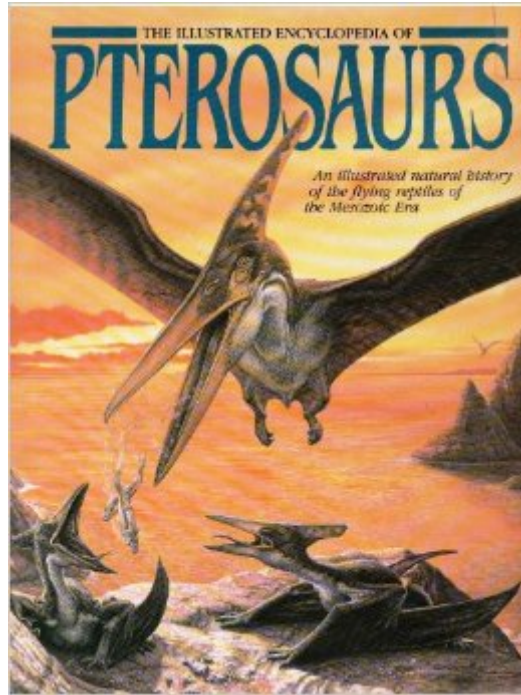


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Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Pterosaurs (A Salamander Book)



Synopsis

Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Pterosaurs de Wellnhofer Peter. Crescent books, 1991.

Book Information

Series: A Salamander book

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Customer Reviews

This is not a "kid's book," although I would not hesitate to give it to any child seriously interested in Mesozoic life. The illustrations--beautiful color paintings and detailed charcoal sketches--are superb, top-of-the-line examples of reconstruction. The text is an exhaustive survey of the history of pterosaur finds, the taxonomy of pterosaurs, and an up-to-date review of their evolution, biomechanics and ecology. The painstaking descriptions of representative fossils some may find tedious (like I said, NOT a "children's book"), but I found it refreshing to read a mass-market, beautifully rendered reference that wasn't afraid to expose the general reader to the details of paleontology. In this, it is one of a kind, really, the "Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs," from the same publisher, coming close. Now, Mr. Publisher, how about a third volume covering the marine "reptiles" of the Mesozoic? I would purchase it in a heartbeat.

A superbly illustrated and very informative introduction to pterosaurs. It includes a history of pterosaur fossil discoveries and classification, an introduction to their anatomy, and accounts of the well-known species (at the time) which include paintings by John Sibbick (which are absolutely lovely, a great improvement on his god-awful illustrations in that other encyclopedia he contributed to in the mid-1980s) and drawings, details of the history of their discovery and classification, their

appearance and occurrence (both in time and space), and what little is known of their natural history. The species' accounts are ordered chronologically, starting with the Late Triassic *Eudimorphodon* and ending with the Late Cretaceous *Quetzalcoatlus*. He also includes chapters on the history of pterosaur illustration and science, as well as one on other prehistoric flying reptiles. Although few books have been published on the subject, this must be considered a classic.

This is a spectacular book on the subject of the flying reptiles that existed along with the dinosaurs. Not very many books have been written about them, mostly for children. I really enjoyed this.

I purchased this book to go with the *Pterosaurs From Deep Time*, and it is a good companion with really good illustrations.

Overall, this is a fine resource for information on pterosaurs, both Rhamphorhynchoid and Pterodactyloid. The main reason I would give this book four stars (instead of five) is because it was written in 1991, long before the living-pterosaur investigations began in Papua New Guinea. All the standard-model aspects of this book are becoming or about to become extinct, as evidence mounts for pterosaurs living in Papua New Guinea and in surrounding countries. (Names used by natives include "ropen," "indava," "wawanar," "duwas," and "seklo-bali.")

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