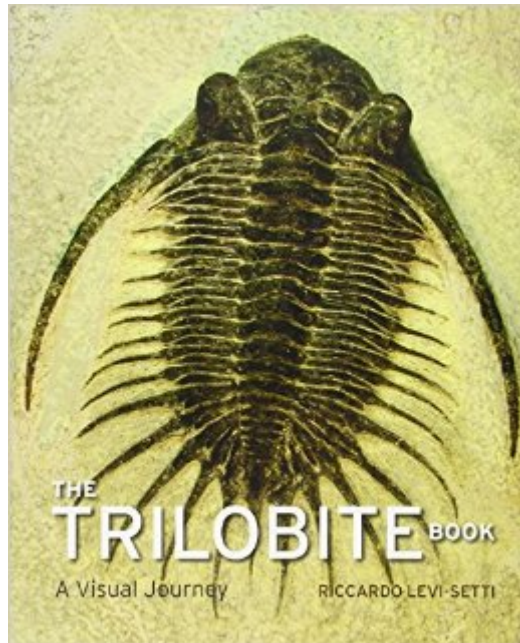


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The Trilobite Book: A Visual Journey



Synopsis

Distant relatives of modern lobsters, horseshoe crabs, and spiders, trilobites swam the planet's prehistoric seas for 300 million years, from the Lower Cambrian to the end of the Permian eras; and they did so very capably. Trilobite fossils have been unearthed on every continent, with more than 20,000 species identified by science. One of the most arresting animals of our pre-dinosaur world, trilobites are also favorites among the fossil collectors of today, their crystalline eyes often the catalyst for a lifetime of paleontological devotion. And there is no collector more devoted; or more venerated; than Riccardo Levi-Setti. With *The Trilobite Book*, a much anticipated follow-up to his classic *Trilobites*, Levi-Setti brings us a glorious and revealing guide to these surreal arthropods of ancient Earth. Featuring specimens from Bohemia to Newfoundland, California to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, and Wales to the Anti-Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Levi-Setti's magnificent book reanimates these "butterflies of the seas" in 235 astonishing full-color photographs. All original, Levi-Setti's images serve as the jumping-off point for tales of his global quests in search of these highly sought-after fossils; for discussions of their mineralogical origins, as revealed by their color; and for unraveling the role of the now-extinct trilobites in our planetary history. Sure to enthrall paleontologists with its scientific insights and amateur enthusiasts with its beautiful and informative images, *The Trilobite Book* combines the best of science, technology, aesthetics, and personal adventure. It will inspire new collectors for eras to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For any trilobite lover, this is a Must book. This is not just a color version of his earlier book "Trilobites"; it is a brand-new book with different text and fantastic color photos of incredible, perfectly prepared specimens from all over the world. Levi-Setti has shown that careful and clever photography can reveal details in specimens unseen in black and white photography and simply by naked eye. You go from page to page marveling at the creativeness of natural selection and the skill of the author in capturing it with a digital camera. Riccardo Levi-Setti has an ingratiating and informative style in his writing. His stories of how he himself discovered some of the fossils are very entertaining, and his descriptions and explanations of all the fossils are clear and concise. His love of trilobites shines in every page. He makes you want to grab a geologist's hammer, find the nearest shale, and start banging away. I live in Utah, and three hours from me, in Millard County, up in the dry mountains, can be found some of the best places in the world for trilobite hunting. Because of Levi-Setti's and Richard Fortey's books, my wife and I -- in our sixties -- now have a home with our own little zoo of trilobites. If you, too, have your own little zoo, you will want -- desire -- this book. If you have never seen a trilobite in your life, read this book and be prepared to fall in love with little creatures that have been dead for some 200 million years.

As the author/photographer's wife and "sous chef" trilobite equivalent to Riccardo, I feel it necessary to point out that this book is the third in a series of his books and serves as a companion work to the previous more scientific editions. --Nika

Great pictures and good stories of collecting, but if you want a technical study of trilobites go somewhere else. I am a geologist so I would have liked a little more science but the book is what it claims to be.

Mr. Levi-Setti obviously loves his subject and artfully photographs superb examples to show their intricacies and natural beauty. He also is master of various photographic techniques, especially the close up, that help us know more about these creatures. In the reader's hands this book is classy, with high-quality color plates reproduced on heavy paper, with a very solid binding. In substance, this book is very cool. It is stuffed with many, many detailed photos of specimens from around the world of varied size, color, ornamentation, segmentation, etc. Plus, it has the author's comments at each section and in captions. I expect the book would be appreciated also by someone curious about geology or evolution, for the same reasons. By organizing the book across different

geographical locations and within them by different geological eras, the author gives additional perspective on the similarities and differences the photos illustrate. The author's introductory comments to each section are a mixture of personal reflections, technical details, and other background. I enjoyed them but sometimes they assumed a knowledge of technical trilobite anatomical terminology well over my head. The photos from the large Tucson fossil show, with Mr. Levi-Setti's informed and frank comments about the commercial side of the fossil world, counterfeiting and other topics, made this a more interesting book for the average reader. So too did the photos of partial, not just perfect and pristine examples. Overall, this is a very cool book to own and an especially fine example why digital books are inferior. The book is more accessible than a deep technical paper and not just another "see the pretty things!" natural history picture book. I am glad I bought it and recommend it highly.

Professor Levi-Setti has written -- and lavishly illustrated, mostly with his own photographs -- a highly personal and incredibly accessible remembrance of his quest for, and encounters with, fossil trilobites, the long-extinct denizens of ancient seas. The exquisite photography is reason enough to leaf through this book, but Levi-Setti's introductions to the book and to each of its sections certainly engaged this reader in the author's adventures of discovery. The more than 200 photographs illustrate the incredible diversity and complexity of trilobites over a few hundred million years, an ever-apt reminder of the great wonder and mystery of Life itself.

This is an excellent extension of Levi-Setti's earlier trilobite books, both in the addition of species and the use of color. The photography is superb. The "trilobite obsessed" will easily appreciate this book, but anyone will be amazed by the diversity this ancient creatures demonstrate.

This THE book on Trilobites!! I don't see it as a casual read but if you are interested in paleontology in general and Trilobites in particular, this is the book to have. It is very well done, excellent binding, high grade paper and outstanding photography. Well worth the cost.

About as solid a reference on Trilobites there is. Not an academic book. Not really a history or science book. It's basically a travelogue of an ardent trilobite collector. Excellent photography, good reference information, and enough backstory about the trilobite market to provide a bit of interest if not intrigue.

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