Contents

1	Geo	bhistory as a Discipline	1
2	The	Earth as a Planet in the Solar System	5
		Pre-Solar History	6
	• •	Crystal Particles	21
	2.3	Moon, Meteorites, and Other Planets – The Key to an Understanding of Early Geohistory	28
3	Evo	lution of the Earth	55
	3.1	The Driving Force Behind the Earth's Evolution .	55
		Composition of the Earth – The Meteorite Analogy	58
	3.3	The Layered Structure of the Earth	62
	3.4	Formation of the Layered Structure	64
	3.5	The Time of Core Formation, Based on Pb Isotopic	
		Ratio Data	68
	3.6	Mantle Differentiation	71
		The Age of the Mantle	80
		Origin and Evolution of the Atmosphere and Oceans The Primordial Mantle and the Differentiated	84
		Mantle	93
4	Cha	nges in the Earth's Crust	99
	4.1	Rock Magnetism and Paleomagnetism	99
	4.2	Ocean Floor Spreading, Continental Drift, and Plate	
	4.3	Tectonics	110
		the Earth's Crust	119
	4.4	Geochronology	122

5	Ma	n and Ge	ohist	ory	y	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	133
		Bolide Ir The Fate	•															•	134
	•	Phenome											-						142
	5.3	Epilog .																	
B	iblio	graphy .						•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	157
S	ubje	ct Index																	161

VIII