

The book concludes with an empty page on which readers can list their fairy sightings.

*How To See Fairies* is a gift box containing note cards, a poster, a bookmark, a small book of recommendations on where to search for fairies, and a journal in which to list fairy sightings. Charles Van Sandwyk's illustrations are delightful. These fairies, in rich russet colours, are reminiscent of Arthur Rackham fairies. While being more benign than Leslie Elizabeth Watt's fairies, they are in no way twee. The rich orange, yellow, gold, and green fairies tumble about on leaves, feed birds, dance, and play with mice. The illustrations are featured throughout the books, on the box, and on the cards, poster, and bookmark. The charm of this set lies less in the content, which is somewhat thin, and more in the enchanting illustrations and its being a set, with all the bits and pieces in one attractive box. All in all, I find that providing a journal in which to record one's fairy sightings is a little too precious. By way of contrast, parents may wish to peruse *Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book* for a less innocent view of faeryland.

---

*Janey Southey collects old children's books and does not believe in fairies.*

### Moments in Time

*A Moment in Time with Troodon.* Eric P. Felber and Phillip J. Currie. Illus. Jan Sovak. Red Deer, 1997. 44 pp. \$17.95 cloth. ISBN 0-9682512-0-X. *A Moment in Time with Albertosaurus.* Eric P. Felber and Phillip J. Currie. Illus. Jan Sovak. Red Deer, 1998. 48 pp. \$17.95 cloth. ISBN 0-9682512-1-8. *A Moment in Time with Centrosaurus.* Phillip J. Currie and Eva Koppelhus. Illus. Jan Sovak. Red Deer, 1998. 56 pp. \$17.95 cloth. ISBN 0-9682512-2-6. *A Moment in Time with Sinosauropteryx.* Phillip J. Currie and Eva Koppelhus. Illus. Jan Sovak. Red Deer, 1999. 56 pp. \$17.95 cloth. ISBN 0-9682512-3-4.

It is a truism in museums that very young children can learn to pronounce words like "Parasaurolophus" with no difficulty. The volume of new print and visual media publications released every year testifies to dinosaur popularity. Moreover, the last decade has yielded many new perceptions about dinosaur behaviour. The "Moment in Time" series describes parenting, natural catastrophes, migration, and pack hunting in the Cretaceous landscape. These four books have been marketed for the age range of seven to fourteen, although, given the sophistication of eight-year-old enthusiasts, I would be inclined to target the lower end of that range.

Each book comprises an illustrated narrative followed by photographic fossil evidence and descriptions of paleontologists at work. The language level differs slightly between the two sections, with the narrative being simpler. Technical terms are boldfaced and appear in a glossary in each volume. A preface gives an overview of what is known and what must be "guessed" about each species.

The credentials of authors and illustrator are impeccable: Currie is the Curator of Dinosaurs at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller and has explored sites around the world as well as in the museum's backyard, so to speak. Felber is a geologist familiar with the badlands of Alberta, while Koppelhus is a

paleontologist who has worked with Currie in Canada and in China. Sovak is frequently called upon for prehistoric animal illustrations, putting to good use a fine art and a zoology background.

The competition for this series comes from non-fiction, heavily-illustrated guides such as *Eyewitness Books* and spin-offs from television series such as the BBC's *Walking with Dinosaurs*. Unlike these, Currie has attempted to evoke a more anthropomorphic identification for younger readers with one or two members of a species, to the point of giving names to individuals: "Twister" for the Centrosaurus, "Layah" for the Sinosauropteryx. Survival is the theme of each story. Some of the images are gory and upsetting, but they have much more to like than the stories, given that the language tends to be pedestrian and clumsy: "The one hatchling seemed content enough but his presence stimulated a protective reaction in the adults. . . ." "Nature does not allow its young to suffer long."

Ten pages of fact and 34 pages of story and pictures may constitute "a moment in time," but I am not convinced that it is a satisfying combination. Still, I was touched by the image of herds moving under the stars, and I approve of the combination of both Canadian and international content. I would recommend this series for school and public libraries that have enough money to permit a slightly offbeat purchase.

---

---

*Julia Matthews is the Head Librarian at the Royal Ontario Museum. She has recently helped mount an exhibition on ROM's dinosaur hunters, and her review is based in part on observing how families used print resources in a reading space.*