised, when he was dubbed 'The Father of English Geology'.*

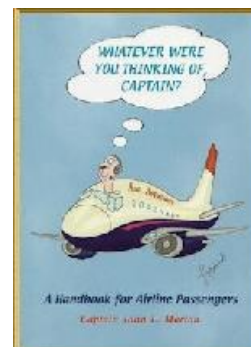
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## ***Whatever were you thinking of, Captain? A handbook for airline passengers***

by John L. Morton. ISBN 0 95189585 0 (2002) £8.95 (UK)

This 80-page book is aimed at airline passengers who are interested in learning what goes on in front of the Flight Deck door and in what goes through the Captain's mind as he operates a service. In this handy volume 'the interested layman' is guided through the various aspects of a journey by air. The author's thirty-five-year career ranged from flying mini-airliners that landed on the beach airfield of the Isle of Barra, to being a Training Captain on British Airways' wide-bodied aircraft. While this book describes some of the technical aspects of an air journey, jargon is minimised and the practical aspect of the content is lightened with anecdote and humour. Its ultimate objective is intended to suggest a relaxed and confident atmosphere to flying.



*The book's cartoons are by the talented 'figment', the nom-de-plume of Captain John Reed, a long-time Flight Deck colleague of the author.*

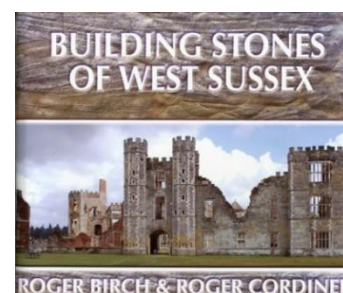
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## **Building stones of West Sussex**

by Roger Birch & Roger Cordiner. ISBN 978-09551259-1-1 (2014)

After introductory material about the stratigraphy, geology, quarrying and use of stone in West Sussex, there are 23 chapters on the local stones, six on imported stones, and another describing 21 other sources of stone imported into the county before the mid-19th century. An excellent index (in whose compilation our own John Morton had a hand), two Glossaries, a quiz and a list of resources complete the book. Open it at any page and you will immediately feel the depth of the years of research that the authors have invested in it.



*The long-awaited definitive volume from the two Rogers! The book's 349 pages are richly illustrated with the authors' photographs, illustrations, maps and diagrams: the whole book is a work of desk-top publishing art. And the writing is as clear and informative as the pictures.*

Available from [GeoSupplies.co.uk](http://GeoSupplies.co.uk) for £34.99, including p&p (UK).

Alternatively, bookshops should be able to get it if you quote the ISBN.

**HGFC members** can order a copy at the special price of £30 through Frank Diggon.