

[letter regarding animal tracks from Hildburghausen]<sup>1</sup>

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From the enormous [quarries] at Hildburghausen, we have read\* that they have taken natural stone footsteps. I myself possess a rock slab with such a thing. The form of the footsteps are as though they were raised up from hands<sup>2</sup>, as soft sandstone poured into a mold, and sandstone with a fine clay coating under it. The animal seems to me to be a moderately large marsupial mammal with thumbs on the rear and front feet. In the same quarry there are have also bone remains found, which can perhaps provide a better explanation. The history of the discovery was given on the recommendation of SICKLER in a letter written to BLUMENBACH. Since this animal is new, I name it *Chirotherium Barthii*; but if it is an amphibian, in contrast to what the trackway suggests, I will change the name to *Chirosaurus*.

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\* Read BERNHARDI, in the Jahrbuch [this journal] for 1834, pp. 642-643; then SICKLER, BRONN and VOIGT in the Jahrbuch [this journal] for 1835, pages 230, 232 and 322.

Translator's notes

<sup>1</sup> Original title: [Über Tierfährten bei Hildburghausen]. Translated by E.C. Rainforth, March 2002.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. natural casts (convex hyporelief)