

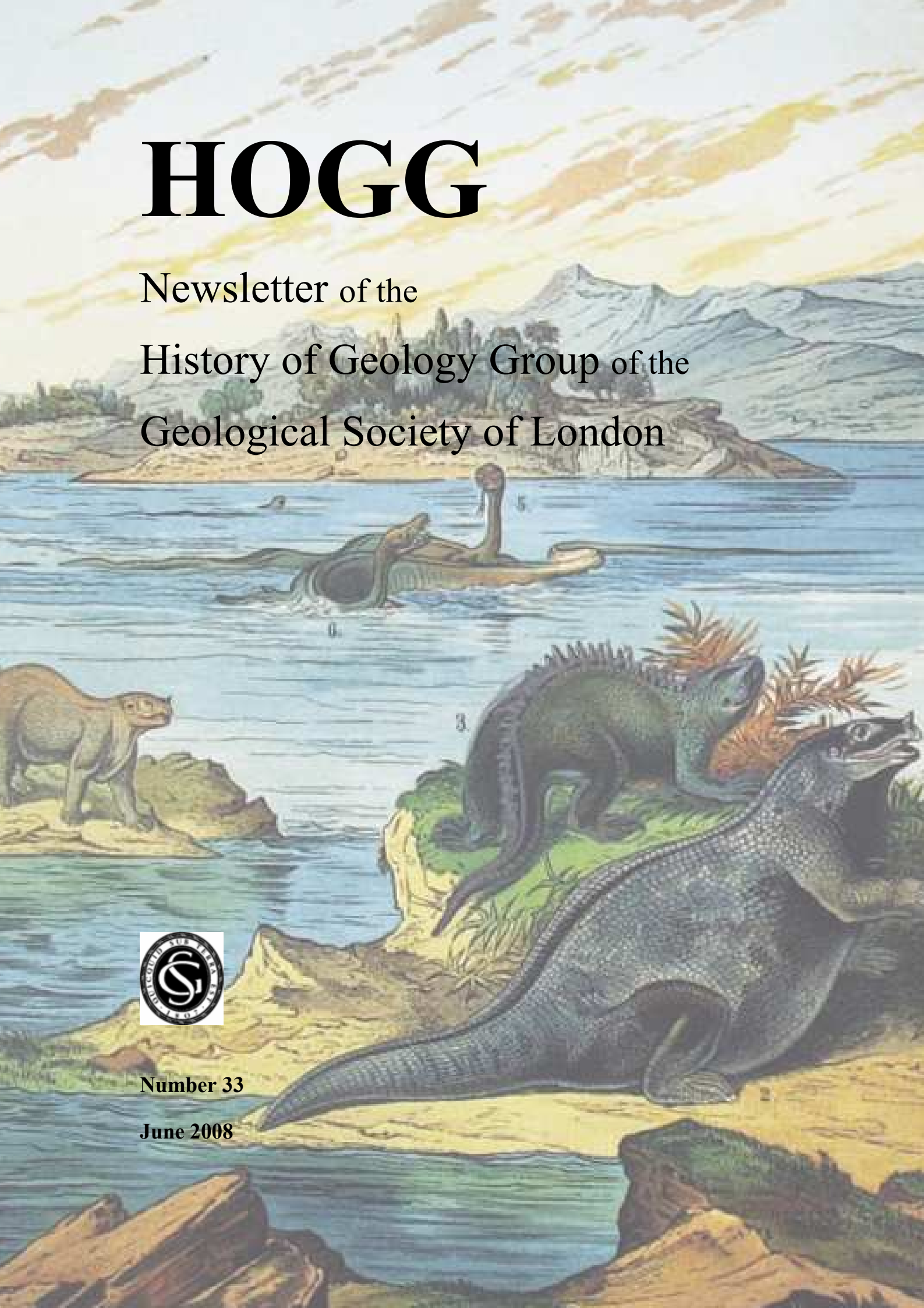
HOGG

Newsletter of the
History of Geology Group of the
Geological Society of London



Number 33

June 2008



FRONT COVER

Part of 'Ideales Landschaft der Kreidezeit Europas' or 'Ideal landscape of the Cretaceous in Europe' from *Illustrierte Geologie und Paläontologie* by Friedrich Rolle, published in 1886 by J. F. Schreiber in Esslingen.

See Pages 18-23 of this Newsletter for a report on the HOGG Dinosaur meeting held in May.

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p.tandy @nhm.ac.uk)

HOGG COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2)

David Earle

David has a first degree in engineering geology and Masters in marine geotechnics and in geotechnical engineering. He is a chartered geologist and chartered engineer and worked for many years at Wimpey Laboratories undertaking site investigations, hydrogeological work and materials surveys in the Middle East, Africa, North America and Europe. He is now self-employed and acts as a consultant engineering geologist to an environmental consultancy.



He has had a long-term general interest in the history of geology and especially in the history of applied geology and how this relates to social and industrial history. A particular interest is the history of mining and how this affects present day development issues. The history of marine geology is a developing interest. He is currently about half way through an Open University degree in the History of Science and Technology. He is a Portsmouth supporter and Hampshire CC member.

Nina Morgan



Nina has a DPhil in Geology from Oxford University and worked as an exploration geologist/geophysicist in the oil industry for seven years before turning to freelance science writing and editing in 1986. She now specialises in writing about all branches of science and technology in a lively, interesting and relevant way for non-specialist audiences of all ages. In her spare time, she is conducting research into the role Anne Phillips, the niece of William Smith, played in supporting the work of her brother, John Phillips.

HOGG AGM 2008 and ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

At a recent HOGG Committee meeting, it was decided that it would be helpful to lengthen the process of elections to the committee, to avoid the usual crescendo of activity in November. It was agreed that a new timetable would be:

May – general call for nominations to stand for election to the Committee.
Nominations to be received by 31st August.

September – list of candidates published in the HOGG Newsletter. In the event of more people wanting to stand than there are available places, an election will be arranged.

November (*) – election to the Committee at the AGM

January 1st – new Committee officially takes up its running of the group.

This arrangement is timed to coincide with the current timing of the newsletter, so that information can easily be conveyed to members. **If you wish to stand for election to the HOGG Committee, starting in January 2009, please complete the form below, or a copy of it, and return it to Leucha Veneer (Acting HOGG Secretary) at Division of HPS, Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds, LEEDS LS2 9JT by 31st August 2008.**

(*) Please also note that the AGM for 2008 will be held in October during the meeting at Scarborough.

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO THE HOGG COMMITTEE

I, wish to stand for election to the Committee
of the History of Geology Group (HOGG).

I am proposed by:

(name)

(signed)

And am seconded by:

(name)

(signed)

Signed (nominee):.....

Date:

This form (or a copy of it) to be returned to Leucha Veneer (Acting HOGG Secretary) at Division of HPS, Dept of Philosophy, University of Leeds, LEEDS LS2 9JT by 31st August 2008.

Diary of Future HOGG Events

The HOGG Committee has set an ambitious provisional agenda of meetings for the future. More details will be given of each meeting nearer the time.

2008

17th – 19th October. *William Smith and John Phillips*. Scarborough. Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society ([further details and call for papers in this Newsletter](#)). Also including HOGG AGM.

2009

(provisional)

Spring. *Open Meeting*

Early summer *Field trip to Liverpool (combining history and local geology)*

November 18th. *Military Uses of Hydrogeology: Past and Present*. Burlington House, London. Also including HOGG AGM.

2010

(provisional)

Literature & Geology.

Geology and Provincial Societies

Other topics that are being considered for future meetings include:

History of Civil Engineering and Geology, History of the Philosophy of Geology, History of Mineralogy, Collections Lost and Found, History of Igneous Petrology.

If members have any additional ideas for meetings (or field excursions), the Committee would be pleased to hear of them.

MEETING CANCELLATION

‘Stones of Desire’

Unfortunately, due to a lack of response, the proposed meeting on the history of gemmology in November 2008 has been cancelled.

CALL FOR PAPERS
WILLIAM SMITH and JOHN PHILLIPS MEETING
SCARBOROUGH, OCTOBER 2008

HOGG and the Yorkshire Geological Society (YGS) are organising a joint weekend meeting on William Smith ("the Father of English Geology") and John Phillips (Smith's nephew and close collaborator). This will be held in Scarborough, and is linked to the recent completion of the restoration and redevelopment of the Rotunda Museum, originally built and displayed by William Smith, now The Rotunda - the William Smith Museum of Geology (see <http://www.rotundamuseum.co.uk/>).

The meeting will run from Friday afternoon 17th October 2008 (optional local geology excursion) through to early afternoon on Sunday 19th October 2008. The main programme of lectures and a Rotunda visit will be on Saturday 18th, and Peter Robinson is then going to lead an optional excursion to the Hackness Hills on the Sunday morning to explore on the ground William Smith's large-scale mapping of the Hackness Estate.

Offers of papers on any aspects of the work of William Smith or John Phillips are invited. While offers of lectures not intended for publication will be welcome, if publication is contemplated, it is likely that fairly early publication could be offered in the biannual *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*, subject to the usual editorial considerations and procedures.

Those interested in contributing to the meeting are asked to e-mail urgently

Patrick Boylan (for HOGG) P.Boylan@city.ac.uk

and

Will Watts (for YGS and Rotunda Museum) Will.Watts@scarborough.gov.uk

Patrick Boylan



OPEN UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SYMPOSIUM 2008
The History of Geology

Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey

8th – 11th August 2008

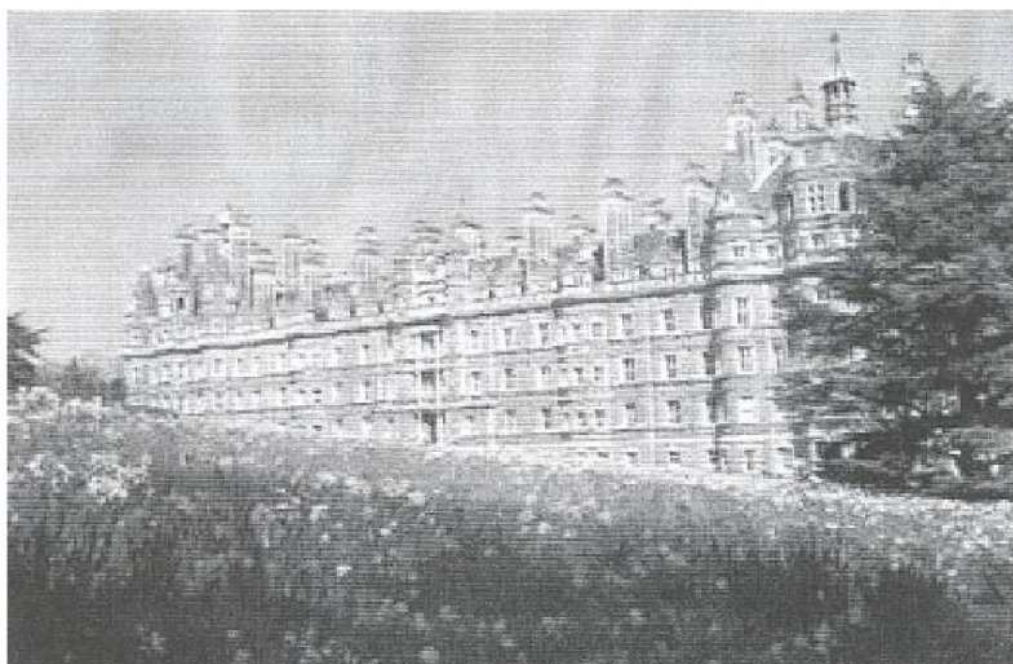
Information on this event is on the OUGS website (www.ougs.org) and
in the Society newsletter

For any further information please contact by e-mail either

Sue Vernon: *london@ougs.org*

or

Sally Munnings: *oxford@ougs.org*



SEE OVERLEAF

History of Geology has been chosen as the topic for this OUGS symposium to link in with the 150th anniversary of the Geologists' Association (to which the OUGS is affiliated), and the 200th anniversary of the Geological Society and their joint "Local Heroes" initiative.

Lectures include:

- Cynthia Burek - *'The role women played in developing the science of geology' (with special reference to Gertie Ellis and Catherine Raisin)*
- Rob Butler - *'Understanding continental tectonics through mapping - from Peach and Horne to today'*
- Chris Duffin - *'God's great plough' - Louis Agassiz and the Ice Age'*
- Cherry Lewis - *'James Parkinson - medicine, the founding of the Geological Society and a little light treason'*
- John Mather - *'Geologists versus engineers' - 19th century conflicts over the supply of water to London'. (Thomas Telford, Robert Stephenson and Samuel Collett Homersham versus James Charles Clutterbuck, John Dickinson and John Evans)*
- Anne O'Connor - *'Nineteenth-century battles over bones and ice: Geikie versus Dawkins'*
- Jane Randle - *'Ian Gass - our Founding Father'*
- Ted Rose - *'World wars: a catalyst for British geological innovation'*
- Tom Sharpe - *'Henry de la Beche'* (full title in the making)
- Bob Spicer – *'Of Christmas cards and family planning: the early years of British palaeobotany'* (some tales of Marie Stopes and others)
- Barry Thomas – *'Aspects of British geoconservation in the 19th century and beyond'* (full title in the making)
- Graham Worton – *'Local people in geological conservation in the Dudley area'*

Workshops

The Geology Department of the University are keen to be involved and will be opening up the Department and labs for members to visit and look around. Many of the PhD students will also be attending and will be available to discuss their latest research projects, possibly also giving talks and holding workshops.

Social activities

A dinner and ceilidh have been arranged for the Saturday evening and there will be a quiz on Sunday evening.

Monday events

There will not be any field trips over the weekend as we wish to concentrate on the workshops and university facilities but there will be trips arranged for the Monday morning and details of local places of interest for members to attend on their way home. Trips will include the Albury Trail, Virginia Water, Brookwood Cemetery and the Museum of Oxford.

If you have not been to an OUGS symposium before, please do consider attending – the lectures are always interesting and the atmosphere very relaxed and informal. For more information and a copy of the Booking Form, please go to www.ougs.org/events

Can you help (1)....?

I have had a request from Colleen Joseph to try and locate a working model of one of the gold mines in the Indian Kolar goldfield. The model was made by her father and she would like to know what happened to it. Ms Joseph writes:

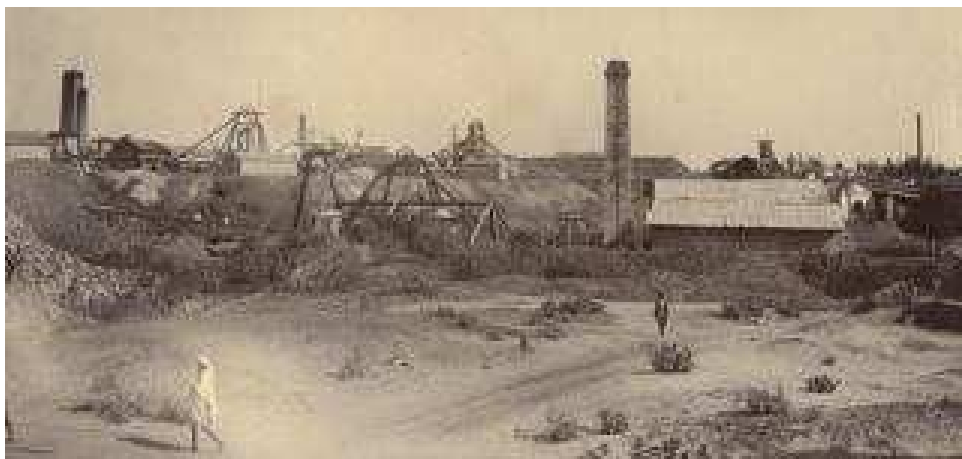
“.....I spent my childhood days in India, I lived in a mining town called 'Kolar Gold Fields'. The place of Kolar Gold Fields consisted of many mines, of which four well known mines were Marrikuppan (it's English name being Mysore Mine), Champion Reef, Ooragum and Nundedroog. There were a few other mines, but these did not hold much of the precious metal unlike the four mines mentioned above, and besides they were too costly to work and as a result I believe became redundant in mid to late 1960s. Whilst living in Kolar Gold Fields my father used to work underground in the Marrikuppam Mine, but I believe that due to his poor health he was transferred to a surface job.

During the early to mid 1950s, my father, John Bonnetti, was nominated by the 'powers that be' at the time to build a model of a working mine. The strong possibility of it being one of the shafts situated in Marrikuppam depicting the workings of a mine, extracting the precious metal from the rocks and the various processes that are involved thereafter. This model was first exhibited in Mysore, then I believe it was transferred to England where it may have been taken to the Natural History Museum in London for an exhibition.....”

“....believe that there were Europeans employed by the mining company of John Taylor Ltd., whose head office was based in London. Many of them came from Cornwall and from Italy...”

The model is not in the Natural History Museum. Ms Joseph doesn't know the size of the model, but to be working and visible it would have to be moderately large. If anyone has any information about the model, knows of its whereabouts, or knows of a model which fits the bill but which has no attribution, please contact Ms Joseph at aubrey.joseph@btinternet.com, as well as HOGG.

Peter Tandy



Various shafts at Mysore mine, Kolar Gold Fields, India

Book Reviews

From Atoms to Patterns; Crystal structure designs from the 1951 Festival of Britain, by Lesley Jackson, pub April 2008 by Richard Dennis Publications, Somerset, (in association with the Wellcome Collection), ISBN: 978 0 9553741 1 1, 124pp.

Mention the 1951 Festival of Britain to anyone around at the time, and the chances are that they will remember it for the Dome and 'Skylon', a slender upright tapering structure which was one of the more obvious visible features of the event. If asked however, what the connection was between the Festival, the mineral species *afwillite* and the textile industry, even those who visited the exhibition may not have a clue. In truth the connection isn't obvious. The Festival was established to 'showcase' the latest in British goods, at a time when austerity resulting from the war was still very much in place. Goods and food were still rationed, incomes were low and the national economy was in a dire mess. The people needed something to give hope and expectation. Great strides had been made during the war in 'science' (not least with radar, and cryptography which led to the computer as we know it), and new synthetic compounds like 'nylon' were beginning to be made in quantity. Another area in which science had moved on was in the structure of matter and the atomic arrangement of elements in compounds. The former had been fuelled by work into atomic fission and later fusion leading to the atomic and hydrogen bomb, while the latter had been fuelled by the developments in X-ray crystallography.

Ever since 1912 and the work of Max von Laue in Germany, and a few years later by William Henry and Lawrence Bragg at Cambridge, it had been possible to look into the structure of an everyday compound and to determine the relative positions of its atoms. This had been something of a holy grail of crystallographers ever since the days of John Dalton and the development of atomic theory. One of the first compounds looked at was potassium chloride (KCl), the potassium analogue of the common salt used to flavour food, with a simple cubic structure of alternating potassium and chlorine ions. By 1951, X-ray crystallography was well established and leading scientists were using it to elucidate the structure of compounds far more complicated than KCl. The structures of complicated organic molecules like haemoglobin, myoglobin and insulin were slowly being unravelled.

One of the leading crystallographers at that time was Dr Helen Megaw, of Birkbeck College, University of London. The use of X-ray crystallography had led to the publication of many structures, either as 'ball and spoke' models or as electron density 'contour maps'. Helen Megaw saw in them repeatable patterns which she thought could be used in some forms of decoration. She proposed, in a letter in 1946 to the Director of the Design Research Unit, that "...designers of wallpapers and fabrics [should] look at the patterns made available by X-ray crystallography...". She continued, "...I am constantly being impressed by the beauty of designs which crop up...without any attempts by the worker to supply anything more than clarity and accuracy" Helen's enthusiasm wasn't matched by those she approached and after 3 years, plans for a proposed book were dropped. But Megaw lent some slides to Kathleen Lonsdale (another leader in the field) for a lunchtime lecture. Among the audience was Mark Hartland Thomas, Chief Industrial Officer of the Council of Industrial Design (COID). He saw huge potential for designers, and in the summer of 1949 wrote to Megaw. Thomas was also a member of the Festival of Britain Presentation Panel, and he proposed a building which utilised the patterns in many different guises. For him, X-ray crystallography offered a host of new and exciting patterns. He formed the Festival Pattern Group (FPG), inviting Megaw and a number of other leading crystallographers of the day (such luminaries as Max Perutz, Dorothy Hodgkin and Lawrence Bragg) to supply images, and, having contacted a number of manufacturers, pioneered the use of patterns in designs for the Festival. The result was that

the Festival spawned a whole new range of wallpapers, floor coverings, and fabrics, along with men's ties and ladies dresses all utilising X-ray patterns. The Festival was a huge success - 8.5 million people visited it during the summer of 1951 - and X-ray patterns had a huge audience.

This book tells the story of this remarkable episode in structural mineralogical history. In its 124 pages divided into six chapters, it covers the history leading up to the Festival, reprints the Festival's 'Souvenir Book of Designs' by Mark Hartland Thomas, gives a catalogue of manufacturers and designers who used the designs, reprints several papers on X-ray crystallography by Helen Megaw, has an A-Z of the structures used, and finally has several pages of biographies of the leading crystallographers who took part. Throughout it is profusely illustrated with designs and pictures of objects (mostly in colour), as well as the structures of the compounds. The text is well written and easily read, and my only complaint would be the use of terms like "insulin 8.27" or "afwillite 8.45" where the numerical part refers to the original catalogue numbering; I found this awkward, but perhaps it simply reflects my lack of knowledge of the design industry. But it is the only thing I disliked, and for the greater part, this is a fine book, which covers a little known (at least to me) topic of the meeting of arts and the science of crystallography.

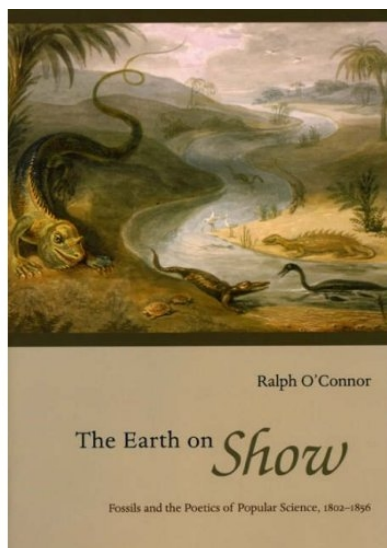
How many people nowadays would know a Worcester plate with the X-ray pattern of haemoglobin, or table napkins showing the structure of China clay or orthoclase (feldspar), or a piece of lace with the structure of beryl, if they saw them on a market stall? Very few, I suspect (including me prior to this), but this book can go a long way to rectifying that. Anyone with an interest in structural crystallography should find it an absorbing book.

Peter Tandy

The Earth on Show: Fossils and the Poetics of Popular Science, 1802-1856, by Ralph O'Connor, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). 542 pages, 8 colour plates, 89 halftone illustrations, 2 tables. Large format (7 x 10 inches). Cloth \$45.00; £23.50 on www.amazon.co.uk. ISBN 978-0-226-61668-1.

(Winner of the 2008 British Society for Literature and Science book prize)

At the turn of the nineteenth century, geology in Britain – and its claims that the earth had a long and colourful pre-human history – was widely suspected of being dangerous nonsense. But just fifty years later, it was the most celebrated of Victorian sciences. *The Earth on Show* tracks the astonishing growth of geology's prestige in Britain, exploring how a new geohistory far more alluring than the standard six days of Creation was assembled and sold to the wider Bible-reading public, decades before Darwin wrote *On the Origin of Species*.



Geology's success owed much to the literary techniques of authors like Hugh Miller, Gideon Mantell, William Buckland and Charles Lyell, besides a host of less famous writers including women, hack writers, biblical literalists, blackmailers, antiquaries and prophets. They used drama, poetry and spectacle to promote the new worldview and persuade people that science posed no threat to religion, even in its more conservative forms. To bring the public on side, they marketed spectacular visions of past worlds, piquing the public imagination with glimpses of man-eating mammoths, talking dinosaurs, and sea-dragons spawned by Satan. Borrowing freely from the Bible, fantasy fiction and the urban entertainment industry, they created new forms of literature to transport their readers into a vanished and alien past.

The public lapped it up. Many of these writers – such as Miller, Mantell, Lyell and Buckland – became celebrated literary figures as well as famous geologists. Generous quotations from the original texts, alongside contemporary illustrations, will enable readers to recapture their imaginative impact. A lavishly illustrated blend of history of science, literary criticism, book history, and visual culture, *The Earth on Show* rethinks the relationship between science and literature in the nineteenth century.

What people have already said about it:

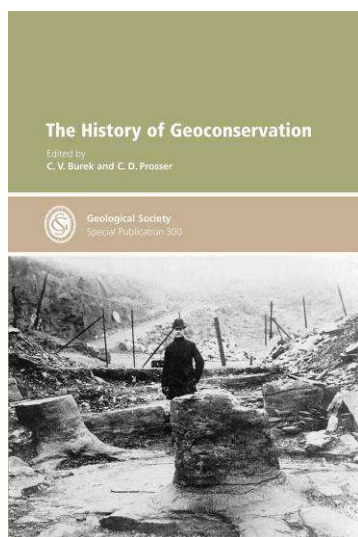
‘A richly evocative (and often entertaining) account of the ways in which the astonishing earth-history reconstructed by the new science of geology was first made accessible and palatable to the British public during geology’s first golden age. Here at last is an analysis of popular science that takes seriously the sheer diversity of genres—prosaic, poetic, and pictorial—that facilitated this decisive cultural transposition, as a result of which we all now “walk with dinosaurs”.’

Professor Martin Rudwick

‘At once spectacular and judicious. A richly argued, very readable, and innovative account that shows a new science making itself by making itself known.’

Professor Dame Gillian Beer

Coming soon....



Another title from the Geological Society

Special Publication 300

‘The History of Geoconservation’

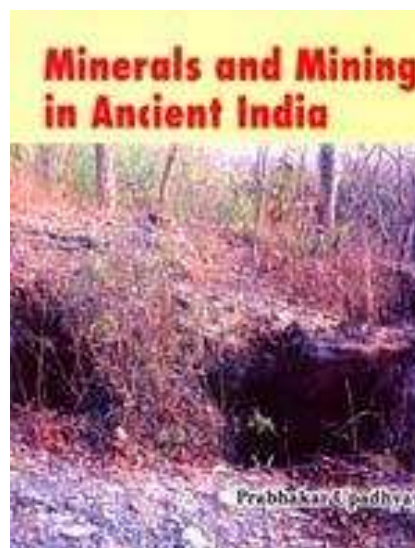
Edited by C.V.Burek and C.D Prosser

Due for publication June 2008.

For your bookshelf?

Minerals and Mining in Ancient India: From the Earliest Times to The Beginning of Christian Era Prabhakar Upadhyay ISBN: 8187566191, Hardcover, xiii+232p., Plates; Maps; 29cm, Pub: Jan 2007, 1st ed, publisher Kala Prakashan, language English, Bagchee ID: 45179 List price \$188.00, obtainable from Bagchee Books for \$169.20 (saving of 10%)

History of science and technology has been a much neglected aspect of study in India, so far. In recent years, an interest has been shown by scholars in different aspects of ancient technologies. The present book deals with a relatively less talked about subject of ancient mining and minerals. The book discusses at length the growth of mining technology in India through the ages. It deals with almost all the different minerals that were used in the antiquity ranging from stones that form the common ones of daily usage to semi-precious and precious stones. There is a more detailed examination of ores containing the frequently occurring metals such as copper, lead, zinc, arsenic, tin, gold, silver and iron. The question has been raised here about the ancient cultures and their resources zones. The book fulfils a lacuna in the study of minerals and mining in ancient India. It will be equally useful for the archaeologists and the historians of ancient science and technology working in India.



HOGG Bicentennial dinner

Richard T J Moody

Step back 200 years! I assume that the organisation of the original dinner of the Founding Fathers must have been a fairly casual affair. No plaque or e-mail messages but a note and a messenger to book a table for 11, at the Freemason's Tavern in Great Queen Street and a dozen or so letters to interested parties. One or two guests may have declined but one assumes that most of the Founding Fathers lived within walking distance or, at most, a short carriage ride from the city centre and Covent Garden where many of the dining rooms of the day were to be found.

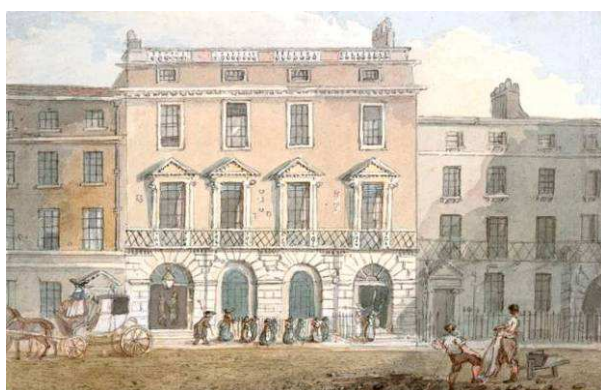
The menu probably focussed on game and local grown vegetables, washed down with over-hopped, porter, pale ale or a fine wine. The Landlord would have been most agreeable and such fine gentlemen would have been received with a broad smile. Things change over 200 years!

In the early 1800's, London was sited mostly north of the Thames with swathes of green fields south of the Waterloo Road and Greenwich Road highways. Edgware Road divided the city from the countryside to the west and Regents Park and the

Sommer's Town area defined the edge of the urban area in the North. The Mile End Road and Commercial Road, to the east, were like narrow corridors, lined intermittently with homes and commercial properties heralding the expansion of commercial interests and the growth of the dockland areas. The City itself was laid out along similar lines as today, with the Strand, St Martins Lane, Holborn and Chancery Lane containing the area of Covent Garden and Lincolns Inn Fields.

Great Queen Street has been described as London's first real street; having changed from a bridgeway to a royal thoroughfare in the 1620's. At that time, residents had an *'enviable view of the pastoral charm of North London'*.

From 1717, the taverns around and in Great Queen Street, became meeting places for The Freemasons who established their first permanent lodge at number 61 in 1776. By the time Rowe had published his map of London in 1804 the area around Covent Garden looked very similar to today with Drury Lane and Long Acre the major thoroughfares.



The original Freemasons' Tavern and Coffee Shop was opened in 1775 by Luke Reilly at the back of number 61 Great Queen Street. The first building, designed by Thomas Sandby, stood on the site until 1788. It was replaced by a four storey structure which is beautifully depicted by the Nixon watercolour of 1803 (*pictured left courtesy of the Freemasons*). The fortunes of the Tavern fluctuated under different

tenants or leaseholders over a fifty-year period, although John Cuff was good enough to have amassed a fortune of £120,000 by the time of his death in November, 1848.

The 1788 building was replaced in 1864 and a new company formed on behalf of the Grand Lodge of The Freemasons was required to raise £65,000 by the sale of shares to facilitate the purchase of the lease, stock and goodwill. The company prospectus drew attention to the fact that *"for nearly a century ... the Grand Hall"* [had been used to hold] *"great public meetings of a large number of the political, religious, and educational societies"*.

In 1909, the Grand Lodge spent £30,000 in the renovation of the Tavern and changed the name to the Connaught Rooms in honour of the then Grand Master The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn. The New Connaught Rooms are a product of many changes and there are now 29 meeting rooms that cater for groups from 14-550. They have recently undergone a £1 million facelift. Where else could the Geological Society Club and the History of Geology Group characters go to celebrate the lasting role of the Founding Fathers in the development and promotion of our science?

The only choice was for the Bicentennial Dinner to be held on 12th November 2007, hosted in the Crown and Cornwall Rooms. The 12th! – another story.

Organising a dinner at an establishment with over 225 years of trading experience should have been a simple affair! However, from the time I became personally involved with the organization until the moment we sat down to eat, I dealt with five event managers not one of whom recorded my name and address on the house computer. At 15.30 on the 12th, there was another slight hiccup in that nobody involved in setting up the Crown and Cornwall rooms possessed a copy of my seating plan. Fortunately for me the people allocated to the event on the night, were amenable to change. With only 30 minutes to go however, they were still working on the final arrangement of the tables and at that moment had failed to produce a lay out that matched my published seating plan for 198 diners.

Unlike the Society Dinner held on 13th November [at the NHM, London], which was black tie, the Dinner on the 12th was intended to be informal, a meeting of friends and colleagues, a celebration! At an early stage, HOGG agreed that Period costume should be encouraged and Peter Tandy took on the task of finding enough costume



HOGG Committee - 1807 style!

companies to meet the demand at reasonable prices. As with the number of diners the initial response was poor but the idea caught on and group tables developed their own theme for the evening. Military was to prove popular but the odd pirate or two turned up for the evening!

Many of the costumes were delivered early on the 12th and ladies and gentlemen were assigned separate dressing areas in the Oxford and Coronet Rooms. The desire to dress up became obvious when a host of diners arrived 40 minutes before the opening of the pre-dinner Reception timed for 7.30pm. The costumiers struggled to cope with the rush of people who wanted to dress early and the staff in the magnificently domed Crown Room had to be hurried into opening the bar early. Some fully costumed individuals ventured out to drink in the public houses of Great Queen Street standing side by side with bowler-hatted, case-carrying Freemasons who had emerged from the Grand Temple nearby.

By 7.30pm, the Guests of Honour had arrived, the musicians and photographer were in place and the Crown Room became a vibrant, noisy venue for the first of the two dinners to celebrate the inauguration of the oldest geological society in the world. At 7.50pm, there was a short interlude to mark the presentation of commemorative, embossed scrolls by Irena Malakova on behalf of The Russian Academy of Science to Richard Fortey, President of the Geological Society.



Richard Fortey receives the scroll from Irena Malakova(Photo: P.Tandy)

Immediately afterwards, Richard was required to unveil a plaque which had been erected outside the New Connaught Rooms to mark the site of the original dinner on 13th November 1807. Strangely the presence of actors dressed as Mary Anning and William Smith had little or no impact on an audience where over 60% of the guests were wearing period costume.

Dinner was served slightly late in the Cornwall Room but the vibrancy and jovial nature of the Reception was carried over to the dining area. As in the Reception, where the music of the Alicia Hunt Duo was totally masked by loud conversation, the strings of Abraxas Ensemble rarely extended beyond the tables immediate to their podium.

Guests sat down to dine on poached salmon with a hollandaise sauce, garnished with asparagus, venison steak with a puree of potato and pumpkin, red cabbage and a wild cranberry juice, followed by a triple chocolate mousse served with a raspberry coulis. Sadly, the choice of venison seemed beyond the capabilities of the chef and large pieces or lumps of a very ‘firm’ meat saddened the accompanying vegetables. Fortunately, the advent of the NHS and good dentistry avoided the obvious problems that were probably rife 200 years earlier.

The break between the main course and the dessert offered an opportune moment for the President of the Society, Professor Richard Fortey, to welcome our guests. In reply, Lord Robin Derwent LVO, DL and his wife Sybille who were guests of honour made the following toast to the Society.

“Among so many distinguished geologists I feel somewhat like the cuckoo in the nest. We are celebrating this evening the Founding Fathers of the Geological Society. My connection with the world of geology is that it was my great-great-grandfather, Sir John Johnstone, who employed William Smith, became his Patron, introduced him to the Scarborough Philosophical Society and subsequently gave the stone to enable the Scarborough Rotunda to be built to Smith’s design.”

As we all know of course during this period Smith was less than welcome at the Geological Society of London and indeed Greenhough (in Yorkshire we say Greenough!) plagiarised his map and was perhaps indirectly responsible therefore for his bankruptcy and committal to debtors' prison.

However all's well that ends well. In due course Smith received the first Wollaston medal from the Geological Society and his contribution to geology was generously acknowledged by it.

It therefore gives me enormous pleasure to have this opportunity to thank the Geological Society for their moral support for the restoration of the Rotunda[in Scarborough]. And to thank the Society even more for its gift of a reproduction of Smith's map of England which will have an honoured place in the Rotunda when it reopens as the Wm Smith Museum of Geology next May. We are most grateful. I was delighted to learn that the History of Geology Group will be visiting Scarborough next October when we will be able to show you what we have achieved and you will see the map in place.

Finally on behalf of my wife and fellow guests may I thank our hosts for a delicious and convivial dinner.

May I ask you to join me in the toast to the Geological Society of London and its Founding Fathers – coupled with the name of William Smith!"

In addition, Ray Thomasson (Past President of the American Geologic Institute (AGI) and the America Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)), suitably dressed as President Jefferson's representative to the Court of His Britannic Majesty during November of 1807 spoke on behalf of the AGI.

"President Fortey, Lord Derwent, Chairman Moody, esteemed fellows and honored guests:

It is with great pleasure that I bring congratulations from President Jefferson on the launching of what I am certain will become the flagship geological society in the world.

President Jefferson has had a keen interest in geology and especially paleontology for many years. As a past president of the American Philosophical Society Mr. Jefferson was particularly interested in a set of bones sent to him as those of a mammoth. He was able to determine they were the bones of a clawed quadruped which he described in detail. Dr Wistar and Dr Charles Peale of Philadelphia have identified the bones as those of a giant sloth. He was flattered to have it named Megalonyx jeffersoni – the first such mammal found in the new world.

Mr Jefferson, even though an amateur, was willing to challenge Comte de Buffon's assertion that human and animal life in America was both degenerative and inferior to that of Europe. To counter Buffon's argument he collected and described the bones of a mastodon. He then had them shipped to Paris as his evidence that animals are actually larger in America.

May I say I am particularly excited to be Mr Jefferson's representative to this group of ardent geological scientists. Mr John Playfair's recent publication in Scotland has helped us to better understand the thoughts of Dr James Hutton. As amateurs, both Mr Jefferson and I found Dr Huttons' thoughts revolutionary but sometimes hard to grasp.

If you visit our new nation, Mr Jefferson would be honored for you to visit his home, Monticello, in Virginia. There his interest in natural history caused him to commission William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, which explored our recent purchase of Louisiana from the French, to collect a mastodon head which he has displayed in the entry hall at Monticello.

In closing, I would like to say that I can only hope that we Americans, who owe so much to Great Britain's leadership in government, the arts and science, will in time develop a sister geologic organization which could affiliate with you. Possibly it could be called the American Geological Institute."

Thank you.

William Pinkney, Minister Plenipotentiary

After the toasts, the evening passed quickly but no one was in a hurry to leave early. The industry sponsored tables occupied by BG, Centrica, Hess, Premier and Sasol were buoyant until midnight when the music of the Abraxas String Ensemble finally started to make an impression. As the new day dawned, a feeling of relief came over me and I felt that I could now relax for the next 200 years. The evening of the 13th would transport many of us to a different venue and the sparkling, glamorous event sponsored by Schlumberger at The Natural History Museum. Two dinners, two nights to remember, 2007 was a year of celebration. A time to salute the Founding Fathers and a year to broadcast the nature and importance of our science worldwide.

On behalf of HOGG, I would like to thank Richard Fortey, Lord Derwent and Ray Thomasson for their toasts on the evening; Cherry Lewis, the then Chairman of HOGG for her support and organisational skills, during a trying two year gestation and all of the diners who supported us on the night. The night was a joint celebration shared by The Geological Society Dining Club and I thank Professor Andrew Fleet and the members of the Club for the donation given towards overall costs. Other donations were made by BG and Premier Oil who together with Centrica, HESS and SASOL also sponsored company tables. Overall I believe that we met our aims and objectives and that the evening was a relatively relaxed, social gathering that *'followed in the footsteps of the Founding Fathers'*.

DISTANT THUNDER – RUMBLES FROM THE PAST, AND PUBLICITY FOR THE FUTURE

HOGG now gets a guaranteed mention every month in *Geoscientist*, the monthly magazine of the Geological Society, thanks to a new regular feature entitled Distant Thunder.

Distant Thunder, written by HOGG committee member Nina Morgan, takes the form of a series of short vignettes that highlight quirky or unexpected byways in the history of geology. Each piece includes an endnote, which can be used to publicise forthcoming HOGG conferences and events. And here's where the publicity opportunities come in. Both the vignette used and the accompanying endnote can be 'adjusted' to tie in with the event. For example, the first piece, which appeared in the April issue of *Geoscientist*, and which was designed to tie in with the HOGG Dinosaur meeting (see Pages 18-23 of this Newsletter), focused on an ironic account of the discovery of a large cetiosaur bone near Oxford, and included the endnote:

“If the past is a key to your present interests, take a look at what the Geological Society History of Geology Group (HOGG) has to offer. A conference, Dinosaurs -- A Historical Perspective, organised by HOGG will take place at Burlington House on 5-6 May. For more information about the conference, and all things historical, visit the HOGG pages at the Geological Society website: www.geolsoc.org.uk/HOGG.”

Distant Thunder now appears in the People section of the both print AND online issues of *Geoscientist*. When the column went live in the online issue of *Geoscientist* it attracted enquiries from as far away as Australia and the US, including a request (which was granted!) to re-publish the columns in the newsletter of the History of Geology section of the Geological Society of America. So a mention in Distant Thunder means that word of your news and events could attract some international attention. If you are working on a HOGG-related event and could use some free publicity, do get in touch -- as far in advance of the event as possible -- and we can discuss the opportunities.

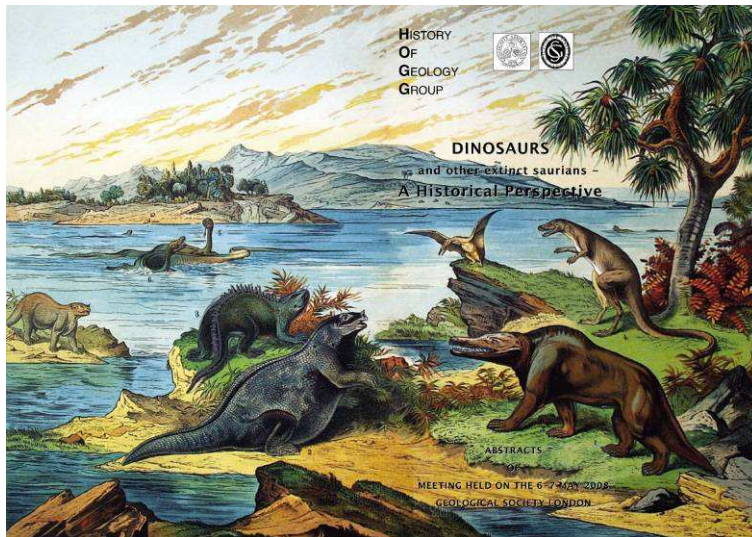
Nina Morgan

Dinosaurs (and other extinct saurians) - A Historical Perspective

Darren Naish (eotyranus@gmail.com)

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On May 6th and 7th 2008, the HOGG conference ‘*Dinosaurs (and other extinct saurians) - A Historical Perspective*’ was held at Burlington House. The meeting featured a packed schedule of talks and posters devoted to Mesozoic fossil reptiles and how they’ve been discovered and interpreted. However, it kicked off with a field trip on the 5th to the Crystal Palace animals at Sydenham, and on the 8th and 9th we embarked on a trip to the Isle of Wight (going both into the field and to Dinosaur Isle museum). There were also trips to the Dorset coast. A nicely illustrated book of extended abstracts was produced (Moody *et al.* 2008) and anyone seriously interested



in this meeting should make efforts to obtain one (a technical volume, published by the Geological Society of London and including multiple contributions from the meeting, is in preparation).

On to the first day of talks. After a brief opening address, **Hugh Torrens** spoke about William Perceval Hunter (1812-1878), a forgotten

naturalist who commented on *Megalosaurus* and *Iguanodon* during the 1830s. **Federico Fanti** then told us about the amazing efforts of Giovanni Capellini (1833-1922). Capellini’s amazingly detailed colour illustrations, strong support of Darwin’s and Lyell’s work, and great efforts to obtain skeletons, models and specimens revolutionised the understanding and teaching of palaeontology in Italy. **Darren Naish** discussed various obscure Wealden dinosaur specimens and the stories behind them. The Hastings Beds theropod *Becklespinax* and the Wessex Formation sauropods *Ornithopsis* and *Chondrosteosaurus* played important early roles in ideas about dinosaur pneumaticity; an iguanodontian excavated from East Sussex in 1909 has been suggested as the catalyst that led to the perpetration of the Piltdown man hoax; and the 1895 discovery of an iguanodontian found 27 m underground during the excavation of a well invites the speculation that the site concerned (Capel in Surrey) might contain a Bernissart-like trove of multiple specimens.

Anthony Brook reviewed Gideon Mantell’s contribution to our knowledge of dinosaurs, and **Mike Howgate** discussed William Swinton (1900-1994), the author of

the first book devoted solely to dinosaurs (*The Dinosaurs* of 1934), and an important populariser of dinosaurs and palaeontology between the 1930s and 60s.



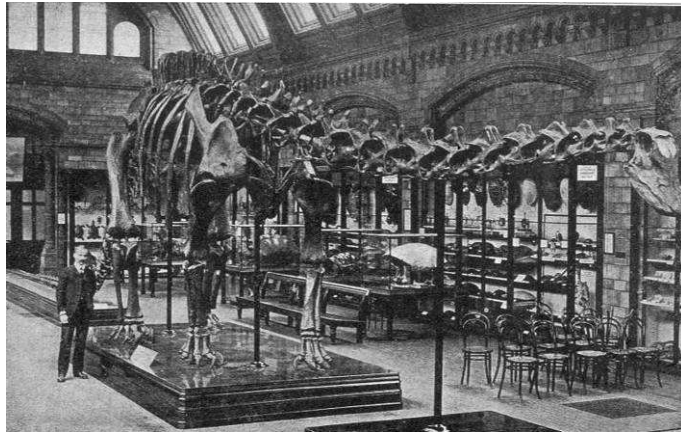
Bill Swinton giving a Christmas lecture to schoolchildren in the late 1940s. The models he is demonstrating were sculptured by Vernon Edwards under Swinton's direction.

Valerie Bramwell spoke about the life and times of one of her ancestors, Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins (1807-1894). Valerie showed a number of unpublished (or, at least, unfamiliar) Hawkins sketches and illustrations: the most memorable depicting St. George's battle with the dragon, the 'dragon' being a giant pterodactyl!

Jeff Liston and **Leslie Noè** reviewed the discoveries of Alfred Leeds (1847-1917), famous for his incredible collection of Oxford Clay marine reptiles, dinosaurs and other fossils. Particular attention was given to the sauropod *Cetiosauriscus stewarti* (long thought to be a diplodocoid but recently suggested to be a mamenchisaurid), and to BMNH R2903, a spherical object from the Oxford Clay first identified as a reptile egg and still the subject of uncertainty. **Mike P. Taylor** looked at the 'evolution' of sauropods from their 1841 discovery to the present. That's a lot to discuss. People particularly enjoyed his review of the 'aquatic' phase, mostly because some of the artwork is so iconic and memorable. As Mike showed, it's also repetitive, with the same little red pterosaur and submerged 'lurker' sauropod popping up again and again.

Eric Buffetaut discussed 'spinosaurus before Stromer': African spinosaurine teeth had been reported in 1905 but misidentified as those of a fish, and Portuguese baryonychine teeth were described in the 1890s. During the 1820s, both Cuvier and Mantell discussed and figured teeth from the Wealden that can now be identified as those of baryonychines. *Suchosaurus*, named by Owen in 1841 for baryonychine teeth then identified as crocodilian, obviously predates *Baryonyx* but the poor type material means that it would be unwise to use the older name, plus in any case we can't be completely sure that *Suchosaurus* and *Baryonyx* represent the same baryonychine taxon.

Brent Breithaupt gave an outstanding talk on *Dynamosaurus imperiosus*, a tyrannosaurid discovered by Barnum Brown in 1900 and named by Henry Osborn in 1905 (the same paper where *Tyrannosaurus rex* was named; *D. imperiosus* has turned out to be a *T. rex* specimen, the associated ‘dermal plates’ being ankylosaur scutes that may represent the tyrannosaur’s last meal). Sent in 1960 to the British Museum (Natural History), the ‘*Dynamosaurus*’ specimen was used to create an impressive



half-mount, with the animal posed horizontally. Brent and colleagues have been working to find the original Wyoming quarry where ‘*Dynamosaurus*’ was found: a recent claim that more material of the same specimen had been recovered is clearly incorrect.

William Harlow Reed, the discoverer of *Brontosaurus giganteus* and *Diplodocus carnegii*.

Dave Martill covered changing perceptions about the sizes of pterosaurs. Because the first Solnhofen pterosaurs were small animals with wingspans less than 45 cm, *Dimorphodon*, with a wingspan of c. 1.4 m, challenged perceptions when first described (as *Pterodactylus macronyx*) in 1829. Mantell’s fragmentary Wealden pterosaurs - identified by him as belonging to birds allied to herons - prove useful and informative and have been re-evaluated. When James Scott Bowerbank was confronted with pterosaur bones from the English Chalk suggesting wingspans of between 1.8 and 2.7 m, he assumed that he had truly gigantic members of the group, but Richard Owen was harshly critical of Bowerbank and downright nasty to him (even though he agreed with him). Dave’s talk stopped at the 1870 description of *Pteranodon*, and the story of giant pterosaurs after *Pteranodon* was told on Mark Witton’s poster.

Martin Whyte and **Mike Romano** spoke about dinosaur tracks and bone fragments from the Middle Jurassic Ravenscar Group of Yorkshire and **Mike Milne** (director of computer animation at Framestore) reviewed the history of the ‘Walking With’ projects, explaining along the way how the extinct animals were reconstructed and animated. Mike explained that *Walking With Dinosaurs* and its sequels represent a golden age, the likes of which we will never see again. Falling viewer figures and audience familiarity with CG creatures have killed the genre, hence the switch to drama series like ITV’s *Primeval*. Mike didn’t expect those of us in the audience to be familiar with things like ‘future predator’, but I think he assumed that we are better people than we are.

The second day kicked off with **Phil Currie**’s talk on the history of dinosaur hunting in Asia. After talking about the AMNH expeditions of the 1920s, Phil discussed the

Chinese excavations of the 1930s and 40s, the Soviet expeditions of the 1940s (in one year they removed more than a hundred tons of dinosaur bones), the Sino-Soviet expeditions of 1959 and 1960, the Polish expeditions of 1963-1971, and others. A lot of content, a lot of dinosaurs!



The Russian expeditions to Mongolia collected dinosaurs in the tens of tons in the 1940s. Here a *Saurolophus* skeleton in a plaster jacket is loaded onto a truck for transport to Moscow in 1949. (Photograph courtesy of S. M. Kurzanov, Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences).

Darren Tanke was up next, with ‘Lost en route to England: the 1916 sinking of the SS Mount Temple and her Canadian dinosaur cargo’. Darren has gathered a huge amount of information about the SS Mount Temple, its history, and what happened to it on December 6th 1916. It was a story involving banana shipments, U-boats, examination of old photos, archaeology of Canadian dig sites, and lost dinosaur fossils. **Geoff Tresise** and **Alan Bowden** spoke about changing views on *Chirotherium* trackways, and on the sorts of environments the trackways are preserved in.

Christopher Ries discussed Gerhard Heilmann’s (1859-1946) ideas and achievements: an incredibly gifted natural history artist, Heilmann produced outstanding drawings and paintings of living animals, and also designed coins and notes. He struggled with religion and eventually rejected it (he even had a go at reconstructing angels), and corresponded with several experts as he became increasingly interested in avian origins, developing his ideas in parallel with those of D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson. We were then back to pterosaurs, with **David Unwin** examining the question ‘Are we making progress?’. The answer was a resounding yes, with agreement now reached on most of the major issues once deemed problematical in pterosaur research, and with awesome new discoveries from the Lower Cretaceous of China and elsewhere helping to fill in at least some of the gaps in pterosaur evolutionary history. **Octávio Mateus** then spoke about the history of dinosaur work in Portugal: one interesting snippet was that Upper Jurassic dinosaur tracks from Cabo Espichel, exposed on a vertical cliff face, were interpreted in the 15th century as having been made by the donkey that carried the Virgin Mary (cue

picture of Mary riding on the back of a dinosaur, I kid you not). **Vanda Santos** and **Luis Rodrigues** also covered this story on their poster.

Peter Wellnhofer summarised the *Archaeopteryx* story, finishing with a brief discussion of his new book on the subject. I learnt in discussion that an English version is planned, and will appear not too far in the future. **Cevdet Kosemen** (with **John Conway**) gave a great talk on ‘Visualising pterosaurs’, although actually it was on ‘pterosaurs through the ages’ I suppose. With excellent new reconstructions (and not the same old boring ones we all know so well), they discussed Newman’s marsupial bats, Wagler’s aquatic flippered *Pterodactylus*, the scaly-skinned reptilian pterosaurs of the early 20th century, and, finally, different modern renditions of pterosaurs. Of course the biggest surprise (for most people in the audience) was *Pterodactylus* as imagined by Dave Peters: a flamboyant, bipedally walking lizard with ultra-narrow wings, elaborate cranial and dorsal crests, and a long tail. Few people outside of pterosaur research are familiar with Dave’s view of pterosaurs, and there was an appropriate amount of gasping and swooning from some quarters of the audience. Kosemen and Conway also displayed a poster that showcased these different models. **Attila Ősi** discussed three Solnhofen pterosaur specimens stored in Hungarian collections. One is the supposedly lost ‘Pester Exemplar’ holotype of *Pterodactylus micronyx* Meyer, 1859. Donated to the Budapest University by Archduchess Maria Anna (1738-1789) in 1781, it therefore predates Collini’s 1784 description of *P. antiquus*.

In the final talk session of the entire meeting, **Jean Le Loeuff** looked at Mathurin Méheut’s artwork (in 1943 Méheut produced a fairly surreal painting titled *Les Diplodocus*), and **Allison Ksiazkiewicz** spoke about how viewers interpret the gaze of ancient animals as depicted in artwork. And, in the very last talk of the conference, **Jeff Liston** provided an outstanding overview of how the dinosaur renaissance was depicted in the comics and books of the 1970s. A 1977 story from 2000 A.D., ‘Flesh’, has Late Cretaceous theropods ganging up on villainous humans who have come back in time to harvest herbivorous dinosaurs. Led by the matriarchal tyrannosaur Old One Eye, a coalition of tyrannosaurs and spinosaurs co-operated: where else could you hear the line ‘From the north came the furry tyrannosaurs’? Important is that the story incorporated *Deinonychus*. So agile, furry dinosaurs had infiltrated popular culture pretty soon after Bakker’s early articles (Bakker 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975). Halstead’s *The Evolution and Ecology of the Dinosaurs* (a formative volume for my young self) included a lot of this new stuff (even if Halstead himself strongly disagreed with it), with the excellent paintings of Giovanni Caselli depicting such things as a furry *Sordes*, an agile *Deinonychus*, and even a running tyrannosaur (Halstead 1975). At least some sci-fi stories of the 1970s pre-empted ‘Jurassic Park’ in just about all of the key details.

There were also quite a few posters at the meeting. **Dick Moody** and **Darren Naish** displayed one on the contributions of Alan Charig (1927-1997), **John Sibbick** and colleagues had one on reconstructing *Baryonyx*, and there were many others. **Niels Bonde**’s poster, on new anatomical details gleaned from some of the *Archaeopteryx* specimens, included the startling news that the London *Archaeopteryx* might possess an alula: it is reported that reviewers and editors have been hostile to this idea and

hence have prevented its publication. Niels also contends that the vertebral and pelvic pneumatisation reported previously (Christiansen & Bonde 2000), and later called into question (O'Connor 2006), is indeed genuine.

On the Thursday morning, a select elite set out from London and headed to the Isle of Wight, where brilliant weather (a bit too brilliant I think) provided us with excellent viewing conditions for our coastal excursion. We looked at the iguanodontian tracks at Hanover Point, at exposed plant debris beds, and at some neat land slips, but didn't find any tetrapod fossils. On the Friday, we visited Dinosaur Isle Museum: I had hoped to give a guided tour, but this proved impossible because of the constant chorus of loud animal noises made by the museum's overhead system. It's a neat museum for Wealden fossil reptiles: the holotypes of *Neovenator* and *Eotyrannus* are on display, as is the Barnes High brachiosaur, an awesome *Goniopholis* specimen, and much else. For some reason, they have a display of replica primate skulls and an exhibition on Paul Sereno, both of which look totally out of place.

All in all, the entire conference ran smoothly and was a great success. I really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it, and everyone else I spoke to said likewise. We were supported, not only by HOGG but also by the Dinosaur Society (which does still exist) and some oil companies.

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOGG TREASURER

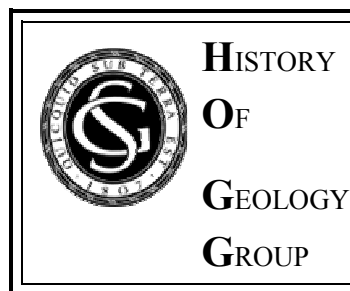
Thank you to all those HOGG members who have paid their annual membership subscription for 2008 and to those who upgraded their standing orders from £10 to £15 in time for this year. Apologies to those members who had difficulties changing their standing orders due to problems with the HOGG account number; these should all now be resolved or will be shortly.

Unfortunately, there are still a number of members who have not upgraded their standing orders so, if you are one of them, please complete the form below and return it to me at your earliest convenience together with a cheque for £5 to cover this year's shortfall. Alternatively, if you choose not to pay by standing order, please send me a cheque for £15. Either way, I shall be pleased to hear from you! Many thanks.

*Dr Beris M Cox, 151 Browns Lane, Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Keyworth, Nottingham,
NG12 5BN*

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