

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE LIBRARY
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BURLINGTON HOUSE
PICCADILLY
LONDON W1J 0BG



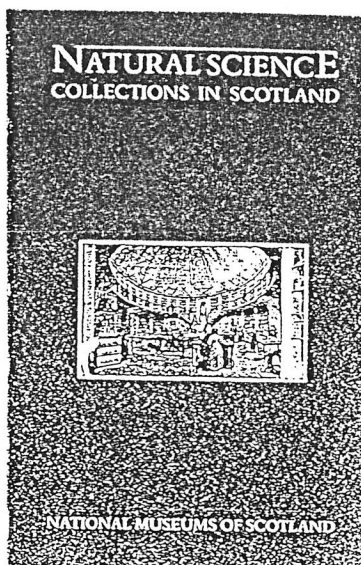
HISTORY
OF
GEOLOGY
GROUP
Newsletter

No.2

July 1995

"NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS IN SCOTLAND"

H.E.Stace, C.W.A Pettitt & C.D.Waterston



This is a catalogue of geological, botanical & zoological material in museums, institutions & private collections in Scotland, with indexes of collectors, donors & vendors, subjects & literature references on microfiche. It is a comprehensive catalogue of natural history collections in Scotland, and is an important tool for the historian of science & the biographer as well as those with a scientific interest in natural history material.

This paperback version contains 404 pages with 8 microfiches and normally would retail for £25. It is being remaindered by the National Museums of Scotland for the incredible price of **just £5** (which even includes postage!!!)

Applications should be made to Publications, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF (Fax: 0131-220 4819; tel: 0131-225-7534)

WHO WAS THAT GEOLOGIST.....?

The Oxford University press and the British Academy are now engaged in a very ambitious 'Millennium 2000' project to produce a new **Dictionary of National Biography** to replace the old multi-volume version which first started to appear over a hundred years ago. It will form a guide to all those men and women who have made the most major contributions to British life and culture, even if born abroad. Geologists are to include all those who have already appeared in the existing **Dictionary** in suitable or completely revised versions, written by hopefully existing specialists, with the addition of about 20 new entries for forgotten or previously ignored persons. It will include geophysicists and mineralogists etc as well as main stream geologists, although some industrial geologists will appear within the world of

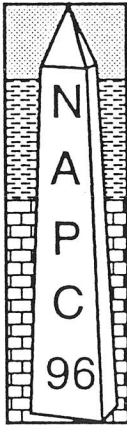
business as opposed to that of science, and palaeontologists will appear with zoologists. The assessment phase of this work has to be completed by the end of the summer of 1995. So far the following new names have been suggested:

Florence Bascom (1862-1945), Etheldred Anna Maria Bennett (1776-1845), Jean-Francois Berger (1779-1833), Alfred Brammall (c.1879-1954), Sydney Savory Buckman (1860-1929), Mary Morland Buckland (d.1857), Grenville Arthur James Cole (1859-1924), John Coster (fl.1680), John Roche Dakyns (1836-1910), Jane Donald (1856-1935), Gertrude Lillian Elles (1872-1960), Sir Lazarus Fletcher (1854-1921), Patrick Ganly (1809-1899), Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon (1864-1939), Charles Frances Greville (1749-1809), Edward Hull (1829-1917), William James Lewis (d.1926), Mary Lyell (1808-1873), david Mackintosh (1815-1891), Walter Mykura (1926-1988), Louis Albert Necker (1786-1861), Gerald Seligman (1886-1973), Dame Ethel Mary Reader Shakespear (nee Wood) (1871-1946), Charles Davies Sherbom (1861-1942), William Whitehead Watts (1860-1947), and William Bourke Wright (1876-1939).

The new DNB is anxious that proper representation of the world of both women and industry will be given. Will anyone with support for the inclusion of , or special knowledge of any of the above named, or anyone wishing to nominate other persons not so far included please contact **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** Hugh Torrens, Lower Mill Cottage, Furnace lane, Madeley, Crewe CHESHIRE CW3 9EU, United Kingdom (Tel: 01782-583183 9day) or 01782-750689 (evening); Fax: 01782-715261; e-mail ggal0@keele.ac.uk

If you are not sure whether the persons you might wish to name are already included in the old DNB please send their names anyway!

NORTH AMERICAN PALAEOLOGICAL CONVENTION (NAPC)



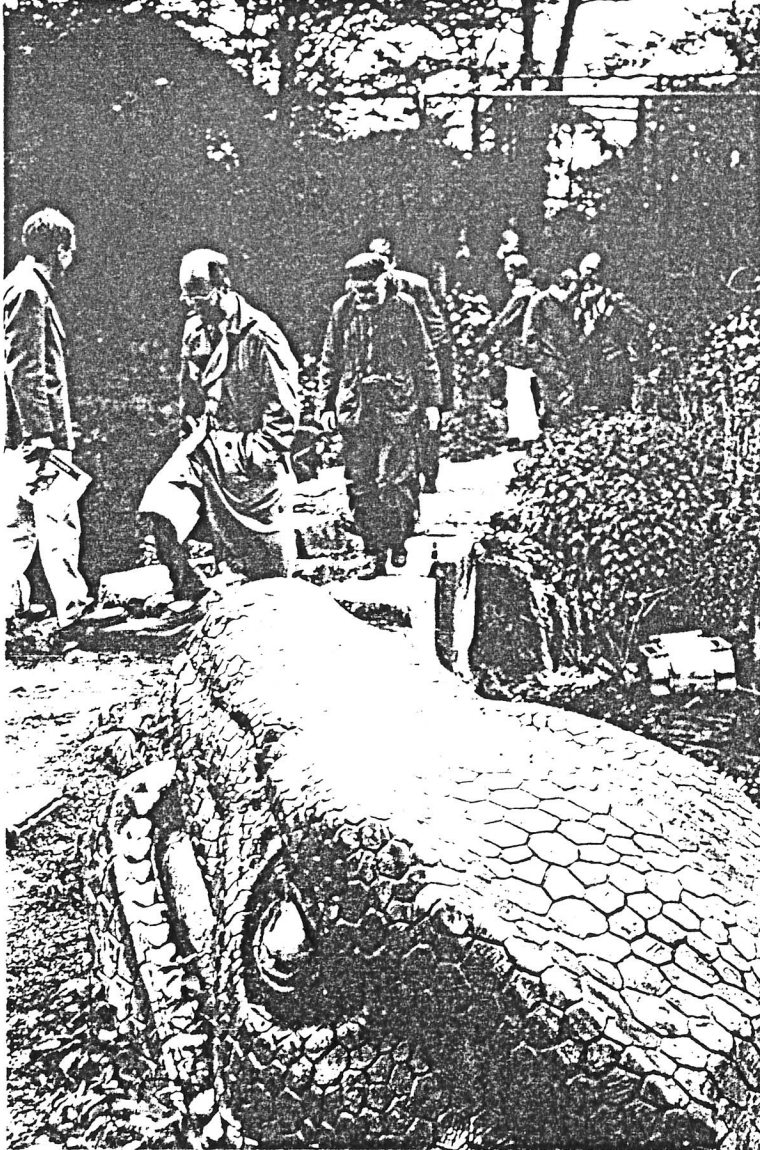
The sixth NAPC meeting takes place in Washington D.C. between Sunday June 9th and Wednesday June 12th, 1996, and is part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Smithsonian Institution. The programme so far is only suggested, but may include a section on "History of American Palaeontology"

More details are expected in the autumn of this year, but these will only be reported through this newsletter next January, by which time it may be a little late to become involved. Anyone with specific questions is asked to write to NAPC-96, Mail Stop 121, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC 20560, USA .

(Editor's note: As logos go, the one chosen for this meeting strikes me as rather odd. It's possible to accept the stratigraphical nature of the background as limestone followed by shale followed by mudstone, but what is the significance, especially for palaeontologists, of the obelisk-like structure within it ? I can only suggest that it is either the bipyramidal termination of an extremely elongated and HUGE tetragonal crystal, or a projection some 600,000,000 years into the future of the Washington Monument after it has been subsumed by limestone, shale & mudstone. Do the palaeontologists know something about subsidence of the American continent that we don't.....?).

THE FIRST HOGG MEETING

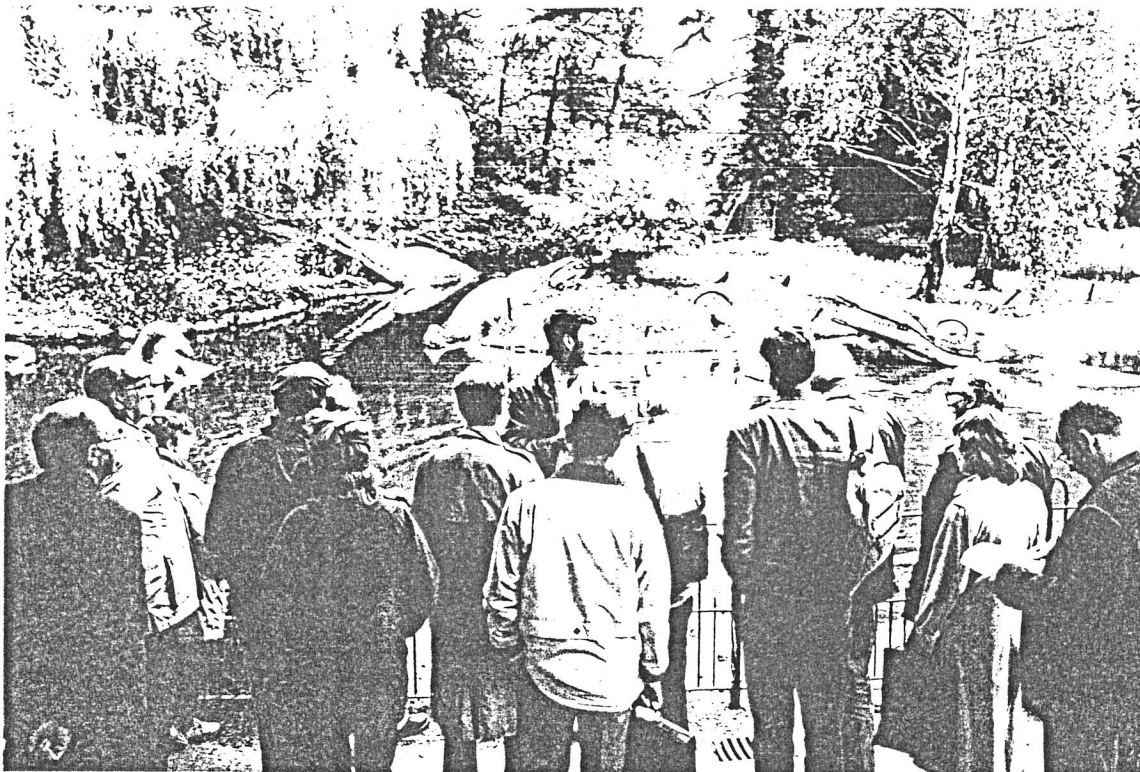
WATERHOUSE HAWKINS AND THE CRYSTAL PALACE



"Entering the Lost World": Peter Doyle, John Thackray, Martin Rudwick & other HOGG members step onto the geological islands at the Crystal Palace Park (photo courtesy of Jim Secord)

We had such a good day on 12th May! Twenty Group members gathered at the Natural History Museum for coffee at 11 before moving to the Rare Book Room for talks by Martin Rudwick on the development of the reconstruction of extinct animals and plants; Jim Secord on Hawkins' work on the planning and development of the models themselves; and Hugh Torrens on the place of Gideon Mantell in the growth of our understanding of dinosaurs. Pickersgill's portrait of Sir Richard Owen, which hangs on the wall of the Rare Book Room next to his medals and awards, allowed him to keep an eye on the proceedings. After the talks there was time to look at drawings, engravings and photographs from the Waterhouse Hawkins Collection, which is held in the museum's palaeontology library. A selection of magnificent lithographs from Unger's "Die Urwelt", giving reconstructions of the scenery of past ages, was also on display.

After lunch we boarded the coach for Crystal Palace. The sky was grey, but mercifully there was no rain. After a look around the Crystal Palace Museum, Steve McCarthy took charge of the group and took us on a fascinating guided tour of the models, starting with the Triassic amphibians and working our way around past the ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, the dinosaurs, the Tertiary mammals and finally *Megatherium* and *Megaceros*. Steve was ably supported by Peter Doyle, who demonstrated the way that banks of appropriate strata had been built up on the site of each of the displays.



Steve McCarthy of the Crystal Palace Foundation lecturing to HOGG members with ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs in the background (photo courtesy of Jim Secord)

Altogether a fascinating day. Any member who regrets missing the excursion may still order "The Crystal Palace Dinosaurs" by Steve McCarthy and Mick Gilbert, from the Crystal Palace Museum, Anerley Hill, London SE19 2BA

John Thackray

...AND THE NEXT HOGG MEETING

"HISTORICAL STUDIES IN EARTH SCIENCE MAPPING"

This meeting will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 4th October 1995 in the lecture theatre of the Department of Earth Sciences, Oxford. The meeting will focus on the development of geological (both terrestrial and submarine) and thematic mapping, and items from the William Smith collection will be on display during the meeting.

The provisional programme is:

2.00-3.30 -Three papers will be delivered: "geological Mapping in Cornwall before De la Beche" by Denise Crook; "William Smith and his Geological Sections" by John Fuller; and "early Geophysical Mapping of the British Isles" by Richard Howarth.

3.30-4.30. Tea, followed by an opportunity to see an exhibition of items from the William Smith collection.

4.30- 5.00 Annual general meeting of the group

There is room in the programme for one more paper, so please let me know if you have something to offer. There is no charge for the meeting, but please do fill in the registration form attached to this Newsletter and send it off as soon as possible

John Thackray, Archivist, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

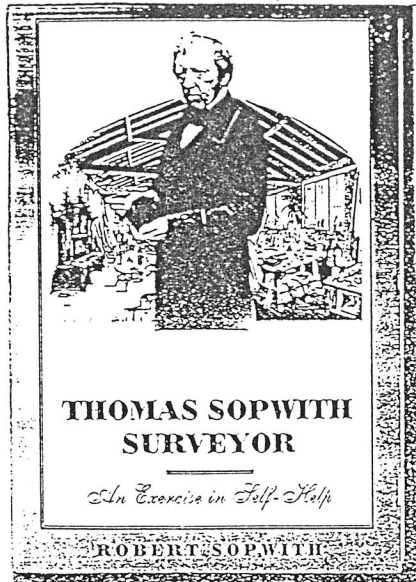
HOGG MEETING FOR 1996.....

In the spring of 1996 there will be a joint HOGG and Society for the History of Natural History (S.H.N.H.S) meeting on Friday 16 February. The theme will be

"GEOLOGICAL COLLECTORS & COLLECTING"

The meeting will be held in London, at Burlington House, Piccadilly.

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



"Thomas Sopwith Surveyor - an exercise in self help", by Robert Sopwith .

Pub: The Pentland Press, 1994. pp xiv, 266. Price £15.50. ISBN 1 85821 206 5

"Thomas Sopwith was a surveyor of roads, railways and mines who lived most of his life in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, while making frequent trips to London on business. He is known to historians of geology only as the maker of a number of sets of wooden geological models which were highly commended by Charles Lyell in 1841, and as an enthusiast for the preservation of mining records who helped Henry de la Beche set up the Mining Records Office in 1841. This biography traces Thomas' life from his birth in 1803 to the year 1845".

J.C. Thackray

"Friends of GeoClio"

Who are the friends?

Persons interested in the history of earth sciences, which is construed broadly to comprise the geological, marine, and atmospheric sciences. Friends thus include scientists, historians, philosophers, sociologists, archivists, librarians, and others sharing interests in the historical study of earth sciences.

Where are the friends?

The Friends dwell within HESS - The History of Earth Science Society - but are not part of HESS. Hence, the Friends have no officers, dues or bye-laws.

What do the Friends do?

1. They communicate by electronic newsletter to keep informed of forthcoming lectures, meetings field trips, excursions, and important publications of mutual interest having to do with the history of the earth sciences. They also share information about the content and location of archives that already exist or are in the making (the current officers of HESS are making arrangements for such an electronic newsletter. In the meantime you may send messages to laporte@cats.ucsc.edu)
2. They sponsor meetings, usually on a triennial cycle, dealing with a single topic or theme of interest where participants can discuss work-in-progress relating to the topic or theme. No abstracts will be required for the meeting, nor will there be formal papers or subsequent publication of results. However, a short report describing highlights of the discussion that take place during the meeting may be published in relevant newsletters or journals.
3. For a given meeting there will be a trio of convenors - the GeoClioTrio - who organise and plan the meeting, at least one of whom is a historian of science and a scientist historian.
4. Guidelines for the meetings will follow Penrose guidelines including especially: an isolated site (but easily accessible to international travellers); an intensive three-day

programme; a single focussed issue; and some 50-80 participants, with graduate students representing about 10% of attendees. The convenors will make every effort to generate funds to subsidise the student participation, if at all possible.

Cordially,

Leo Laporte (e-mail: laporte@cats.ucsc.edu)

Naomi Oreskes (e-mail: naomi.oreskes@mac.dartmouth.edu)

Ken Taylor (e-mail: ktaylor@uoknor.edu)

DISTURBING NEWS.....

On 22nd April, the Daily Telegraph carried the following story. Can any member give an update on the state now of this site, which appears to have historical importance ?

D Telegraph 22 April 1994
Famous fossil site damaged by vandals

By Ray Clancy

AN internationally renowned fossil site owned by the National Trust and visited by geologists from all over the world has been badly damaged by vandals spraying graffiti and lighting fires.

Scientists from Durham University are to spend the weekend examining the limestone walls at Byer's Hole, part of the former Whitburn colliery, South Tyneside, to see how many of the 250 million-year-old fossils have survived.

Police said youths often go to the site to drink and take drugs. It was badly damaged over the Easter holiday, when vandals daubed the stone with paint and lit fires which blackened the walls.

The fossils were discovered in 1848. They include examples from three main groups of sea creatures — Ostracods (shrimps and mussels), Foraminifera (early amoeba) and Bivalves (sea shells).

The eight different species of Ostracods, some of which are only three millimetres long, are regarded as particularly important.

Mr Peter Collins, National Trust warden, discovered the damage during a routine inspection.

"The site appears to be obliterated. It has been badly damaged by fire," he said yesterday.

Geologists hope to save some of the fossils. Mr Les Jessop, of Sunderland Museum, said: "It is a very important place for anyone interested in geology. This is a dreadful act of vandalism. Our only hope is that some of the fossils hidden under the limestone have survived."

=====

I will be attending the meeting of the History of Geology Group on the theme of Earth Science mapping, to be held at the Department of Earth Sciences, Oxford University on Wednesday 4th October 1995.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

I would like to offer a paper on.....

.....

.....

Please return this slip AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to:

John Thackray, Archivist, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5 BD