

C.D. WALCOTT: FEDERAL PALEONTOLOGIST IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

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Walcott joined the new U.S. Geological Survey in July, 1879, as a geological assistant at \$50 per month; he was 29 years old. He retired from the Survey in 1907, after nearly three decades of service, the last 13 years as Director at \$6000 per year; he was 56 years old. Despite years of administrative chores, Walcott continued geologic and paleontologic research and regularly produced systematic and biostratigraphic papers, including U.S.G.S. Bulletins 10, 30, 81, and 134; Monographs 8, 30 and 51; papers in the 10th, 12th, and 14th Annual Reports and in Monograph 32, and an appendix to Monograph 20. From 1883 onward, Walcott was also an honorary curator of the United States National Museum and published prolifically in its Proceedings and in many outside journals.

Scientifically significant works include his "Paleontology of the Eureka District, Nevada" (Mon. 8), "Cambrian faunas of North America" (Bull. 30), systematics of fossil medusae (Mon. 30), "Cambrian Brachiopoda" (Mon. 51), and the Cambrian Correlation Papers (Bull. 81). The latter summarized a century's work on the Cambrian in North America and provided a solid basis for most later work on Cambrian biostratigraphy and biogeography. His most important paleontological work, in my opinion, was the monograph on Cambrian brachiopods; his influence in brachiopod systematics is indicated by nine citations of his work in the 1963 Brachiopod Treatise volumes.

Walcott's interests were eclectic; in addition to many works on Cambrian faunas, including the important demonstration that the Olenellus zone was Lower Cambrian, he described Precambrian rocks and lavas of the Grand Canyon; Walcott demonstrated that the "Taconic System" was not a definite stratigraphic entity; he defined the tripartite nature of the Cambrian and listed the characteristic faunas of each series; and, finally, he sketched out the paleogeography of early Paleozoic lands and seas in North America.