
The Origins of Continents and Oceans. *Alfred Wegener.* Translated from the Fourth German edition of 1929 by John Biram. Dover Publications Inc., New York, (paperback), 1966. viii+246 p. \$2.00.

At a time when continental drift is a controversial, yet respectable, hypothesis, the issuing of a new English translation of the last edition of Wegener's classic work on the subject is valuable. Wegener's first edition of 1915 and his papers of several years earlier evoked considerable reaction for and against the theory, which in time provided direction for new investigations. By the time of the fourth edition, before now not available in English translation, Wegener could say, "The present edition represents a transitional stage between a mere presentation of the theory and a synoptic exposition of these new branches of research."

The Dover edition, in addition to the main presentation, contains a short biography of Wegener, written by his brother. The book is well printed and the translation readable, despite its long involved sentences. For its historical value, this last statement of Wegener about continental drift, with its summary of the contemporary supporting geodetic, geophysical, geological, palaeontological, biological, and paleoclimatic data, should be useful for all who have an interest in the history of our earth or in this controversial subject.

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