

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY
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The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany is the only Institute of its kind devoted exclusively to the study of Palaeobotany. The primary object of the Institute is stated to be to understand the interaction between bio- and geo-sphere and its bearing on evolutionary processes. The Annual Report gives details of the different projects taken up for research during the year 1989-90.

Precambrian geologists will be interested in the reported occurrence of algal mat-like structure in the Banded Iron Formation older than 2.6 billion years, pointing to early biological activity in the Dharwar craton. The record of Ediacaran metazoans in upper Bhandar and pre-Ediacaran in Upper Semri is interesting, throwing new light on the antiquity of Metazoans in India. We look forward to detailed papers on these important finds.

Naturally, a large number of investigations pertain to Gondwana coal. Palynology is another sub-discipline which has engaged particular attention. This field of research has to be strengthened as it holds a key to the understanding of changing environment and species diversity.

1991 happens to be the centenary year of the birth of Prof. Birbal Sahni, the great Palaeontologist who was instrumental in giving a big boost to palaeobotanical and palynological studies in India. The Institute is keeping up its good tradition. We look forward to a great increase in its activities in the coming years.

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA

DISREGARD SUPERFLUOUS WORDS

Michael Angelo achieves his perfection in *Pieta* by chipping off all the superficial pieces of marble. Shakespeare manifests his creative genius, when he disregarded superfluous words and chose only those and in such order as he wrote *King Lear* or *Othello*.

Science is searching for truth. We know truth exists because we can recognize falsehood. Creativity in science is to recognize the falsehood. False ideas in science are the pieces of marble chipped away by Michael Angelo. They are the words not used by Shakespeare in his writing of *Othello*.

K. J. HSU