

# Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Three Hundred Years of Geotourism

Edited by  
T. A. Hose



Geological Society  
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# Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Three Hundred Years of Geotourism

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T. A. HOSE

University of Bristol, UK

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## Foreword

The appreciation of landscape physically has been an applied human attribute since the beginning of civilization in regard to agriculture and irrigation, the location of building materials and metals and the selection of sites for habitation and the routes between them. This is implied by archaeology and artefacts. Recording the physical landscape in guides and on maps has a more recent history preceding the modern scientific approach and then enabling a popular access to understanding the new and developing discipline of geology and appreciating what underlies and forms the physical landscape. Increasing literacy, travel and available time extended the opportunities and aspirations for the wider public, beyond the small world of the professional and academic geologist, to visit landscapes by armchair, road, and later railway as 'geotourists'. Geotourism is a modern term, coined and defined by Dr. Tom Hose, for a relatively recent phenomenon – travel to enjoy and understand scenery.

The conference, *Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Geotourism 1670–1970*, was convened and organized by Tom at the Geological Society apartments on 23rd October 2012. It assembled an international cast of some 15 speakers from Australia, South Africa, North America and Europe; their presentations were supplemented by some nine poster presentations. Examples of geotourism and the dissemination of particular landscape descriptions through art, literature and local natural history societies were among the papers and posters presented, a selection of which appear in this volume. The contribution of maps and guidebooks is presented in a commissioned paper. The conference was followed by a convivial dinner most ably organized by Dick Moody. The following day the conference field excursion, with an accompanying guidebook, arranged and led by Tom went to Margate on the Kent coast. Margate was one of the earliest resorts for health and appreciation of scenery, so that we travelled sustainably, by train



Conference geotourists braving the rain in front of the modernised entrance to Margate's shell grotto, an eighteenth century decorated 'cave' that still attracts the idle and curious.

and bus, and literally in the footsteps of nineteenth century geotourists. Margate was fittingly partly second home to the great English Romantic landscape artist J. M. W. Turner and appropriately the excursion took afternoon tea at the Turner Contemporary gallery. In typical field excursion practice, the anticipated opening vista of The Bay from the railway station, depicted in our guidebook's nineteenth century engraving of Margate, was completely shrouded by fog on our arrival; this gradually dispersed and in the late afternoon sunlight, something much appreciated by Turner, The Bay was at last revealed to the excursionists. It is the appreciation of landscapes in all weathers that marks out the true geotourist!

As chair of the History of Geology Group, I would like to thank Naomi Newbold and Georgina Worrall of the Geological Society's conference

office for their vital assistance in organizing the conference. We are also grateful to the staff of the Geological Society Library for their excellent display of conference related material in the Lower Library. The generous support of sponsors Arup, the British Society for the History of Science and Rockhounds Welcome! is very much appreciated. The conference is deeply indebted to our keynote speakers, John Gordon and David Norman, the session speakers and chairs, and also the presenters of the posters. Finally, the conference and this publication would not have come about without the vision, connections, organization and perseverance of Tom Hose, for which HOGG sincerely thanks him.

C. JOHN HENRY  
July 2015