



COPROLITE

DROPPINGS
FROM THE
GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP

Coprolite is compiled by Tom Sharpe, 49 Kelston Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF4 2AG 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.

Coprolite is sponsored by C.J.C. Burhouse Ltd of Huddersfield, wholesale distributors of minerals, gemstones, gemstone products and jewellery components.

Chairman: John Cooper, Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AA Tel. 0273 552586

Secretary: Simon Knell, Scunthorpe Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe DN14 7BD Tel. 0724 843533

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Andy Newman, Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PT Tel. 091 222 7418

GCG Committee

At a meeting on 4 February, the following were coopted onto GCG Committee:

Rosina Down, Biology Department, Medawar Building, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6JB

Mick Stanley, Hull Museums and Art Galleries, 83 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 1EP

Tom Sharpe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

Simon Timberlake, AMSSEE Geology Curator, 12 York Street, Cambridge, CB1 2PY

Musical Curators

Ron Cleevely of the Department of Palaeontology at the British Museum (Natural History) has taken early retirement; **Kate Pontin**, formerly Teacher Leader (Natural Sciences) at Leicestershire Museums Service has been appointed Local Heritage Education Officer at Uxbridge and took up her appointment on 6 April; **Dr Ed Jarzembowski**, formerly Principal Keeper of Natural Sciences at the Booth Museum, Brighton, has been redeployed within Brighton Borough Council as part of a budget-cutting exercise, and began work on 6 April as Principal Policy Officer (Environment).

New Members

GCG is pleased to welcome the following new members: Sara Kinzett, Market Harborough; and Dr Bill Birch, Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.

The Brighton Medal

The inauguration of the Brighton Medal was held on Friday 27 March in the Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge. Approximately forty people attended to celebrate the occasion and to witness the presentation of the inaugural medals, the first to Mrs Edith Brighton, widow of Bertie, and the second to Mrs Valerie Price on behalf of the late David Price, Founder of the medal. The inauguration was hosted by Professor I.N. Cave, Head of the Earth Sciences Department. Each medal was introduced by our Chairman, John Cooper and presented by Professor Sir David Williams, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

A full report of the proceedings will appear in the *Geological Curator* 5(8).

AMSSEE's Geology Curator travels on!

British Gas has now contributed a further £45,000 towards the funding of AMSSEE's Travelling Geology Curator post. With tax benefits raising the sponsorship to £60,000 over 4 years, this guarantees the future of the post, currently held by Simon Timberlake, until March 1995.

RonCAIRS

Ron Cleevely, formerly of the British Museum (Natural History), has set up RonCAIRS (R.J. Cleevely Archive & Information Research Services) and can provide assistance with natural history bibliography, biography and history especially of 19th century geology and palaeontology, the curation of fossil collections, and the identification of fossil mollusca. Ron can be contacted c/o Department of Palaeontology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD Tel. 071 981 9418 or at 23 Goodwood Close, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9JG Tel. 0730 815592.

Dr John S. Jackson

The death took place on 19 November 1991 of Dr John S. Jackson, Keeper of Natural History in the National Museum of Ireland from 1957 to 1968. John left museum work to pursue a career as a geological consultant, but maintained his enthusiasm for museum geology. He was active on the Board of Visitors to the National Museum of Ireland until his retirement in 1988.

Nigel T. Monaghan
National Museum of Ireland.

Forthcoming meetings and seminars

10 - 15 May 1992 Madrid

International Symposium and world congress on the preservation and conservation of natural history collections.

Contact: Symposium '92 Local Organising Committee, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Jose Gutierrez Abascal, 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

14 - 17 May 1992 Crewe, Cheshire.

Conserving our landscape: evolving landforms and Ice Age heritage.

English Nature, Geological Society, Quaternary Research Association, British Geomorphological Research Group, Royal Geographical Society, Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, Countryside Council for Wales.

This wide-ranging conference will consider all aspects of the conservation of landforms and Quaternary features. It will consist of a single day of presentations followed by two days of field-based studies and discussions. Subjects will include the conservation of river systems and coastal features; man-made exposures and mineral extraction sites; and upland landscapes and deposits. The legislative framework, voluntary conservation initiatives and links with wildlife and archaeological conservation will form important cross themes to the subjects listed above.

Contact: Jo Collinge on 0733 340345 extension 2322 (direct line 0733 318322).

27 May 1992 Lecture Theatre G25, Department of Geology, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol

Palaeontological Association Review Seminar on the conservation of palaeontological sites.

In 1987, the Palaeontological Association held a joint meeting with GCG and the Geological Society at Burlington House on 'the use and conservation of palaeontological sites'. The proceedings were published in 1988 as *Special Papers in Palaeontology* No.40, 200pp. There have been many developments in geological site conservation over the succeeding five years, and a visit to the UK in May 1992 by the European Working Group on Earth Science Conservation has triggered a number of specialist groups, including the Palaeontological Association, into convening meetings where progress can be reviewed.

In addition to the formal programme set out below, during coffee, lunch and tea breaks there will be an opportunity to try computer-based site documentation systems from Applied New Technologies of Clevedon, and the Geology Section of Bristol City Museum.

Attendance will be limited to about 60 due to the size of the lecture theatre, so it will help the organisers if you can let them know in advance of your attendance.

There will be a small charge for coffee and tea.

- 10.00 Coffee
10.25 Dr John Cowie (Bristol): Chairman's welcome
10.30 Dr Colin Prosser (English Nature): Fossil collecting and conservation.
11.00 Dr Chris Cleal (Association for Geological Conservation): Aims of the AGC.
11.20 Mr Michael Stanley (Hull Museums): Recording sites: a coordinated approach.
11.45 Dr John Cowie (Bristol): World Heritage (UNESCO, IUGS, IGCP, IUCN); suggested sites so far.
12.00 Dr David Norman (Sedgwick Museum): Museum involvement with collecting and site documentation.
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Mr Hugh Prudden (Somerset Geological Advisory Group): Aims and work of the Somerset GAG: English Nature's RIGS scheme in action.
14.20 Mr David Sole (professional collector): The professional collector: a valuable ally?
14.40 Dr Ed Jarzembowski (Brighton Borough Council): The value of the voluntary sector in palaeontology.
15.10 Mr Charles Copp (Applied New Technologies, Clevedon): Using new technology to store, manipulate and disseminate site data.
15.35 Discussion
16.00 Tea and disperse.

Contact: Dr P.R. Crowther, Bristol City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RL
Tel. 0272 223592 or Dr M.J. Benton, Department of Geology, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ Tel. 0272 303030 ext.4793

15 June 1992 Department of Geology, University of Manchester.

GCG Workshop: Advanced techniques in mineral identification.

Tutor: Amanda Edwards

This workshop will explore the use of X-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscope and electron microprobe techniques in mineral identification.

Contact: Amanda Edwards, Department of Geology, The University, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL Tel. 061 275 2000

7-8 July 1992 Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, Borough Road, Sunderland

GCG Seminar and Fieldtrip: Reaching for a common standard: control of terminology in geological documentation.

Choosing and maintaining standard ways of recording the information necessary to document effectively geological specimens and sites is always a difficult task. This meeting will examine some of the problems faced by the geological curator and discuss some recent developments and possible solutions.

Tuesday 7 July: Seminar

- 09.45 Coffee
- 10.10 Welcome to Tyne and Wear Museums: Alec Coles, Principal Curator of Natural Sciences.
- 10.20 Introduction: John Cooper, Booth Museum of Natural History.
- 10.30 Proposed procedure for documentation of the Ulster Museum rock collection: Rab Nawaz, Ulster Museum.
- 11.00 Nomenclature, classification and the museum mineral collection: Monica Price, University Museum, Oxford.
- 11.30 Minerals United: attempts to reconcile databases from a variety of sources into a single body of information: Phil Phillips, National Museums on Merseyside.
- 12.15 Discussion chaired by John Cooper.
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 Stratigraphic and palaeontological terminology and the Geological Recorder Package: Charles Copp, Applied New Technologies, Clevedon.
- 14.45 Documenting deterioration: Chris Collins, Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge.
- 15.15 Discussion and conclusions chaired by John Cooper.
- 15.45 Tea
- 16.00 Meeting ends. Tour of stores and gallery: Steve Mclean, Keeper of Geology

Wednesday 8 July: Field excursion

08.30 Assemble at Sunderland Museum

Morning: Trip to Greenlaws East abandoned mine workings in Weardale, North Pennines. This trip includes a look at the ruined workings, Carboniferous stratigraphy, and fluorite mineralization (with plenty of loose collectable fluorite).

Afternoon: A dash back down (1 hour's drive) to Thrislington Quarry (near the A1). The quarry is actively working the Permian Raisby Formation, but below this is the fossiliferous Marl Slate. The 'slate' is famous for well-preserved fossil fish (and occasional reptiles!). Bring a hammer and chisel...need I say more!

Please complete the booking form on page 15, and return it to: Steve Mclean, Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, Borough Road, Sunderland, Wearside SR1 1PP Tel. 091 514 1235 by 26 June 1992.

29 July - 1 August 1992 Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology, 15 Third Street, Troy, New York

Northeastern Science Foundation, Inc. and the History of the Earth Sciences Society: Following the footsteps of geologic pioneers.

This meeting will combine field trips with sessions of theme-oriented papers, volunteer papers and posters. The program consists of five parts: (1) the history of Canadian geology, focusing on the 150th anniversary of the Geological Survey of Canada, (2) the US - Canada connection, (3) the trans-Atlantic link, (4) volunteer papers and posters and (5) field trips to classic geologic sites.

Contact: Dr Gerald M. Friedman, Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology, Northeastern Science Foundation affiliated with Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, PO Box 746, Troy, NY 12180-0746 USA.

6 August 1992 Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge
GCG Workshop: Microenvironmental control for geological specimens
Tutor: Chris Collins

This workshop will examine the various techniques that can be used to create microenvironments around specimens in order to maintain appropriate humidity levels etc.

Contact: Chris Collins, Sedgwick Museum, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ Tel. 0223 333456

2 - 11 September 1992 Dijon, France
Second Summer School of scientific and technical museology.

Contact: Monsieur le Directeur, Ecole d'été de Muséologie des Sciences et des Techniques, Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale (DRED - Mission Musées), 142 rue du Bac, 75007 Paris, France. Fax: 49.55.05.35

14 - 18 September 1992 Plymouth
Museums Association Annual Conference

Wednesday 16 September GCG Concurrent Session: Documenting the landscape
A number of museum disciplines record information relating to the landscape. Computerisation of such information requires careful consideration of vocabularies. Progress is being made with the development of agreed terminologies, but problems await. This session will explore recent approaches particularly using a new package aimed at geologists, but applicable to many disciplines.

Convener: Mike Bishop, Assistant Curator, Plymouth Museums
Speakers: John Cooper, GCG Chairman
Charles Copp, independent computer consultant.

Contact: The Museums Association, 34 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SF
Tel. 071 404 4767.

15 September 1992 Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Bristol
1st Symposium for palaeontological preparators and conservators.

Contact: Eric Milsom, Lamont Cottage, Norton Green, Freshwater, Isle of Wight
PO40 9RY Tel. 0983 753192.

23 - 25 September 1992 Edinburgh
Joint meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the National Museums of Scotland: Volcanism and early terrestrial biotas.

Contact: Sandra McDougall, Meetings Secretary, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22,24 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ.

29 September 1992 Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans

GCG Seminar: Geology and museum education

10.00 Coffee

10.30 Introductions: Kate Pontin and David Curry

10.45 Keynote speaker: to be arranged.

11.30 First workshop session: David Curry: Town trails

Kate Pontin: Worksheets

Diana Hawkes: Handling and gallery sessions

Andrew Mathieson: In-service courses, fieldwork and specimens.

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Second workshop session: as above

15.45 Tea

16.10 Discussion

16.30 Disperse

Please complete the booking form on page 15, and send it to David Curry, Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3RR Tel. 0727 56679 by 7 September 1992.

2 - 3 December 1992 Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe

GCG Seminar and AGM: Fossil digs: the practicalities of fossil excavation.

Including visit to ironstone mines and other local sites.

Contact: Simon Knell, Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN15 7BD. Tel. 0724 843533 / 280444.

Meetings mailing list

GCG is compiling a mailing list for societies and groups who wish to receive details of GCG's meetings programme. Members who would like to suggest organisations for inclusion in this list should contact Simon Knell, GCG Secretary, Scunthorpe Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe DN14 7BD Tel. 0724 843533

Exhibitions

The Dinosaur Roadshow

Inverness Museum 8 May - 28 July 1992

Preston Aug - Oct 1992

Stoke Museum 7 Nov - 31 Jan 1993

Dinosaurs from China

Yorkshire Museum 27 Mar - 31 Oct 1992

Dinosaurs alive!

Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre until 10 May 1992

Ulster Museum 2 June - 27 Sep 1992

Dinosaurs - a global view

Ulster Museum

2 June - 27 Sep 1992

The story of the earth

Geological Museum, Trinity College, Dublin

until Oct 1992

Mammoths and the Ice Age

National Museum of Wales

until 10 Jan 1993

Dudley Rock and Fossil Fair

As those who attended the last GCG AGM in Dudley will be aware, 1992 is the 150th anniversary of Dudley's celebrated geological collection, established by the Dudley and Midland Geological Society on its inauguration in January 1842. Dudley has long been regarded as one of Britain's most important geological locations, its fortune rooted in the rocks beneath the town, and its wealth of superb fossils sought by collectors all over the world.

Recently we have been trying to re-establish that reputation, and in this anniversary year we are seeking to mark the occasion with an event which puts Dudley very much on the geological map. Our aim is to hold the Dudley Rock and Fossil Fair - a major geological event - in Dudley Town Hall on the weekend of 28-29 November 1992, with up to 40 stallholders representing all aspects of geology.

These will include multi-national companies, national organisations, dealers in minerals, fossils, equipment and books, as well as societies, educational bodies and special interest groups. There will also be numerous special events such as competitions, film shows, demonstrations, talks and guided tours of the Borough's key geological attractions. The Fair will build on the success of the Annual Rock'n' Fossil Roadshow held at Dudley Museum, which this year attracted over 1,200 people. The target audience for the Fair will be laymen, interested amateurs and students. In effect, it will be a tribute not just to the role geology has played in shaping the Black Country heritage but to geology as a whole and as such, will be advertised nationally. We hope for an attendance of between 5,000 and 10,000 over the two days.

In conjunction with the Fair, we intend holding a major exhibition featuring the cream of the fossil collections which once resided in Dudley as part of the original collection and we will be re-opening the Museum's Geological gallery after major refurbishment.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Fair, in whatever capacity, can get more information by contacting me, Colin Reid, at Dudley Museum, St James's Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HU Tel 0384 453574.

Mineral Shows

16 - 17 May 1992 Leicester International Gem and Mineral Fair

Holiday Inn Hotel, Leicester

29 - 31 August 1992 Harrogate International Gem and Mineral Fair

Crown Hotel, Crown Place, Harrogate

17 - 18 October 1992 London International Gem and Mineral Fair

Holiday Inn Hotel, Swiss Cottage, London

Contact: John F. Turner, 'Glenjoy', 19-21 Sun Lane, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire
WF1 1JD Tel. 0924 373786

New gallery at Scunthorpe

Scunthorpe Museum opened a major new natural history gallery on 21 April. Entitled *Messengers from paradise*, the exhibition combines fossil and modern specimens to illustrate the vanished tropical seas of Jurassic Lincolnshire and the threats to the modern fauna and flora. The exhibition uses state of the art display technology and includes some of the finest fossils in Britain, superb birds, crawl-in burrows, a computer game, atmospheric sounds, live satellite pictures, and underwater reconstructions. Construction of the new gallery was funded by Scunthorpe Borough Council with the assistance of the Museum and Galleries Commission Refurbishment Fund, Yorkshire and Humberside Museums Council, The Royal Society COPUS Fund, and the Science Museum PRISM Fund.

Dinosaur at the Natural History Museum

Dinosaur is the title of an exhibition which opened on 15 April in the Natural History Museum's new Ronson Gallery. This new, permanent display includes 3 full-size robotic dinosaurs, as well as skeletons and hands-on specimens.

Derby City Museum *On the Rocks*: the new Geology Gallery.

This exciting display project, portraying the geology of that classic geological county, Derbyshire, has recently opened. It forms the first phase of the *Derbyshire Nature Gallery*, housed in the impressive 19th century wing of the Museum.

We know that geology is an incredibly exciting and absorbing subject - but it can be a big turn-off for the non-specialist museum visitor if it is not presented imaginatively. The new project at Derby is an ultra-modern and visually stunning exhibition which really brings the subject alive and explains what might otherwise be difficult concepts in an immediate and gripping manner.

There are, in fact, many specimens, but also plenty of pictures and models. Although most definitely a modern display, the whole has been subtly designed to blend

perfectly with the architecture and colour scheme of the newly restored Victorian wing.

The story begins with a look at the extraordinary 18th and 19th century personalities who pioneered the study of geology, mainly from studying the rocks of our county. One of them is White Watson from Bakewell. He specialised in making exquisite inlaid stone tablets, which reproduced in diagrammatic form geological sections across various parts of Derbyshire and the Peak District, using polished examples of the actual rocks. Two of these remarkable pieces are on show.

General concepts about minerals, rocks and fossils are introduced by means of a splendid collection of specimens from all over the world. Then follows a consideration of how the underlying rocks have produced the unique Derbyshire landscape and how they were formed in the first place.

A series of touchable Derbyshire rock samples are illuminated one at a time as the visitor presses a series of buttons. At the same time colour transparencies of the typical scenery produced by each rock light up and the strata from which they came are pin-pointed on a geological map-model.

Another display features a huge and skilfully mounted 120,000 year old hippopotamus skeleton excavated in 1895 from river gravels of Ipswichian Interglacial age, in the yard of a Derby inn. It is accompanied by a fascinating series of bone-fragments of similar date, excavated nearby in 1973. These are from such animals as the gigantic straight-tusked elephant, narrow-nosed rhinoceros, brown bear and hyaena, as well as further hippopotamus remains - including two of the largest tusks ever found in Britain.

The centrepiece of the gallery is the 'Time Tunnel'. Here one walks through the geological ages in the shape of a series of dioramas. These vividly recreate what the landscape was like at the point on the earth's surface now occupied by Derby City Museum at various episodes in the past, starting 700 million years ago in the Precambrian, and ending 9000 years ago in post-glacial times.

This kind of thing has been done before! However, we have made the displays highly relevant to our locality. Portholes give views of, for example, a volcanic eruption; scenes below the Carboniferous sea with cephalopods and corals; a baking Triassic desert; a swampy coast in Jurassic times, with dinosaurs; a river with hippopotami; a frozen late Pleistocene landscape with mammoth. A wealth of fossil specimens are displayed alongside each porthole, as the evidence for the modelled reconstructions.

The emphasis is very much on visitor involvement, with plenty of buttons to press to make things happen and specimens to touch. The culmination of this is the

Discovery Area, where there is the opportunity to open a series of boxes, to pick up and handle the real specimens inside, and for the visitors to make their own deductions.

The exhibition was very much 'in-house', being conceived, designed and constructed by staff of the Natural History Section (Bill Grange, Keeper, and Nick Moyes, Assistant Keeper) and Design Section (Chris Frith and his team). Although all efforts have been made to create displays exciting to the non-specialist, whether adult or child, no compromises have been made in scientific accuracy and the standards of presentation and design are of the highest.

As already mentioned, *On the Rocks*, although a self-contained geology gallery, is the first stage of a greater project. The second phase, which is to be closely integrated with the first, will deal with the Derbyshire of today.

The backbone of this exhibition will be a series of accurately constructed dioramas which will evoke a journey from the high moors in the northern Peak District to the city of Derby, roughly following the course of the River Derwent. As the journey proceeds, the seasons will advance, and different weather conditions portrayed, so that the countryside of a remarkable area will be shown in all its moods. Specimens of animals and plants will be displayed in life-like attitudes to demonstrate various facets of adaptation and behaviour.

Throughout, the influence of the underlying geology on the make-up of different habitats will be stressed. The tremendous, often destructive, impact of human activities on wildlife will also be an important theme. This second phase is expected to take a further two years to complete.

W.M. Grange
Keeper of Natural History, Derby City Museum.

Travelling exhibitions

GCG Secretary Simon Knell would like to hear from any museums interested in collaborating with a national or large provincial museum in producing a geological travelling exhibition. Simon can be contacted at Scunthorpe Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe DN14 7BD Tel. 0724 843533

Wanted: one Carboniferous forest

Tolson Museum is seeking materials such as models or props for use in the construction of a replica Coal Measures forest in a temporary exhibition opening in July 1992. If anyone can assist with materials or suggestions, please contact Chris Yeates, Tolson Memorial Museum, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 8DY Tel. 0484 530591.

Lyme Regis Museum Appeal

Lyme Regis (Philpot) Museum has launched an appeal to raise £10,000 towards a major refurbishment project costing £100,000. Grants have been awarded from the Museums and Galleries Commission's Capital Grant Fund and Museums Improvement Fund (Wolfson), and a grant application is currently being considered by West Dorset District Council. The first phase includes improved insulation, damp control, and storage facilities. Plans for the redisplay of the geology collections will emphasise the work of Mary Anning and the role of Lyme Regis as the cradle of palaeontology. Patrons of the appeal are the former Director of the British Museum Sir David Wilson and John Fowles, former Curator and now Honorary Archivist of the Philpot Museum. If any member wishes to contribute to the appeal, donations (payable to the Lyme Regis Museum Appeal) should be sent to the Trustees of Lyme Regis Museum Appeal, Lyme Regis (Philpot) Museum, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3QA.

Newish publications

Huxley at work. With the scientific correspondence of T.H. Huxley and the Rev. Dr George Gordon of Birnie near Elgin by Michael Collie. Macmillan Press, 1991, xii + 158pp. ISBN 0 333 51059 3, £30.00.

The old metal mines of Mid Wales. Part 6 A Miscellany by David Bick. The Pound House, 1991, 72pp. ISBN 0 906 88508 6, £4.95.

Crystal and gem. Eyewitness Guide No.25 by R.F. Symes & R.R. Harding. Dorling Kindersley in association with the Natural History Museum, London, 1991, 64pp. ISBN 0 86318 575 4, £7.99.

A catalogue of Carboniferous corals in the National Museums of Scotland by A.G. Sutherland. National Museums of Scotland Information Series No.9, 1991, 46pp. ISSN 0952 7737.

Mammoths, mastodonts and elephants by G. Haynes. Cambridge University Press, 1991, 413pp. ISBN 0 521 38435 4, £40.00.

Life and death: the practical conservation of natural history collections edited by R. Entwistle, G. Kemp, J. Marsden & V. Todd. UK Institute for Conservation, 1992, 36pp. ISBN 1 871656 15 X, £8.00 (£6.00 to UKIC members).

Museums and the shaping of knowledge by E. Hooper-Greenhill. Routledge, 1992, ix + 232pp. ISBN 0 415 06145 8.

Lakeland rocks and landscape. A field guide by the Cumberland Geological Society. Ellenbank Press, 1992, 160pp. ISBN 1 873551 03 7, £7.99.

The Geological Column 1992

Michael Eagar and Fred Dunning have produced a new edition of the Manchester Geological Column leaflet. This, the seventh edition, is completely revised and has new features. It is available from Printguide Ltd, Southmoor Moor, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 9NR, price 95p + 20p postage and packing. For bulk orders at much reduced prices, telephone 061 945 4541.

UK Journal of Mines and Minerals

Michael P. Cooper, Managing Editor of the *UK Journal of Mines and Minerals (UKJMM)*, is keen to include in the journal news of mineralogical and mining historical initiatives by museums. New exhibits, acquisitions, mineralogical or geological events could all be publicised free in the journal's *Diary* pages or *Mineral News* columns. He is also keen to have at least one article on a museum mineral collection in each issue, particularly lesser-known provincial collections. Recent issues have covered the Natural History Museum, Wollaton Hall in Nottingham, Liverpool Museum, and in the next issue, the Ruskin Gallery in Sheffield. A *Guide for authors* is available from Michael Cooper and the journal may also be able to provide assistance with specimen photography to museums without a photographer.

The *UKJMM* is bought predominantly by mineral collectors and mining enthusiasts and provides an opportunity for museums with collections of minerals or metal-mining artifacts and data to reach a wider audience. The Journal is published twice a year in the spring and autumn. Any articles or notes should be sent to Michael P. Cooper, 41 Albany Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7 7LX Tel. 0602 620711.

Free Geological Curators

Andy Kendall, a former member of GCG and now something in computing has donated 10 copies of *The Geological Curator* to go to a needy member of the Group. The copies run from volume 4 number 5 to volume 5 number 4 inclusive, and contain the issue devoted to conservation. If anyone would like these, free but for the cost of postage, contact Tom Sharpe, 49 Kelston Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF4 2AG by 31 May 1992. Should there be a deluge of applications, a draw will held.

Evolution of RockWATCHING

In the beginning there was a germ. This germ of an idea has slowly evolved from a discussion, into a media presentation, and is now radiating out into newsletters, surveys and expeditions. Now, RockWATCH, the club for active involvement in things geological, is exploring every possible niche in which to develop and grow.

Already media coverage and a survey to build up a database of local geological sites has led to people joining, and this even before the new RockWATCH club has started producing materials in any significant way. Primarily, RockWATCH has to be fun and aimed at families, in much the same way that WATCH Club has had success involving people in and raising awareness of environmental issues such as acid rain. Much time has been spent in planning before producing materials - no gadgets and gimmicks unless they are scientifically credible, and here, the Geologists' Association is actively ensuring the facts and methods are correct. Now, in best promotion/advertising speak, I can offer you:

1. Advertising for your family based geological events, broadcast throughout the RockWATCH Network (which includes the Wildlife Trusts).
2. An opportunity for you to submit articles and items of geological news from your area. We would like to offer an up-to-date geological version of ITN or Reuters!
3. A chance for you to publicise RockWATCH projects and membership. You may even want to run a RockWATCH group.
4. A RockWATCH Roadshow at any major event, assuming we are not already booked up.

In the meantime we are looking for outlets for our survey form. If you can help, please contact Wayne from WATCH at The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JR.

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GCG Seminar and field excursion
SUNDERLAND MUSEUM 7-8 July 1992
BOOKING FORM

I will be attending the seminar on 7 July

I will be attending the field meeting on 8 July

I have/will need transport for the field meeting

I would like details of local accommodation

I would like to go for an Indian meal on the evening of 7 July (numbers required for booking)

From: Name.....Title.....

Address.....

..... Tel.....

Please return this section to Steve Mclean, Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, Borough Road, Sunderland, Wearside SR1 1PP (Tel. 091 514 1235) **by 26 June 1992.**

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GCG Seminar
ST ALBANS MUSEUM 29 September 1992
BOOKING FORM

I will be attending the seminar

I would like details of local accommodation

From: Name.....Title.....

Address.....

..... Tel.....

Please return this section to David Curry, Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3RR **by 7 September 1992.**

GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP



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