

Preface

Although Trond and Robin had met previously, our first significant interaction was at the Europrobe meeting at St Petersburg in 1999, with the result that Robin was invited by Trond to the Norwegian Geological Winter Meeting at Trondheim in 2000, after which our collaboration into unravelling global palaeogeography began in earnest. Some years and many joint papers later, we thought that a summary and extension of our work would be timely, and this book is the result. Our specialities are complementary: Trond is a geophysicist specialising in palaeomagnetism and mantle dynamics, whilst Robin specialises in Palaeozoic stratigraphy and faunas. However, both of us had previously published on global and regional palaeogeography, alone and with other colleagues, and we both have first degrees in geology, which has formed the essential common language for appropriate discussion, which has been both challenging and fun. In addition and most importantly, Trond has developed the software to generate flat maps from a spherical Earth, and which can move the lithospheric units through time with kinematic objectivity, as explained in Chapter 2. That means that he has constructed virtually all the diagrams in this book, whilst Robin has written slightly more of the words. Nevertheless, we are under no illusions that this book is a final summary of the Earth's changing geography; merely a progress report.