

The Hugh Miller Writing Competition 2019-2020

Middleton-Miller Prize

The Testimony of the Rocks: Jack Cooper

The Hugh Miller Writing Competition carries the name of one of Scotland's most endearing geologists, Hugh Miller (1802-1856), and aims to honour his legacy by inspiring new, original prose and poetry on the theme of Scotland's geoheritage. The competition is organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum and The Friends of Hugh Miller.

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

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The Testimony of the Rocks

From a pew of sandstone and greywacke,
I watch the tide fall from Siccar Point
like a shallow breath from scarred lungs.

Scotland; self-assembling cathedral,
I love your rough-hewn altars
dragged out the seafloor.
Like any man with an eye on the line
and a smile caught on his mouth like a hook,
the cliffs are at my back
and eternity stretches ahead
above
beneath.

Today, I will worship whatever I find
under the sky's soaring vault.
I will sit with the stone and sand,
listen to the waves
and what little God I have left.

By Jack Cooper