

Canada
Geological Survey
Victoria Memorial Museum

BULLETIN No. 1

1.—*The Trenton Crinoid, Ottawacrinus* W. R. Billings.

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(Nat. Hist.)

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HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

In 1887 Mr. Walter R. Billings (*Ottawa Natural*, I, p. 49 and pl.) founded the new genus *Ottawacrinus*, with the single species *O. typus*, based on a unique specimen collected by him in the Trenton formation at Hull, Que.

Mr. Billings considered his genus to be "most nearly related to *Dendrocrinus*."

In a paper on "the classification of the Inadunata Fistulata" (1890, "Brit. Foss. Crin.," *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 6, vol. V, pp. 329, 332, 334, 379, 380, 383, 384) I discussed the structure and relations of *Ottawacrinus*, placing it near *Merocrinus* and *Dendrocrinus* but suggesting that it might, none the less, have given rise to *Cyathocrinus*. My remarks were based on the description by Mr. Billings.

Subsequently Mr. Billings was so very kind as to entrust me with the unique holotype for study, and this raised in my mind some doubts, which were hinted at in "The Crinoidea of Gotland" (1893, *Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl.* XXV, No. 2. See p. 191), and given further expression in "A Treatise on Zoology," Part III (1900, London. See pp. 112, 178). These doubts, however, did not affect the systematic position of the genus, which was