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BOOKS BY LOIS WADSWORTH

Geology

Love the land.

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT OREGON: A GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY by Ellen Morris Bishop. Timber Press, 2003. Hardcover, \$39.95.

To keep the record straight, I did not read Ellen Morris Bishop's 289-page geological and natural history of ancient Oregon from cover to cover, although I would love to have the leisure to read, study and engage with this book. Looking at her excellent large-format camera photographs and reading select passages stirred memories of an inspiring geology class I took in the late 1960s, when ideas about continent-building were seductive theories.

Now, plate tectonics, moving seafloors and colliding continents are accepted geological tools that explain how the land we now call Oregon was added to the continent from its earlier forms as ocean bottom, shallow water coral reefs, volcanic islands and warm seas.

This lavishly illustrated and beautifully designed book pulled me in. I was hooked by her caption for the photo on pages 2-3: "Glacial erratic, once part of Mt. Hood's eastern rampart, eroded and transported by Pleistocene glaciers, now resting atop the extensive moraine of Eliot Glacier." Bishop's gift of straddling time in a few succinct phrases makes sense of complex geological processes.


The oldest rocks in this part of the new world are Devonian limestone, about 400 million years old, found in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon and the Klamath Mountains of southwest Oregon, which became part of the continental landmass at different times. Blue Mountains' rocks were coral reefs and forested volcanic islands that now "crown the Wallowa, Elkhorn, Strawberry, Aldrich and Greenhorn ranges," Bishop writes. Oregon's Klamath Mountains, the Rogue River Canyon, Kalmiopsis Wilderness, Illinois River drainage and Mount Ashland were a volcanic archipelago much like Indonesia today. These islands and micro continents merged offshore and were added to the continent as a single, complex block.

In Search of Ancient Oregon will not only help you master the lexicon of geologic terms such as "subduction zones," the place where the seafloor dives back into the Earth's mantle, but also lesser-used words like exotic terrane, mélange and erratics. Bishop brings these geologic features to life in pictures of the landscape you might encounter on a drive from Eugene to Burns, for example.

Bishop selected photographs from more than 3,000 large-format images. Her text is lively, and the narrative builds logically. I like how Bishop describes her intention here: "The geologist's mission is to translate the mute stuff of stolid stones into a planetary biography." Her search for ancient Oregon is a trip well worth taking.

Bishop presents a slide show and lecture at 7 pm on Nov. 10 at Tsunami Books. Jointly sponsored by Black Sun Books and Tsunami Books, take this unique opportunity to meet Bishop, see these magnificent photographs. Reception follows. **EW**

Book Notes Nov. 6 - Dec. 11: Lauren Kessler (*Cover Girl*, HarperCollins, 2003) will speak on "Crossing the Line: From nonfiction to fiction and back again" at 6:30 - 9 pm on Nov. 6, Baker Downtown Center, \$5 donation. ...Poet Paul Dresman (*The Silver Dazzle of the Sun: Selected Poems*) reads at 7 pm on Nov. 6 at Tsunami Books. ...Essayist Richard Rodriguez (*The Browning of America*) speaks at 4 pm on Nov. 6 in 305 Pharmacy Hall, OSU, Corvallis. ...Al Sandine (*Plundertown USA: Coos Bay Enters the Global Economy*) at 7 pm on Nov. 6 at UO Bookstore. ...Frances Mayes (*Under the Tuscan Sun*) speaks at noon on Nov. 7 at Portland State's Smith Memorial Student Union. (503.725.4949). ...Suzanne Kingsbury (*The Gospel According to Gracey*) reads at 7 pm on Nov. 11 in Knight Library Browsing Room, UO campus. ...Veneta attorney Dean Van Leuven (*Life Without Anger: Your Guide to Peaceful Living*) speaks at 7 pm on Nov. 13 in UO Bookstore. ...Literary Arts' Oregon Book Awards Ceremony is at 7:30 pm on Nov. 13 at the Scottish Rite Center, Portland (503.227.2583) Award for lifetime achievement goes to playwright, poet George Hitchcock (Harrisburg). Poetry nominees: Jane Bailey, Casey Kwang, Robert McDowell, Rita Ott Ramstad, Clemens Starck. Novel: Cai Emmons (Eugene), April Henry, Jane Kirkpatrick, Alan Siporin (Eugene), Lono Waiwaiolo. Short Fiction: Tracy Daugherty, Douglas Rennie, Lidia Yuknavitch. General Nonfiction: Rick Harmon, Barbara S. Mahoney, Kim Stafford. Creative Nonfiction: Carol Ann Bassett (Eugene). Chris Chester, Gabrielle Glaser, Floyd Skloot, Kim Stafford. Children's Literature: Eric Kimmel, Petra Mathers, Valerie Rapp, Nicole Rubel, Cynthia Rylant. Young Adult Literature: Brian A. Connolly, Heather Vogel Frederick, Kezi Matthews, Elizabeth Rusch, Graham Salisbury. ...Clem Starck (*China Basin*) reads at 7 pm on Nov. 15 at Newport Recreation Center and at noon on Dec. 4 at OSU Bookstore, Corvallis. ...Wayne Harrison and Michael Spring read 7-9 pm on Nov. 18 at Eugene Public Library. ...Historian and author David Peterson del Mar (*Oregon's Promise*) reads at 7 pm on Nov. 20 at UO Bookstore. ...Kate Moses (*Wintering: A Novel of Sylvia Plath*) reads at 7:30 pm on Nov. 20 at Powell's SE Hawthorne bookstore. ...Novelist Edmund White (*Fanny*) reads at 7:30 pm on Nov. 21 at Powell's Beaverton store. ...Barry Lopez introduces readers from *Best Essays Northwest*, including Kim Stafford, John Daniel and Bobbie Willis, at 7 pm on Nov. 25 in Knight Library Browsing Room, UO campus. ...Memoirist, novelist Tobias Wolff (*Old School*; Knopf, 2003) speaks at 7:30 pm on Dec. 2 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall (503.227.2583). ...Writer, Jungian analyst James Hollis (*On This Journey We Call Life*) speaks at 7 pm on Dec. 4 at the Knight Law Center. ...Floyd Skloot (*In the Shadow of Memory*) speaks at 7 pm on Dec. 4 at the Knight Library Browsing Room. ...4th annual Authors and Artists Fair, 7-10 pm on Dec. 6 at the Eugene Public Library (www.epfoundation.org).



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