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Front cover illustration

The cover illustration for this volume first appeared in a paper published by Arthur Holmes in 1930 in volume 18 of the *Transactions of the Geological Society of Glasgow*. For readers of a certain generation, Holmes' *Principles of Physical Geology*, first published in 1944 (and reprinted 18 times but never superseded) was the standard reference for students of geology. It provided an integrated approach to the subject that incorporated all aspects of the science. One important respect in which it differed from many other accounts was the integration of ideas on what was then referred to as 'Continental Drift'. Most of the diagrams used in Holmes' book were those first published in the Glasgow Transactions. Their importance was in their

appearance at a time when continental movement (now plate tectonics) did not have the wide acceptance by geologists that it has today. Holmes was convinced that the movement was real and suggested both a mechanism and the effects that would result. The diagrams are reproduced on this cover to draw attention to the forthcoming online publication of the Transactions of both the Edinburgh (1866–1962) and the Glasgow (1860–1963) societies, described in Volume 47, Part 2. These contain a wealth of data on the origins of ideas, bound up with the histories of the two societies, together with description of geological sections, boreholes and specimens, many of which have been obscured or lost.

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