

Mary Anning (1799-1847)

Contributors

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Anning

Sir 7 19.12.1823
(? Seal Lamb)

I have taken the liberty
of writing to inform you that I have discovered
a fossil skeleton of an unknown species it is
nine feet long and from the extremity of one
pedicle to the other it is four feet broad it has
a remarkable small head not more than
eight inches in length long neck measuring
from the sternum to the head it is four
feet short body from the sternum to the
pelvis two feet ribs one foot intercostal
ribs 16 inches on the whole it is the most
curious and illustrative yet discovered it is the

Skeleton generally named Plesiosus,
I also ^{have} a small skeleton of the Ichthyosaurus
better than the one you saw at Charmouth
but not so good as Lpt Warrington's. I should
you be coming anywhere in the neighbourhood
they are worth you coming a little out
of your way to see them

I remain with great respect
Your humble servant

Mary Anning

By me Decr 19th 1823rd



Scale One inch to each Foot

Sir

I have endeavoured in a rough sketch to give you some idea of what it is like. In your understanding was right in thinking that I said it was the supposed plesiosaurus, but its remarkable long neck and small head, shows that it does not in the least ^{resemble} their conjectures; in its analogy to the Ichthyosaurus, it is large and heavy. ~~But~~ ^{the} one thing I may venture to assure you it is the first and only one discovered in Europe. Colonel Birch offered one hundred guineas for it unseen, but your letter came five days post before ^{it} ~~the~~