

monograph of the plant impressions in the Carboniferous formation on the Thuringian districts, and was quite the best work on fossil plants that had appeared. Schlotheim concluded that, in spite of the resemblance between the tree-ferns of the Carboniferous formation and certain East Indian and American ferns, the fossil types belonged to extinct genera and species. The same was, he said, true for the other forms of Carboniferous plants, and it was possible that the fossil flora of the Carboniferous epoch represented a *wholly extinct plant-world*. Schlotheim left it an open question whether, in this case, the fossil genera had died out, or whether their descendants had become so much modified that they could scarcely be recognised as such.

Schlotheim's later work, his *Petrefaktenkunde*, published in 1820, enumerated and described the fossil specimens in his private collection. At the same time, in its plan it formed a continuation of his previous work, and the fifteen quarto plates of the Carboniferous flora were incorporated, together with twenty-two new plates, to illustrate the larger work. The plates were admirably carried out, and the specimens, which included all types of animal life, were for the first time in Germany named according to the *binomial nomenclature*. Hence the work has had a permanent value in literature, although it is true the descriptive text is often insufficient, and a species can be identified only by comparison with Schlotheim's originals, which have been preserved in the Berlin Museum.

Faujas de Saint-Fond's works on fossil organisms can scarcely be compared with those of Schlotheim. The first volume of his *Essay on Geology* (Paris, 1803) is devoted almost exclusively to fossils. But he held the narrow, antiquated opinion that the great majority of fossil forms represented existing species of plants and animals, while the few forms for which no living analogues were forthcoming probably belonged to species now living in unexplored portions of the globe.

Defrance was one of the most industrious and careful of the early palæontographical annotators. In his *Sketch of Fossil Organisms* (Paris, 1824) he gave a short account of all known fossils, with accurate mention of their localities and state of preservation. Between 1816 and 1830 he contributed to the *Dictionary of Natural Science* numerous treatises on fossil foraminifers, corals, molluscs, annelids, and echinids.