

SONGS OF ZOIC TIMES



Paleozoic

1. Before the Cambrian,
We think there was life,
But afterwards, the seas were rife.
For fossilized in rocks as dark as night
We find the forms of the trilobite.
2. You should remember when you go fishin'
That the grandmother hagfish
Swam th' Ordovician.
3. The corals were still,
But the sharks were hurryin'
Through the great seas
Of the warm Silurian.
4. Fishes were first bony in
The Devonian.
5. Flooding the marshes so we could have coal
The seas of the Carboniferous
Drank forests whole!
6. Alas, alas, Dimetrodon,
Born in the Permian,
You've come and gone.

Mesozoic

7. The Palisades, more cliff than hill,
Stand, a doleritic sill,
from the Triassic, if you will.
8. Long ago, listen and hark!
Birds and dinos left their mark
In the great Jurassic park
9. A mammal had to be courageous
To walk the chalk of the old Cretaceous.
For the dino giants had jaws most spacious
Yet they all died out,
Carnivore and herbaceous.

Cenozoic

- To prosper the Tertiary,
mammals were guided
'Cause the Moon blew down
and the eons divided.
 - You could've swum Everest in the Paleogene
Till it climbed Siberia
and ceased to be marine.
10. No new reptiles have ever been seen.
Since the last days of the Paleocene.
 11. The ultimate families of wild flowers
Blazed in the Eocene's golden hours

12. The orders of mammals beheld the dawn
Before the Oligocene was gone.
- Now, the Neogene critters were much like ours
More toes perhaps,
To tread the same flowers.
13. The Miocene gave us a horse who was short
And produced the last birds --
Well -- the last bird sort
14. And the Pliocene gave us the Primate clan
Apes and monkeys
And all but man...
- We come at length to Quaternary times,
To men, — of God and monkey, mimes —
Living not only by bread but rhymes.
15. The Pleistocene is early man
We really do not know its span
16. And the Holocene is the recent past
When men began to farm at last.

So these are the eons, the ages, the "[s]cenes"
the zoos of the earth, the "once have-beens."

Mary Daly