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National Museum of Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff

Life in the Lias sea which covered much of southern and eastern Britain between 195-176 million years ago is the subject of a new full-colour print published by the Museum. The water-colour reconstruction, based on fossils found in rocks dating from that period, is by geologist Henry Thomas De la Beche (1796-1855) and it shows the sea infested by ichthyosaurs, fish-like reptiles and the long-necked plesiosaurs while pterodactyls fly above.

The water-colour was the basis of a lithograph distributed by Professor William Buckland to his geology classes at Oxford in the 1830s, and is one of a number of sketches and cartoons through which De la Beche commented on current ideas in geological science. Much of De la Beche's correspondence and his diaries are in the collections of the Department of Geology of the National Museum of Wales. The colour print costs £1 (£1.50 by post from the National Museum).

(Last year the Museum published a booklet, *Ichthyosaurs: a history of fossil 'sea-dragons'*. It is by S.R. Howe, T. Sharpe and H.S. Torrens and costs 90p (£1.20 by post). Further information on De la Beche is obtained in Paul J. McCartney's *Henry De la Beche: observations on an observer*, published by the Friends of the National Museum of Wales in 1977. Price £3.00 (£4.00 by post).)