

# AGASSIZ'S LEGACY

*Scientists'  
Reflections on  
the Value of  
Field Experience*

**Elizabeth Higgins Gladfelter**



# Agassizs Legacy Scientists Reflections On The Value Of Field Experience

**Ellen Prager**



## **Agassiz's Legacy Scientists Reflections On The Value Of Field Experience:**

**Agassiz's Legacy** Elizabeth H. Gladfelter, 2002 Compelling oral histories from many of the most interesting and important field investigators who came into their prime in the 1950 s through the 1990 s describing the role of mentors and students field courses and field experiences in determining their careers Backgrounds education and scientific contributions are elucidated through interviews Presented in chronological sequence by generation and placed in the context of broader societal influences these oral histories are used to examine how the pendulum in modern science has swung from description to theory from generalization to specialization from emphasis on teaching to domination by research and administrative hierarchies Read at one level these vignettes portray the profound sense of fun and joy of science both as an activity and a career At another level the text provides a historical tale of science and scientists that is not normally told The scientific study of nature is an important end in itself Further more the field sciences are critical to the generation of significant scientific questions in many disciplines as well as providing a context to test theory and view scientific results from larger and smaller temporal and spatial scales Being in the field using all ones senses to study nature also provides inspiration and motivation It is suggested that if we as a society want the kind of science produced by this group of scientists if we want to pass the art of field science to the next generation then we must provide the same kinds of opportunities to learn these skills through the kinds of mentors courses and field opportunities which were available to these distinguished scientists *Louis Agassiz* Christoph Irmscher, 2013 A provocative new life restoring Agassiz America s most famous natural scientist of the 19th century inventor of the Ice Age stubborn anti Darwinist to his glorious troubling place in science and culture

**Chasing Science at Sea** Ellen Prager, 2009-05-15 To the average office dweller marine scientists seem to have the good life cruising at sea for weeks at a time swimming in warm coastal waters living in tropical paradises But ocean scientists who go to sea will tell you that it is no vacation Creature comforts are few and the obstacles seemingly insurmountable yet an abundance of wonder and discovery still awaits those who take to the ocean Chasing Science at Sea immerses readers in the world of those who regularly go to sea aquanauts living underwater marine biologists seeking unseen life in the deep ocean and the tall ship captains at the helm among others and tells the fascinating tale of what life and science is like at the mercy of Mother Nature With passion and wit well known marine scientist Ellen Prager shares her stories as well as those of her colleagues revealing that in the field ingenuity and a good sense of humor are as essential as water sunblock and GPS Serendipity is invaluable and while collecting data is the goal sometimes just getting back to shore means success But despite the physical hardship and emotional duress that come with the work optimism and adventure prompt a particularly hardy species of scientist to return again and again to the sea Filled with firsthand accounts of the challenges and triumphs of dealing with the extreme forces of nature and the unpredictable world of the ocean Chasing Science at Sea is a unique glimpse below the water line at what it is like and why it is important to study explore and spend time in one of our planet s

most fascinating and foreign environments      *Knowing Global Environments* Jeremy Vetter, 2011 *Knowing Global Environments* brings together nine leading scholars whose work spans a variety of environmental and field sciences including archaeology agriculture botany climatology ecology evolutionary biology oceanography ornithology and tichology Collectively their essays explore the history of the field sciences through the lens of place practice and the production of scientific knowledge with a wide ranging perspective extending outwards from the local to regional national imperial and global scales The book also shows what the history of the field sciences can contribute to environmental history especially how knowledge in the field sciences has intersected with changing environments and addresses key present day problems related to sustainability such as global climate biodiversity oceans and more Contributors to *Knowing Global Environments* reveal how the field sciences have interacted with practical economic activities such as forestry agriculture and tourism as well as how the public has been involved in the field sciences as field assistants students and local collaborators      **Women, Travel, and Science in Nineteenth-Century Americas** Nina Gerassi-Navarro, 2017-11-15 This book offers a new and insightful look at the interconnections between the United States Brazil and Mexico during the nineteenth century Gerassi Navarro brings together U S and Latin American Studies with her analysis of the travel narratives of Frances Calder n de la Barca and Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Inspired by the writings of Alexander von Humboldt these women in their travels expand his views on the tropics to include a social dimension to their observations on nature culture race and progress in Brazil and Mexico Highlighting the role of women as a new kind of observer as well as the complexity of connections between the United States and Latin America Gerassi Navarro interweaves science politics and aesthetics in new transnational frameworks      *Biogeography in a Changing World* Malte C. Ebach, Raymond S. Tangney, 2006-11-01 Hampered by a confusing plethora of approaches and methods biogeography is often treated as an adjunct to other areas of study The first book to fully define this rapidly emerging subdiscipline *Biogeography in a Changing World* elucidates the principles of biogeography and paves the way for its evolution into a stand alone field Drawn      **Surveying the American Tropics** Maria Cristina Fumagalli, Peter Hulme, Owen Robinson, Lesley Wylie, 2013 A collection of essays from distinguished international scholars that explore the idea of a literary geography of the American Tropics      **German Art History and Scientific Thought** Mitchell B. Frank, 2017-07-05 A fresh contribution to the ongoing debate between *Kunstwissenschaft* scientific study of art and *Kunstgeschichte* art history this essay collection explores how German speaking art historians of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century self consciously generated a field of study Prominent North American and European scholars provide new insights into how a mixing of diverse methodologies took place in order to gain a more subtle and comprehensive understanding of how art history became institutionalized and legitimized in Germany One common assumption about early art historical writing in Germany is that it depended upon a simplistic and narrowly defined formalism This book helps to correct this stereotype by demonstrating the complexity of discussion surrounding formalist

concerns and by examining how German speaking art historians borrowed incorporated stole and made analogies with concepts from the sciences in formulating their methods In focusing on the work of some of the well known fathers of the discipline such as Alois Riegl and Heinrich W lfflin as well as on lesser known figures the essays in this volume provide illuminating and sometimes surprising treatments of art history s prior and understudied interactions with a wide range of scientific orientations from psychology sociology and physiognomics to evolutionism and comparative anatomy Down to the Sea for Science Vicky Cullen,2005

**Learning to Communicate in Science and Engineering** Mya Poe,Neal Lerner,Jennifer Craig,2010-02-05 Case studies and pedagogical strategies to help science and engineering students improve their writing and speaking skills while developing professional identities To many science and engineering students the task of writing may seem irrelevant to their future professional careers At MIT however students discover that writing about their technical work is important not only in solving real world problems but also in developing their professional identities MIT puts into practice the belief that engineers who don t write well end up working for engineers who do write well requiring all students to take communications intensive classes in which they learn from MIT faculty and writing instructors how to express their ideas in writing and in presentations Students are challenged not only to think like professional scientists and engineers but also to communicate like them This book offers in depth case studies and pedagogical strategies from a range of science and engineering communication intensive classes at MIT It traces the progress of seventeen students from diverse backgrounds in seven classes that span five departments Undergraduates in biology attempt to turn scientific findings into a research article graduate students learn to define their research for scientific grant writing undergraduates in biomedical engineering learn to use data as evidence and students in aeronautic and astronautic engineering learn to communicate collaboratively Each case study is introduced by a description of its theoretical and curricular context and an outline of the objectives for the students activities The studies describe the on the ground realities of working with faculty staff and students to achieve communication and course goals offering lessons that can be easily applied to a wide variety of settings and institutions

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