

George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707-1788) Proposed Stellar Metamorphosis

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Abstract: Proof of documentation is provided outlining the proposed idea of Earth having been a still cooling star, by George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon. In essence, it shows that he had originally hypothesized stellar metamorphosis as well as Leibniz, in the 18th century. This paper consists of a snip of page 123, in the book *Volcanoes*, by Philippe Bourseiller and Jacques Durieux. The reason I have done this is because a google search is not sufficient to find such writings, but now google will have it.

Verbatim,

According to George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707-1788), the earth was a star that was cooling. He even computed its age (about 120,000 years) in comparison with the speed of cooling of metal spheres that he heated in a forge. He accepted the notion of a central core fire, the residue from the original star."

This shows that George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon was an original hypothesizer of the General Theory of Stellar Metamorphosis. Though, the hypothesis was forgotten, it has been unearthed well into the 21st century. This is mostly due to both the Kepler and TESS space telescope missions finding stars in all stages of evolution from their hotter states, not just the ones that have noticeable visible/thermal spectrums. The Earth's heat in fact, is leftover heat from earlier stages of stellar evolution. Though very small amounts as compared to much younger stars, its heat has been dissipating for over 4.5 billion years. Given such immense timescales, the small amount of heat still churning inside the Earth as opposed to much younger stars fits quite well with the reality that it has had 4.5+ billion years to cool off. Stars even older than Earth, and dead stars therefore should have even less internal heat, so their heat flux is yet another variable to determine how evolved they truly are. Those older dead stars should have considerably less volcanic activity, as in Venus's case nearly zero, due to it being 450-750 billion years old, 100-167 times older than the Earth.

This paper is dedicated to the ancestors of George-Louis, hopefully they can see that his mind was in the right place, even after 200+ years, even if his contemporaries did not think so. A graph is provided on the third page of Stellar metamorphosis, mass vs age.

coal, bitumen, and the like. In 1669 an enormous eruption took place on the sides of Mount Etna. Lava flows descended all the way to the sea, destroying the city of Catania on the way. Sicilian scientist Francesco d'Arezzo was assigned to study the phenomenon. What he found on the terrain, to his great surprise, was very different from the rivers of liquid sulfur of bitumen on fire that literature had promised. He came very close to the flows of lava, trying to assess its viscosity by poking it with metal rods. His deduction was extraordinary for its time: Lava was molten rock that became glassy on cooling. But the real problem that intrigued his contemporaries was the origin of the heat generated by volcanoes.

According to George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707–1788), the earth was a star that was cooling. He even computed its age (about 120,000 years) in comparison with the speed of cooling of metal spheres that he heated in a forge. He accepted the notion of a central core fire, the residue from the original star. He believed, however, the origin of the energy of volcanoes resided in the more superficial phenomena of combustion. And, based on the fact that many volcanoes known at the time were either close to a coastline



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