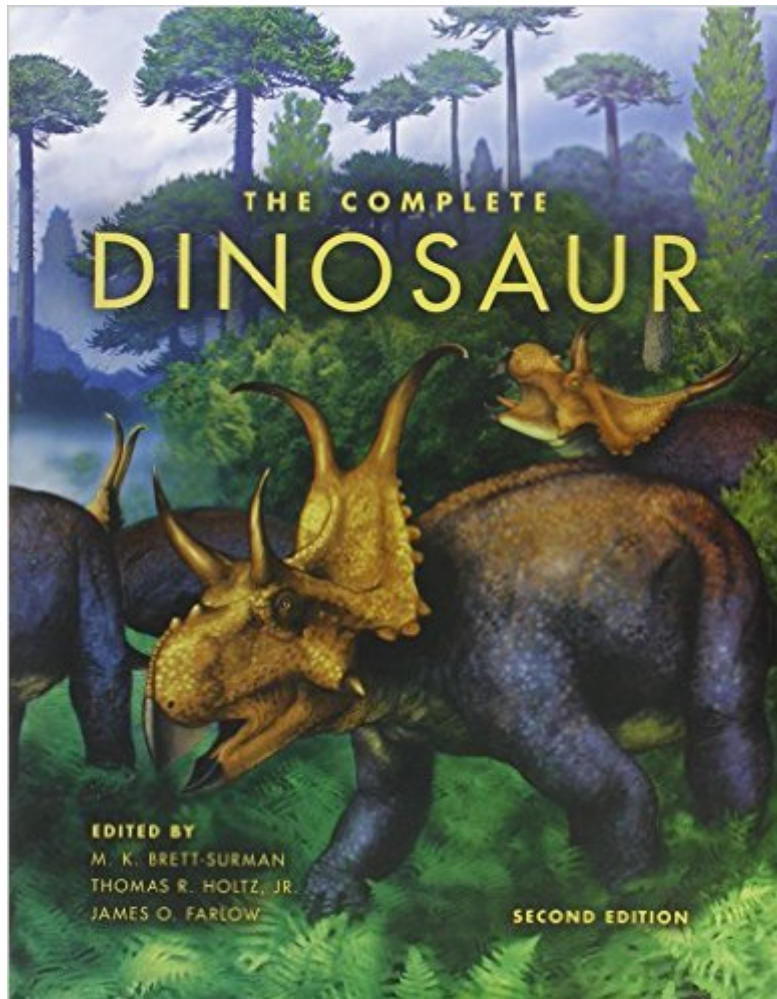


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The Complete Dinosaur (Life Of The Past)



Synopsis

Praise for the first edition: "A gift to serious dinosaur enthusiasts" â•Science "The amount of information in [these] pages is amazing. This book should be on the shelves of dinosaur freaks as well as those who need to know more about the paleobiology of extinct animals. It will be an invaluable library reference." â•American Reference Books Annual "An excellent encyclopedia that serves as a nice bridge between popular and scholarly dinosaur literature." â•Library Journal (starred review) "Copiously illustrated and scrupulously up-to-date... the book reveals dinos through the fractious fields that make a study of them." â•Publishers Weekly "Stimulating armchair company for cold winter evenings.... Best of all, the book treats dinosaurs as intellectual fun." â•New Scientist "The book is useful both as a reference and as a browse-and-enjoy compendium." â•Natural History

What do we know about dinosaurs, and how do we know it? How did dinosaurs grow, move, eat, and reproduce? Were they warm-blooded or cold-blooded? How intelligent were they? How are the various groups of dinosaurs related to each other, and to other kinds of living and extinct vertebrates? What can the study of dinosaurs tell us about the process of evolution? And why did typical dinosaurs become extinct? All of these questions, and more, are addressed in the new, expanded, second edition of *The Complete Dinosaur*. Written by many of the world's leading experts on the "fearfully great" reptiles, the book's 45 chapters cover what we have learned about dinosaurs, from the earliest discoveries of dinosaurs to the most recent controversies. Where scientific contention exists, the editors have let the experts agree to disagree. Copiously illustrated and accessible to all readers from the enthusiastic amateur to the most learned professional paleontologist, *The Complete Dinosaur* is a feast for serious dinosaur lovers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let's say you have read the delightful *My Beloved Brontosaurus* by Brian Switek and you find yourself hankering for more facts and scientific insight. Let's say you remember being enchanted with dinosaurs as a kid and you wonder what you'd be doing now if the rest of life hadn't turned you away from that initial fascination. Let's say you just want to get the latest on what paleontologists are doing. Here's what to do: get *The Complete Dinosaur* (Indiana University Press), edited by M. K. Brett-Surman, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., and James O. Farlow, with Bob Walters as art consultant, and written by sixty experts in different subspecialties. The book is as fine and as imposing a volume as any I have seen from a university press. It is enormous, 1,100 big pages and over six pounds in weight. The pages have lovely wide margins often used for illustrations, and there are illustrations aplenty, not just of the amazing beasts, but of their descent trees, bone loading, tracks, bone growth rings, and much more. This is not light reading, in any sense. I could not take the book to bed for nighttime reading, nor even to my recliner. I wound up setting it on one of my weight benches and reading it from an adjacent chair. The chapters are full of detail and the prose is (at least in big chunks) necessarily technical; you will find many sentences like, "Plagued by inconsistent definitions, use, and predictions, it is not always clear whether gigantothermy postulates a convergence of metabolic rates as well as thermoregulatory performance, or whether the supposed metabolic convergence is toward the reptile level, the mammal level, or in between." (The appendices do include a big and useful glossary, as well as a list of dinosaur-related websites.

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