

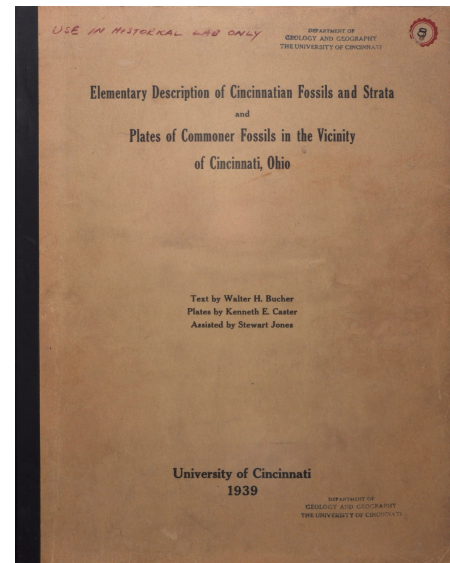
Cincinnati Fossils: The Many Editions

A Brief Look at the History of the Most Important Book in Cincinnati Amateur Paleontology
by Jack Kallmeyer

My goal is to provide a chronological history of the origin and evolution of the book every amateur collecting Cincinnati fossils must own. Currently known as **Cincinnati Fossils**, it began as a class supplement for the Lecture Discussion Series at U.C. in 1939. There have been both minor and major changes in format and content through the years. Each edition is like owning a piece of history. While overarching themes and scholarly intent remain the same, each new edition is usually an improved version from the last. In the course of researching this article, I spoke to Richard Davis, Greg Hand, Dave Meyer, John Pope and Holly Prochaska, all of whom supplied interesting background information. I also inquired at the Museum as to the whereabouts of the original art used to make the plates. This initially proved to be a dead end as no one currently working at the Museum has ever had anything to do with ordering or production of the book nor are they aware of the location or fate of the plate art. Angela Smorey, CMC Director of volunteers put me in contact with Barb Witschger, a former museum store manager who filled in some of the missing information. I also contacted the printer to see what they had and found that they haven't actually printed the book since 2007. If the Museum wanted to reprint this book now, could they do it? As long as the printer still retains the plates it is possible. The present 1998 edition is certainly in need of revision or replacement but whatever is done, the purpose of the book must be maintained - it is a book for beginners, not advanced amateurs.

1939: Elementary Description of Cincinnati Fossils and Strata and Plates of Commoner Fossils in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio; Text by Walter H. Bucher, Plates by Kenneth E. Caster, assisted by Stewart Jones; University of Cincinnati.

- The original version was produced for use in the University of Cincinnati's Evening Discussion Series that was run by Walter Bucher even before Ken Caster came to U.C. in 1936. This first edition has 36 unnumbered single sided pages. Not sold to the public.
- All text is hand typed with reproduction by mimeography. All pages are printed on one side only. The covers are cardstock with the hinge edge stapled and the binding edge covered in black cloth. I have seen both a light "manilla folder color" cover and a dark red-brown colored cover. These were probably produced at different times but other details about them are unknown. Some editions have an index to the fossils inserted (not bound in) in the back; this insert was produced by hectographic printing (the purple "mimeograph" many are familiar with).
- Text descriptions are organized as follows: 1) The formations; 2) Conditions under which the rocks were deposited; 2) [again] The fossils; 2a) The nature of fossils; 2b) The chief classes of animals found fossil in the Cincinnati formation; 2) [again] Class Bryozoa ("bryozoans"); 3) Class pelecypoda ("pelecypods"); 4) Class Gastropoda ("gastropods"); 5) Class Cephalopoda ("cephalopods"); 6) Class Trilobita ("trilobites"); 7) Class Cystoidea ("cystoids"); 8) Class Asteroidea ("star fish"); 9) Class Crinoidea ("crinoids"); 10) Class Graptozoa ("graptolites"); 11)

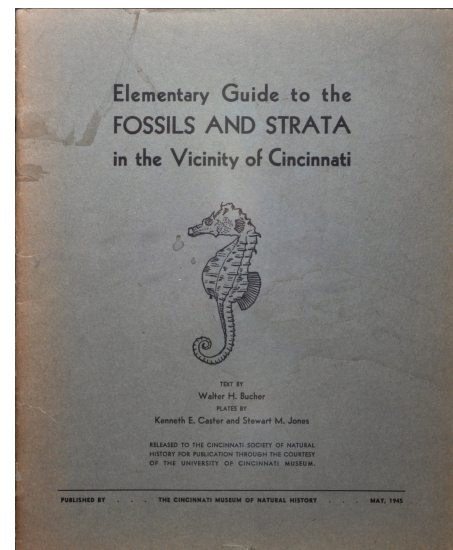


Class Anthozoa (“corals”); 12) Porifera (“sponges”); 13) Other forms of Life. Following this text section are two pages illustrating the physical strata and the ranges of various fossils within the strata; these drawings were listed as “Revised by Louis Desjardins.” Desjardins was a U.C. professor in the middle 1930's and had presented papers on Cincinnati stratigraphy. The next 15 pages are the captions for the photographic plates that follow. A total of eight photographic plates completes the edition.

- In section 2) “Conditions under which the rocks were deposited,” there is a statement: “What the features mentioned above look like and what they mean will be explained in the lectures,” further indicating the purpose of this edition as an accompaniment to the Lecture Series.
- Production of each plate was as follows: individual black & white photos were taken of the various fossils; each image of a fossil was carefully cut from its photographic print; this cut-out was then pasted down to an archival board (Strathmore Board); numbers were added; when a board was filled with all images for the plate, the printer would make a printing plate from it. Printing is in halftone in good quality on clay coated paper. Plate numbers are hand written in Roman numerals at the top of each plate.
- Plates contain numerous bryozoan thin section images.
- The plate captions were in a section preceding the actual plates.

1945: Elementary Guide to the Fossils and Strata of the Ordovician in the Vicinity of Cincinnati;
Text by Walter H. Bucher, plates by Kenneth E. Caster and Stewart M. Jones; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

- The 1945 edition was produced in May of 1945 while WWII was in progress. This edition is 31 pages printed on both sides.
- First use of cover art: an unsigned pen and ink drawing of a seahorse.
- A new two page introductory section, “Collecting Fossils,” by Ken Caster precedes the main text.
- The next text section describing the formations is oddly also entitled “Collecting Fossils.” The text is identical to the 1939 edition section entitled, “The formations.” The two page illustrations of the strata and fossil ranges by Desjardins follows this immediately rather than being further back in the book as in the 1939 edition; these illustrations of the Cincinnati strata appear on facing pages.
- The text sections mirror the 1939 editions with some wording changes here and there through all of the various “forms of life.” Most interesting, considering that the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History was now the publisher, was the inclusion of the statement from the 1939 edition: “What the features mentioned above look like and what they mean will be explained in the

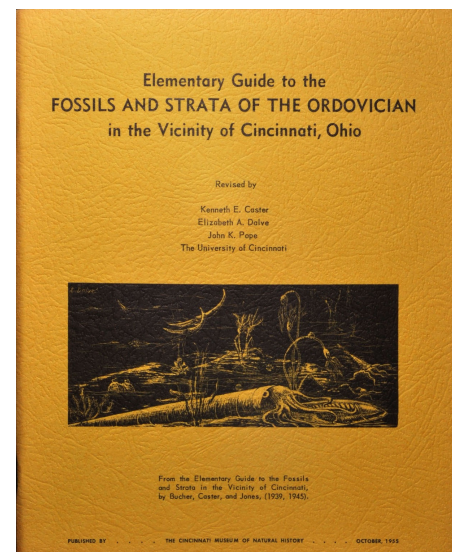


lectures.” This seems to be an oversight considering the book was now being sold to the public leaving many confused as to the meaning of that statement.

- Three small sections were added ahead of the plates: Exhibits of Fossils; Societies; and How to Learn More About Fossils. Exhibits listed include the U.C. Museum, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, the Baker-Hunt Museum, and the Geology Department Museum at Miami University. The only listing under Societies was the Dry Dredgers. The last section was a short bibliography of recommended books.
- The plates are identical to the 1939 edition but with the plate captions on the page facing the actual plate as in all subsequent editions. Text captions for plates are identical to the 1939 edition.
- Plate IX added. This plate comprises seven artist’s reconstructions of living versions of a crinoid, a coral polyp, a brachiopod, a cephalopod, a bryozoan, and a trilobite. The artwork is only signed, “G.M.B.” This plate was not used in any subsequent editions.
- Plate numbers are printed in Arabic numerals at the top of each plate.
- Lower quality paper was used but plate image quality remained fairly good.
- All text is printed, no longer typed.
- Ownership changes: “Released to the Cincinnati Society of Natural History for publication through the courtesy of the University of Cincinnati Museum.”

1955 Yellow cover: Elementary Guide to the Fossils and Strata of the Ordovician in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio; Revised by Kenneth E. Caster, Elizabeth A. Dalvé, John K. Pope; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. The first printing was mid-November, 1955 as noted in Dry Dredgers Bulletin.

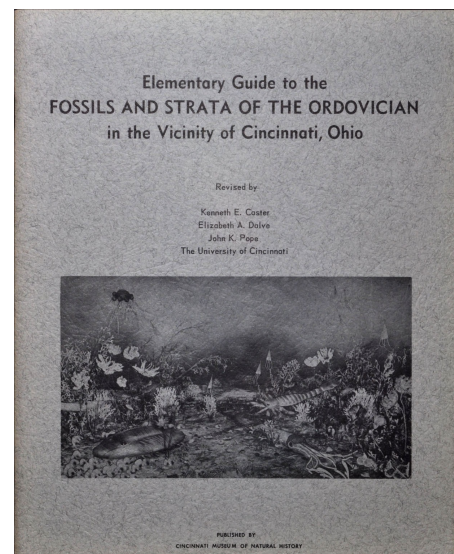
- Cover stock is textured.
- Completely revised from the 1945 edition; 47 pages. Revisions done by John Pope in Caster’s absence (Caster had a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Australia) with Elizabeth Dalvé as artist. Pope eschewed credit deferring to Caster feeling that Caster’s name would help sell more books and that he himself was too young to be first author. John even delayed completion of his Master’s program by a year to do the revision of this book - pers. comm. John Pope February, 2017.
- Cover art was a diorama of the Ordovician sea floor featuring a large cephalopod and crinoids by Elizabeth Dalvé.
- Frontispiece “Carpoid” art of *Enoploura popei* by Elizabeth Dalvé is printed in landscape format.



- The “Collecting Fossils,” by Ken Caster introductory remarks of the 1945 edition were replaced by an unsigned preface with a similar theme.
- Table of contents was added for the first time.
- A full page Geological Time Chart was added to show all of geologic time.
- A full page Generalized Geological Map of the Tri-State Area was added. This map, included in all subsequent editions, was drawn by John Pope and Elizabeth Dalvé.
- The two page illustration of the Cincinnati stratigraphic section featuring fossil ranges and guide fossils appear on facing pages and remained that way until 1985. The Desjardins design was dropped in favor of a new format by Elizabeth Dalvé. These pages are essentially the same format as the current editions although they contain more guide fossils and more illustrated ranges. John Pope related that his contribution to this was the addition of the “Red Facies to East” note in the upper Elkhorn.
- The full page chart, “Correlation of Midwest Ordovician Stratigraphy,” was added. This chart compared Formation names across five Midwest Ordovician areas including the Cincinnati of the Tri-state.
- A full page figure of, “Morphology of Important Fossil Types and Rare Fossils,” was added. These were line drawings with morphological details indicated. Following this page was another full page figure of, “Common Cincinnati Genera.” This figure illustrated brachiopods, pelecypods, and gastropods as line drawings. These two figures immediately preceded the plates. John Pope drew many of these images (pers. comm. 01 29 2017)
- The plates were revised with some new images and removal of many of the bryozoan thin section images used in the previous editions. Added images included more amateur useful photos of fossils. These plates, as produced for the 1955 edition, continued in use through the most recent edition in 1998. Plate IX was eliminated.

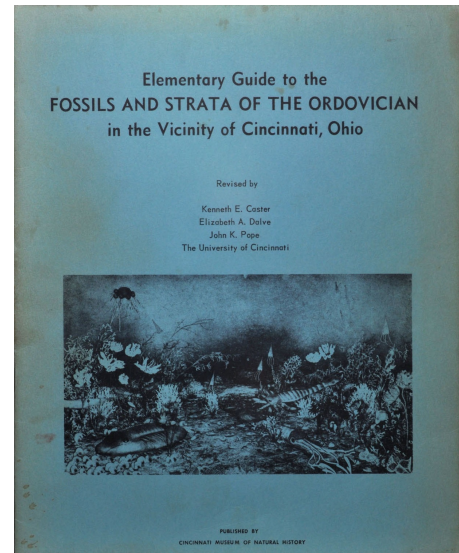
1961 Gray cover: Elementary Guide to the Fossils and Strata of the Ordovician in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio; Revised by Kenneth E. Caster, Elizabeth A. Dalvé, John K. Pope; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History

- Cover stock is textured
- Text and plates identical to the 1955 edition; 47 pages.
- Cover photo changed to the Marchand diorama from the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History
- Frontispiece “Carpoid” art now in portrait format.



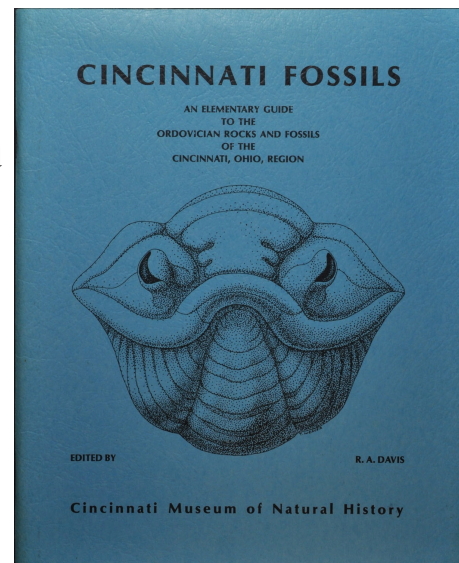
1961 Blue cover: Elementary Guide to the Fossils and Strata of the Ordovician in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio; Revised by Kenneth E. Cater, Elizabeth A. Dalvé , John K. Pope; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History

- Cover stock is smooth
- Text and plates, frontispiece and cover photo are identical to the 1955 edition and the 1961gray cover edition; 47 pages.
- Low budget edition. The paper is lower quality and plate images are darker compared to other editions.



1981 Blue cover: Cincinnati Fossils: An Elementary Guide to the Ordovician Rocks and Fossils of the Cincinnati, Ohio Region; R. A. Davis, ed.; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

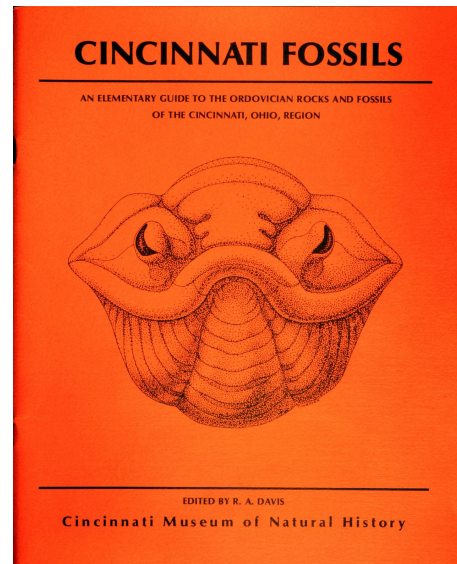
- Cover stock is textured
- Cover art changed to pen and ink drawing of a “face on” enrolled *Flexicalymene* trilobite by Thomas Weaver. Weaver was a Dry Dredgers member in the 1970's and had been a Geology major at U.C. Although he didn't complete his graduate work, he was very active in professional meetings and highly respected by the professional community.
- An index was added for the first time with sections by common name, genera, and species.
- The bibliography was revised.
- The full page chart, “Correlation of Midwest Ordovician Stratigraphy,” was eliminated. As was the Carpoïd art frontispice.
- The Geologic Time Chart grew to include the facing page with the Cincinnati formations expanded on the second page. This format continues through the most recent edition.
- The illustration of the Cincinnati stratigraphic section featuring fossil ranges and guide fossils was changed with updates to taxonomy and removal of some previously listed guide fossils.



- The two full page figures: “Morphology of Important Fossil Types and Rare Fossils” and “Common Cincinnati Genera,” were eliminated. The content of these two figures was broken up and dispersed into the text where the specific fossil types were discussed. This practice continued through the most recent edition in 1998.
- Taxonomy was updated for embedded text figures and the plates.

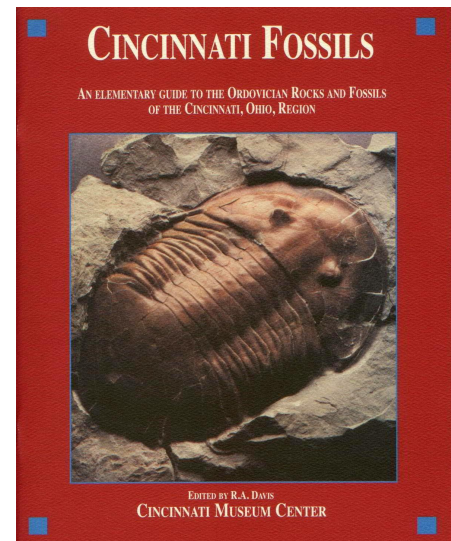
1985 Orange cover: Cincinnati Fossils: An Elementary Guide to the Ordovician Rocks and Fossils of the Cincinnati, Ohio Region; R. A. Davis, ed.; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

- Cover stock is smooth
- Cover art same as 1981 edition
- Added a full page chart, “Stratigraphic Nomenclature of the Cincinnati Rocks of the Ohio - Kentucky - Indiana Area.” This additional page forced the detailed two page Cincinnati strata and fossil range illustrations to unfortunately end up on following pages rather than facing pages. This continued in all subsequent editions.
- Taxonomy was again updated



1992 Maroon cover: Cincinnati Fossils: An Elementary Guide to the Ordovician Rocks and Fossils of the Cincinnati, Ohio Region; R. A. Davis, ed.; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

- Cover stock is textured
- Cover art was changed to a color photograph of an *Isotelus* trilobite. The photo credit was listed as Joseph Braun/Photo Design.
- Includes a preface to the 1981 edition and a preface to the current edition. The current edition Preface states that this edition is a reprint of the 1985 edition with taxonomic changes as necessary and correction of other errors.



1998 Maroon cover: Cincinnati Fossils: An Elementary Guide to the Ordovician Rocks and Fossils of the Cincinnati, Ohio Region; R. A. Davis, ed.; Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

- Identical reprint of the 1992 edition with no apparent updates or changes. No further taxonomic changes were made thus making this edition out of date with the current taxonomy of select fauna.
- According to information from the printer, API in Dayton, Kentucky, the current edition was last printed by them in 2007. This final printing was 5,000 copies according to Barb Witschger a former manager of the museum store.

