



COMITÉ FRANÇAIS D'HISTOIRE DE LA GÉOLOGIE (COFRHIGÉO)

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<https://hal.science/COFRHIGEO/>

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F. Ellenberger Prize by the French Committee for the History of Geology (Cofrhigéo)

Cofrhigéo decided to create a prize to honor authors of outstanding work in history of geology (and related disciplines). It seemed natural to name it after François Ellenberger, founder and first president of the Committee, and himself author of a remarkable two-volume History of Geology (Taylor & Francis, 1999).

For the year 2024, the Cofrhigéo Board of Directors awarded this prize to Philippe Taquet, in recognition of the important contributions he has made to the history of geology over the last four decades. The award, in the form of a commemorative medal, was presented to him at the Cofrhigéo meeting held on December 11 at the Société Géologique de France.



A specialist of dinosaurs, Philippe Taquet spent his entire career in Paris at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, first as a CNRS research fellow, then as a professor of paleontology from 1981, and director from 1985 to 1990. The importance of his contribution to the history of geology is attested by more than eighty publications. These have particularly concerned Georges Cuvier (1769-1832), one of the founders of comparative anatomy and vertebrate paleontology, to whom he has dedicated two books, *Georges Cuvier, Naissance d'un génie* (Odile Jacob, 2006) and *Georges Cuvier, Anatomie d'un naturaliste* (Odile Jacob, 2019). His publications have also dealt with the work of 19th and 20th century scientists such as Alcide d'Orbigny, William Buckland and Théodore Monod, and various episodes illustrating how geology came into being.

Philippe Taquet has also been a very active member of the community of historians of geology: from 2004 to 2008, he was President of the International Commission for the History of Geology (INHIGEO) and, from 2016 to 2022, of our Committee, of which he has been a member ever since its founding in 1976. His work has earned him numerous distinctions, including the Prix Fontannes from the Société Géologique de France, the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal from the Geological Society of London, and an election to the Académie des Sciences, which he chaired in 2013-2014.

A list of Philippe Taquet's publications on the history of Earth sciences is available on the Cofrhigéo website (<https://hal.science/COFRHIGEO/page/prixfrancoisellenberger>).