



DROPPINGS
FROM THE
GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP

OPROLITE

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May
1996

Coprolite is compiled by Tom Sharpe, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP (tel 01222 397951 ext. 265, fax 01222 667332) and produced by Monica Price, University Museum, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW. It is published three times a year in February, May and November. Any material for inclusion should be sent to Tom Sharpe by the first of the previous month, i.e. by 1 January, 1 April or 1 October.

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Secretary: Mandy Edwards, Department of Geology, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL tel 0161 275 3825, fax 0161 275 3947, e-mail aedwards@fs2.ge.man.ac.uk

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Andy Newman, Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU tel/fax 0191 222 7426, e-mail andrew.newman@ncl.ac.uk

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at 16.00 on 26 June 1996 at Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool to consider the following proposed changes to the Constitution of the Geological Curators' Group, subject to the approval of the Charity Commission:

(Bold type indicates an alteration or addition to the existing Constitution)

Item 8 The management of the Group shall be vested in a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer/Membership Secretary, **Programme Secretary, Editor of the Journal, Editor of the Newsletter**, Recorder, and four members. The Committee may in addition co-opt for a specified period up to four non-voting members, one of whom shall normally be nominated by the Biology Curators' Group as their representative.

Item 16 The AGM (at which 10 shall be a quorum) shall be held in the period of **November** to January.

[An additional clause relating to the Group's accounts at the request of the Geological Society is also proposed]

New Members

GCG is pleased to welcome the following new members: **Kate Hawkins**, Buckinghamshire County Museum; **Ivor Harkin**, Dublin; **Peter Galley**, Cheshire; and **S George Pemberton**, University of Alberta, Canada.

Musical curators

At the National Museums of Scotland, following Ian Rolfe's retirement as Keeper of Geology (reported in the last issue), **Alec Livingstone** is now Acting Keeper; **Bob Reekie**, Laboratory Manager at NMS retired on 31 December after 40 years' service, and has been replaced by **Dr Suzanne Miller**; **Bill Baird**, Curator of Invertebrate Fossils at NMS, retired on 29 February after 38 years' service. **Geoff Tresise**, Curator of Earth and Physical Sciences at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, and former Secretary of GCG, retired on 29 March after 36 years' service; **Martin Munt**, a laboratory technician at Portsmouth University, has been appointed Curatorial Assistant at the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology and took up his post on 1 April.

Have you paid your subscription?

Time flies and we are now well into 1996. If you haven't yet paid your subscription for the year, then please do so as soon as possible using the form in the February issue of *Coprolite*. The next issue will contain the 1996 membership list, so please return your subscription form to ensure that you appear in the list.

Cooptees

The following were coopted on to Committee at its meeting on 25 January 1996: **Tom Sharpe**, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, editor of *Coprolite*

Steve Thompson, Scunthorpe Museums Service, BCG Representative

Nick Goff, Museum Documentation Association

GCG and the World Wide Web

As many of you will have seen, we are planning to crawl aboard the speeding Internet bandwagon by launching our own Web pages at the Liverpool meeting in June. The GCG pages will be hosted by the University of Glasgow which is kindly providing the service free of charge. The actual work of editing files and so forth will have to be done by me - this is why there isn't much to see so far! Those of you who are desperately keen on this sort of thing can keep an eye on the slow development of our embryonic hatchling pages at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/Museum/John/gcg1.html>

[Note for beginners: these addresses, or 'URLs' as aficionados call them, are case-sensitive, so enter it exactly as you see above.]

Making information available over the WWW is not difficult, but deciding what we actually want to make available is more problematic. Obviously the pages will hold the usual 'worthy but dull' stuff such as committee details, forthcoming meetings and links to other geological museum-related pages. We are also considering making our minutes available, and perhaps *Thumbs up* and even *Coprolite*. Other possibilities include an e-mail-based Lost and Found, and a specimen wants/exchange service.

I am also keen to make available embarrassing photographs featuring members of Committee or any of the great and good of our profession - seventies-style shirts/ties/haircuts particularly welcome! If anyone has any suggestions for things they would like to see or if they would like to provide material, please get in touch with me (e-mail preferred!) at j.faithfull@museum.gla.ac.uk or Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

John Faithfull, GCG Recorder

National Museum of Ireland: new phone and fax numbers

The telephone and fax numbers of the National Museum of Ireland have changed. They are now +353 1 677 7444 (telephone) and +353 1 662 2674 (fax).

Forthcoming meetings and seminars

30 April 1996 North of England Museum Service Headquarters, Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne

GCG/BCG Seminar: Training - the way forward

The need for professionalism in the training of museum personnel has been recognised for many years. The Museums Association's withdrawal from the direct provision of training coupled with the expansion of higher education has led to an ever-growing number of 'Museums Studies' courses based in universities. New routes to the AMA have now been adopted by the Museums Association, and the availability of a framework for National Vocational Qualifications, developed and guided by the Museums Training Institute, has provided additional options for those in work. Continuing Professional Development is now increasingly being recognised as an important feature of working life. So what does all this mean to the museums profession, and how might the new systems better fulfil the needs of natural scientists considering a museum career or those already based in a museum? A series of talks during the day will provide an overview of the situation, with some speakers focusing on the specific needs of biologists, geologists and conservators.

Programme

- 10.30 Registration and coffee
11.00 Welcome and introduction: Peter Davis (University of Newcastle)
11.10 *What training does the profession think it needs?* Simon Knell (University of Leicester)
11.40 The contribution of area museum councils: Jane McKinlay (SEMS)
11.55 Training initiatives in the Natural History Museum: Bob Huxley (Natural History Museum)
12.30 The new AMA: Heather Kelly, Museums Association
13.00 Lunch and Biology Curators' Group Annual General Meeting
14.00 The role of the Museums Training Institute: Chris Newbery (Museums Training Institute)
14.30 *The needs of natural scientists:* Steve Garland (Bolton Museum and Art Gallery)
15.00 A conservator's perspective: Chris Collins, (University of Cambridge)
15.30 Tea
15.45 Discussion
16.15 Depart

Please return the booking form on page 15 to Andrew Newman, Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU tel/fax 0191 222 7426 by 26 April 1996.

10 - 13 June 1996 Budapest, Hungary

Third International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums.

This meeting follows the very successful meetings held in London and Toronto and brings together curators of mineral collections from all over the world. Papers are invited on all aspects of mineral collections curation, documentation, research and use in museums and there will be an opportunity for participants to contribute posters introducing their museums or collections. A number of pre- and post-conference fieldtrips to localities in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia are also being organised.

Contact: M&M 3 Secretariat, c/o Department of Mineralogy, Eötvös University, Budapest, Muzeum krt. 4/A, H-1088 Hungary fax (361) 266 7952, e-mail emin003@ursus.bke.hu

17 - 21 June 1996 University of Leicester

Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, in association with Leicestershire Museums, BCG and GCG: Natural Science Curatorial Course

An overview of natural science curation including the discussion of current context, historical research methods, collecting policies and strategies, biological

and geological recording, field techniques, processing new material, identification, conservation, collection management, systematics, nomenclature and enquiries.

Cost excluding meals and accommodation: £260.

Contact: Department of Museum Studies, 105 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7LG or phone 0116 2523963; fax 0116 2523960; e-mail sjk8@leicester.ac.uk.

26 June 1996 Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool

GCG Seminar: Promoting museums with new technology and the official launch of GCG's Home Pages on the World Wide Web

If you have not yet been caught up by the Internet, this meeting will provide you with an opportunity to see what other museums have been doing and how you can get involved if you want to. If you are not part of a university or large museum that offers easy connection to the Internet, it must be frustrating at best and downright irritating at worst to be told again and again that the Internet is where it's at. So come and see what options are available to you.

Programme

10.30 Registration and coffee

11.00 Introduction to the meeting, GCG and the World Wide Web:
John Faithfull (GCG Recorder)

11.20 An update on the MDA and the services they offer: Wendy Sudbury
(MDA)

11.40 Phil Phillips (Liverpool Museum)

12.00 How can an individual or small museum get connected to the Internet:
Colin Smith (u-net)

12.30 Lunch and practical demonstrations

14.30 Developing geological databases: Charles Copp

14.50 A look at what the Natural History Museum has been doing: Norman
McCloud (Natural History Museum)

15.10 What opportunities are provided by Computer Aided Learning (CAL)
packages: Bill Sowerbutts (UK Consortium for CAL)

16.00 Extraordinary General Meeting

There will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting for discussion and demonstrations. All of the speakers have agreed to demonstrate the work they have been doing.

Please return the booking form on page 15 to Wendy Simkiss, Geology Section, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN by **20 June 1996**.

20-24 August 1996 St John's College, Cambridge

Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections: Natural history collections - a resource for the future.

The Second World Congress builds on the success of the first Congress held in Madrid in 1992, from which resolutions were taken to the UNCED meeting in Rio de Janeiro. The role of the Congress is to raise the profile of natural history collections, and the work undertaken on them, as cultural, scientific and economic resources of world-wide importance in developed and developing countries. The practical initiatives to be discussed include: the use and development of collections in industry, research and education; accessibility of collections using information technology, databases and international data exchange; current techniques in the care and management of collections; current condition of collections in developed and developing countries; the public, political and industrial image of natural history collections; economic and fund-raising aspects; the establishment of a World Council on Collections Resources to act as an umbrella organisation for collection-based institutions and groups; the management of collections in developing countries as a resource for socio-economic benefit, and as a record of the world's natural heritage.

Contact: The Administrator, 2nd World Congress, Department of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ tel 01223 333421, fax 01223 333450

27-30 August 1996 Ulster Museum, Belfast

Linnean Society: Systematics and biological collections

Traditionally, systematics has relied heavily on the existence of collections of plant, animal and fossil material. This is still the case, but the range of collections studied and applications emerging is increasing. This conference will examine the increasing importance of biological collections in the widest sense, including: museum collections of modern and fossil biota, including Man; zoological and botanical gardens and arboreta, culture collections of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, microscopic algae and other micro-organisms; seed banks; botanical, zoological and palaeontological illustrations and photographic collections; archival material. The developing requirements of taxonomists and evolutionary biologists must be reflected in the conservation and preservation of these collections, which should also be seen as living or preserved records of genetic diversity.

Contact: C R Tyrie, Department of Botany, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB, tel 01232 381251, fax 01232 665510

30 September-4 October 1996 Harrogate

Museums Association 102nd Annual Conference

Contact: Sue Robinson, Conference Organiser, Museums Association, 42 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0PA fax 0171 250 1929

30 September: Session to be held by GCG in the Harwood Lecture Theatre (Moat House Hotel) 12.00 till 2.15pm.

This short meeting will be on the theme of Collections and Collecting. Proposed speakers will include Simon Knell of Leicester University, Chris Collins reporting on the Cambridge Conference, Mike Taylor talking on collecting programs and strategies and Paul Ensom of Yorkshire Museum. The meeting will give people a chance to hear about and discuss the issues raised at several major international conferences this year. In the afternoon everyone is invited to attend the Trade Fair at the MA Conference.

Contact: Mandy Edwards, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Manchester, or Paul Ensom, York Museum, Museum Gardens, York tel 01904 629745.

27 November 1996 The Manchester Museum

GCG Seminar and AGM: Geological Models

Contact: John Nudds, The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester M13 9PL tel 0161 275 2634, fax 0161 275 2676, e-mail john.nudds@man.ac.uk

April 1997 Torquay Museum, Torquay, Devon

GCG Seminar and fieldtrip: Quaternary collections

Contact: Mike Bishop, Torquay Museum, 529 Babbacombe Road, Torquay TQ1 1HG tel 01803 293975

June/July 1997 University of Leicester

GCG Seminar and fieldtrip: Terminology

Contact: Simon Knell, Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, 105 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7LG

30 July - 9 August 1997 Geological Society, London & Royal Society, Edinburgh

Celebration of the bicentenaries of Charles Lyell and James Hutton

The first part of the conference in London (30 July - 3 August) will be concerned with the achievements and impacts of the work of Lyell. The second part (5 - 9 August) in Edinburgh will deal with the past, present and future relevance of Hutton's theories. The lectures will include contributors of international renown and will be interspersed by periods of discussion. The will be followed by visits to classical sites linked with Hutton and Lyell. The programme is being arranged to catch the interest of all, whether geologists or historians.

Contact: Lyell/Hutton Conference Office, Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0JU tel 0171 434 9944, fax 0171 439 8975.

15 -21 September 1997 City Hall and National Museum of Wales, Cardiff Museums Association 103rd Annual Conference

Contact: Sue Robinson, Conference Organiser, Museums Association, 42 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0PA fax 0171 250 1929

Welsh Natural Science Collections Research Project

Since last October, Robert Yeoman has been working as Research Assistant in Natural Sciences with the Council of Museums in Wales to set up a register of natural science collections in Wales. Peter Morgan, formerly Keeper of Zoology at the National Museum of Wales and Chairman of FENSCORE is heading the steering committee for this project. Rob is currently compiling a list of all known or suspected repositories of collections. Many institutions have already been contacted, and initial responses look very promising. However, obtaining information on private collections may prove to be more difficult. Members of GCG may be able to help by providing details on any geological collections held outside the usual holding institutions such as museums and university departments. Information on private collections which members may have visited in Wales would be very useful and much appreciated. *If you can help with any information*, please contact Rob Yeoman at the Council of Museums in Wales, The Courtyard, Letty Street, Cathays, Cardiff CF2 4EL. Tel 01222 225432, fax 01222 668516.

Newcastle University mineral collection

Many of you will be aware that after the closing of the Newcastle University Geology Department, the mineral collection essentially became orphaned. This collection has now *been relocated to the Hancock Museum* and work on its curation and conservation has begun. Museum staff are working together with members of the Northern Branch of the Russell Society to catalogue the entire collection, which numbers around 10,000 specimens. The collection contains material from all over this country and indeed the world and, even though work has just begun, some very rare items have turned up. The collection promises to be an important one and it is very encouraging that it is now receiving attention at the Museum.

Steve McLean

Bristol reorganises again

Threat of redundancy hangs over a number of curatorial posts at Bristol City Museum following yet another restructuring. The new structure will have nine specialist curators (a reduction of two on the present staff complement) below a Curatorial Services Manager (from the merged current Senior Curator posts), and a Head of Museums and Galleries. A decision on which jobs will be affected will be made when the new *Head is in post*. *The museum will form part of a new Museums and Libraries Division* headed by a new Assistant Director post (to which the former Head of Cultural Services at Newham Borough Council has been appointed). What all this means for the geologists and geology collections there remains to be seen, but GCG will be keeping an eye on developments.

Exhibitions

Messel fossils:

The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester until 25 May 1996
Leicester Museum, New Walk, Leicester 2 June - 21 July 1996

Pterosaurs - rulers of Jurassic skies:

Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne until 31 October 1996

The Dinosaur Roadshow:

Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich 8 June - 14 September 1996

Dinosaurs then and now:

Planet Lazer, Canterbury, Kent 27 April - 29 July 1996
Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough 3 August - 3 November 1996

Mineral shows

7-8 June 1996 12th Iver Heath Mineral and Fossil Show 1996, Iver Heath Community Hall, Iver Heath near Uxbridge Fri. 15.30-19.00, Sat. 9.00-16.00.

Contact: Paul Lowe, Endsleigh Book Co., Endsleigh House, 50 Daniell Road, Truro TR1 2DA. tel/fax 01872 223227.

14 July 1996 The Oxford Summer Mineral and Fossil Show, The Exeter Hall, Kidlington. 10.00-16.00.

Contact: Paul Lowe, Endsleigh Book Co., Endsleigh House, 50 Daniell Road, Truro TR1 2DA. tel/fax 01872 223227.

5-6 October 1996 Rock 'n' Gem Show, Cheltenham Race Course, Prestbury, Cheltenham Glos.

Contact: HD Promotions tel 01494 450504/01628 21697, fax 01494 450245

Gallery developments at the Natural History Museum

The first phase of the new Earth Sciences galleries at the Natural History Museum opens in July. Set in an imposing atrium, *Visions of the Earth* will introduce visitors to the range of topics the galleries will cover. Its 15m high slate walls decorated with astronomical images will house illuminated showcases displaying 40 of the most spectacular specimens from the Museum's collections. The focal point of the atrium is an 11m revolving globe through which visitors will pass. The first two exhibitions of the eventual set of six will concentrate on earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics and surface processes. The total cost of the redevelopment is £12 million, half of which the Museum is hoping to cover through sponsorship. RTZ Corporation has provided £1 million, and other support has come from the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund and BTR. The remaining £6 million will be provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Lyme Regis Philpot Museum refurbishment

In 1991 the Trustees commissioned from Robin Wade a plan for the refurbishment of the Museum which included its extension by a new entrance and a gallery on the seaward side. Before the work could be undertaken, a full structural restoration was necessary, because our charming building was quietly falling apart. West Dorset District Council, the owners of the building since 1974, responded magnificently to persuasion, and Phase I of the refurbishment scheme, together with reconstitution of the original building, was completed in 1994. The cost was some £350,000 of which the Museum raised £170,000 through grants, public appeal, and finally a loan.

We now have a restored and extended building which is in effect a splendid shell. Phase 2 of our scheme, which will start this year, will replaster the walls (left for 2 years to dry out) and provide new display and storage areas for the collections, as well as new lighting, environmental controls etc. This work is costed at £178,000: to cover as well the cost of the loan needed to finish the Phase 1 work, we are looking to raise £200,000.

We have been offered a grant of £142,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, for which £36,000 is needed in matching funding. The Foundation for Sport and the Arts has offered us £14,000 and the Area Museum Council for the South West £9,000. This leaves £13,000 for us to raise over the next two years, plus £22,000 to cover the loan.

At the heart of our scheme is the presentation of our geological collection. It forms the most coherent section of all our collections, and we have a fine gallery for its display. Above all we have Mary Anning. She was born and grew up on the very site of the Museum, and she developed her specimens and sold them from a workshop which is now part of our basement. The idea is to give the gallery the air of a Victorian fossil collector's cabinet room; and thanks to the Heritage Lottery's munificence, we shall be able to present the collections in hardwood cabinets as well as some of our original mahogany lectern cases. We also have a gem in a table top of sliced and polished coprolites made for Buckland, which will be made again into a table; it will, I trust, become an object of pilgrimage for all subscribers to this distinguished journal.

The arrangement of the displays will be focused on Mary Anning and her work in conjunction with the pioneers of geology, several of whom had local connections: De la Beche, Conybeare, Hawkins and Buckland himself. I am intending to beg or borrow supporting documentation, facsimiles and even specimens from the great national collections (all of whom so far are making very friendly and supportive noises) so as to present the theme of Lyme as one of the cradles of palaeontology.

Hugh Torrens of Keele University, long-time researcher on Mary Anning's work and contribution has been tremendously kind and helpful to us, and will advise

on the new displays. Peter Crowther, now of Ulster, has been our special curatorial and palaeontological adviser, and I hope will be able to continue in that role. Tom Craig, Dorset County Museums Adviser, has worked very hard, with the help of the AMCSW, for the appointment of a peripatetic geological curator for Dorset museums. It looks as if the appointment will be made some time this year, and that the incumbent is likely to be a palaeontologist. I imagine that he or she will be peripatating quite a lot to the Philpot.

I am aiming to complete Phase 2 over the next two years: certainly in time for 1999, the bicentenary of Mary Anning's birth. An idea is afoot that the preparation for our presentation may be the core stage of preparation for a wider exhibition of the palaeontological significance of the Jurassic in the south west, designed to tour the national museums in that year.

In the meantime, our ideas, and indeed our appeal, have been given a tremendous boost by our publication in March of *Mary Anning of Lyme Regis* by Crispin Tickell. Sir Crispin is a Patron of the Museum, and a great great great nephew of Mary Anning. He has written a lovely, thoughtful account of her work and its contribution to the development of the Darwinian revolution of which the resonances are sounding through so much scientific and philosophical thinking today. The book, price £3.50 including postage, can be ordered from the Lyme Regis (Philpot) Museum, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3QA

Liz-Anne Bawden, Lyme Regis (Philpot) Museum

Newish publications

The Aberystwyth district compiled by Max Dobson, 1995. Geologists' Association guide no. 54, 109pp. ISBN 0 900717 77 7, £8.50

Storage of natural history collections: a preventive conservation approach edited by Carolyn L. Rose, Catharine A. Hawks and Hugh H. Genoways, 1995. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, 448pp. ISBN 0 9635476 1 5

West Cornwall. A landscape for leisure by Tony Goode, Martin Hodder and Brian Leveridge, 1996. British Geological Survey. ISBN 0 85272 253 2, £4.95.

Mary Anning of Lyme Regis by Crispin Tickell, 1996. Lyme Regis (Philpot) Museum, 32pp. ISBN 0 9527662 0 5, £2.99 (£3.50 including post and packing)

Geology on your doorstep edited by Peter Doyle, 1996. Geological Society, ISBN 1 897799 54 3, £38.00

Evaluation of museum and gallery displays by Patrick Sudbury and Terry Russell, 1995. Liverpool University Press, x + 83pp. ISBN 0 85323 028 5.

The evolution and extinction of the dinosaurs by David E Fastovsky and David B Weishampel, 1996. Cambridge University Press, 476pp. ISBN 0 521 44496 9, \$44.95

The historical atlas of the earth. A visual celebration of the earth's physical past edited by Roger Osborne and Donald Tarling. 208pp., \$45.00

The Biology Curator, Issue 5, February 1996 has recently been published, and includes a report on BCG's European meeting and a paper by Kate Andrew on the conservation of sub-fossil bone.

Museum International, no 190 (vol 48, no 2), April-June 1996, includes a thematic set of papers on natural history museums and the environment.

The December 1995 issue of *Geotimes* (vol 40 no 12) contains a series of articles on 'earth science museums real and virtual', including Gerry Fitzgerald on 'Collection management: a concept whose time has come'; papers on the American Museum of Natural History, the Royal Tyrrell Museum, and the University of California Museum of Palaeontology; and a (rather selective) guide to natural history museums in North America.

Out of print BGS Memoirs

The explanatory memoirs of the British Geological Survey provide *the* authoritative reference source for details of British geology. Unfortunately many have long been out of print and second hand copies are often virtually impossible to obtain. They may now be obtained by personal, written or faxed request from BGS Library Keyworth. They are supplied as unbound A4 size (625 sq cm) single-sided black and white photocopies, each sheet comprising two slightly reduced original pages. Standard dispatch time is within three days of receipt or confirmation of order unless otherwise agreed. A faster service may be possible for a premium charge. One to one bound copies can also be supplied by prior request at additional cost and in slower time. For details and prices, contact: The Library, British Geological Survey, Kingsley Dunham Centre, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5GG Tel: 0115 936 3205 Fax: 0115 963 3200.

***Mantell's Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex:* is there a second version?**

A 1992 paper in *Archives of Natural History* (19, 307-364) by Ron Cleevely and Sandra Chapman on Gideon Mantell's fossil collections figured a plate from Mantell's *Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex: ... with Figures and Descriptions of the Fossils of Tilgate Forest* (1827). It now seems that the plate was from a 'second state' of this publication. Colleagues in New Zealand, who are working on various aspects of the Mantell Archive in the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington and identifying other Mantell fossil material noticed the difference in the numeration between that plate and those in conventional copies that were available to them. Comparison of the two copies in the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum has confirmed that two states exist despite the contention by Mantell himself and subsequently by book dealers, that only some 150 copies of the '*Tilgate Forest*' were ever published. A paper listing

the considerable differences between these two 'states' and dealing with this and other aspects of the fossil teeth of *Iguanodon* is in preparation.

However, enquiries at the principal libraries in the UK have failed to locate another copy of this 'second state'. Its most noticeable features are that the only 'signatures' on the plates are "Printed by A. Gordon". All these plates lack a signature of an artist, engraver etc, and the coarser paper used lacks a watermark. All the figures have been re-drawn and are a coarser version of those on the original plates. The other distinctive feature is that the majority of the plates are numbered with Arabic numerals, whereas the majority of those in the original edition are in Roman numerals. The relative positions of figure 10 to that of figure 13 on Pl. XIX [Pl.19] have been altered. Some arrangement must have been made with Mantell or his publisher for the original pages of text have been used.

The effort of producing the second version must have been made to satisfy a market and worthwhile to the publisher. Yet, it is strange that only a single copy has survived. If anyone knows of, or finds they have a copy of the 'second state' Ron Cleevely would like to know. Please contact him at 23 Goodwood Close, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9JG or c/o Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Dinosaur news from the Isle of Wight

Staff at the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology in Sandown are getting ready for their fourth year of Dinosaur Farm. This is a barn at Sutton Farm on the south coast of the island where the public can talk to staff and volunteers and watch them preparing a 15m long sauropod discovered nearby. The farm will be open until the end of October.

Vertebrates continue to pop out of the cliffs on the Isle of Wight: the last few months have seen the discovery of complete and partial skeletons of *Hypsilophodon*, some large bones of *Iguanodon*, a Tertiary turtle, and many individual dinosaur bones.

New MDA SPECTRUM factsheets

For several years, MDA Outreach has published free factsheets on a wide range of documentation-related topics. The series has now been revised to include new factsheets based on SPECTRUM: The UK Museum Documentation Standard.

The new factsheets are particularly aimed at museums wanting to meet the recommended standards for MGC Registration. They provide common sense guidelines, suitable for all museums, large or small, on the following: entry records; exit records; accession records; protecting your records; location records and movement control; loan records. These, and other MDA factsheets, are available individually or as a pack from Katherine Futers at MDA, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4DH, tel 01223 242848, fax 01223 213575.

Geological Society Speakers' List

The Geological Society, to which GCG is affiliated, has, for several years, maintained a list of speakers with topics and contact details, for circulation to university departments and student geological societies. The new Membership Services Committee of the Society has identified the prime importance of raising the Society's profile to geoscientists at the start of their training and careers, to the future of the Society. GCG has been asked for suggestions of individuals who would be willing to be on such a list and who can present lively and enthusiastic talks. If you would like to put your name forward, or can suggest others who could be approached, please contact GCG Secretary Mandy Edwards.

The Mining History Society of Ireland

The Mining History Society for Ireland has recently been formed with the stated mission of seeking to develop informed public awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of all facets of mining heritage throughout Ireland. The society aims to facilitate surveying and documentation of extant mining remains on the surface and underground; to create and maintain a catalogue of information on Irish mining heritage; to organise an active programme of lectures, field visits, publications and newsletter; to support the development of touristic aspects of mining heritage; and to provide representation to relevant statutory authorities. Membership of the Society is open to anyone who shares its mission and objectives. For further information, contact Matthew Parkes, Secretary, Mining History Society of Ireland, c/o Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggar's Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4.

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GCG Seminar, Newcastle upon Tyne

30 April 1996

Booking form

I will be attending the seminar

I would like details of local accommodation

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel:.....

Please return this form to Andrew Newman, Department of Archaeology,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU tel/fax 0191 222 7426 **by**
26 April 1996

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GCG Seminar, Liverpool

26 June 1996

Booking form

I will be attending the seminar

I would like details of local accommodation

I cannot attend but I would like a copy of the meeting abstracts

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel:.....

Please return this form to Wendy Simkiss, Geology Section, Liverpool
Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN **by 20 June 1996**

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