

general interest in fossils. Numerous books and treatises began to appear, sometimes describing the fossils in particular localities, sometimes of a more dilettante character.

In Switzerland, Johann Gesner's work continued the lines of research initiated by Scheuchzer. Bourguet in Neuchâtel, and afterwards Burtin in Belgium, published handsome plates of fossil illustrations, but the descriptions in the text are not of much value. Johann Baier, the Altdorf Professor, published in 1712 his *Oryctographica Norica*, one of the best works of the time, and in 1757 a supplement of fifteen folio plates was added under the direction of his son Ferdinand.

France, until the middle of the eighteenth century, had a remarkably poor palæontological literature. Antoine de Jussieu in 1718 described the Carboniferous plants of St. Chamont, near St. Etienne, and said they had been brought by the flood from India and the New World to Europe. In a second treatise, Jussieu described fossil Ammonites; he certainly compared these with *Nautilus Pompilius* of the Indian Seas, but he explained them as having been brought from the Oasis of Ammon to France by inundations of the sea. Bertrand's *Dictionary of Fossils* and other minor works testify that France was not devoid of interest in fossils, although activity in this field of research was much more prolific in the neighbouring countries.

In France, during the eighteenth century, only the writings of Guettard can be placed in the same rank with the monographs of particular fossil groups prepared by Rosinus, Wagner, Erhart, Breyn, and Klein.

The outstanding work of this period is undoubtedly that of Knorr and Walch in four volumes, *Die Sammlung von Merkwürdigkeiten der Natur und Alterthümer des Erdbodens*. The first volume was written by the Nürnberg collector and artist, George Wolfgang Knorr (born 1705, died 1761), and the other three volumes were prepared after the death of Knorr by Professor Walch¹ of Jena.

The first volume bears on its title-page an illustration of the famous Solenhofen quarries, and contains figures of fossil crabs, fishes, crinoids, together with dendrites, and "ruin marble"

¹ Johann Ernst Immanuel Walch (1725-78) was a son of J. G. Walch, Professor of Philosophy and Poetry in Jena. In 1759 Walch succeeded his father as Professor, but his chief delight was in Mineralogy and Palæontology, and he made a famous collection.