

Testimonies of the Rocks: the Hugh Miller Writing Competition 2015-16

Highly commended in poetry

Elizabeth Pickett: Every rolled pebble a casket

The Hugh Miller Writing Competition 2015-2016 invited entries inspired by the geological and landscape writings of Hugh Miller, Scotland's celebrated self-taught geologist. The competition was organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum, the Friends of Hugh Miller and many other partners.

Further details of the competition, and all the winning entries, are available at www.scottishgeology.com/hughmiller/

We hope that this writing competition has encouraged a renewed interest in Miller's work, a catalogue of superb new writings inspired by one of Scotland's greatest nature writers and greater awareness and appreciation of Scotland's geodiversity.

Copyright of this competition entry rest with the author. Requests for reproduction can be forwarded to the author: email chair@scottishgeodiversityforum.org.

Copyright © 2016 Elizabeth Pickett

Every rolled pebble a casket . . .

(from The Cruise of the Betsey by Hugh Miller, 1858)

Desert lakes stacked high
tell Orcadian sagas
on flags of red-gold.

Slow Archaean birl
of pyroxene and feldspar
captured in Assynt.

Glimmering chlorite
born in the Caledonides
slumbers in green beds.

Rippled sea-grey silk
hewn from Atlantic islands
skims the still water.

Silver graptolites
write of lost Iapetus
in a crumbling cleuch.

Broken magma road
stretches darkly back to Mull
stitching the Border.