



No. 30, Spring 1996

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## ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Association members should be aware that the paper Newsletter contains the audited accounts. These are not reproduced here. [Back to Contents](#)

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## *Palaeo-Comment*

### **Palaeontological Research Outside Universities**

I am a palaeontologist and proud of it, but I haven't been employed as a geologist of any kind since gaining my B.Sc. in the mid-'80's. I have recently completed my Ph.D. part-time, have published a number of papers and intend to continue research work. To this end I have just applied to and been awarded money from the Sylvester-Bradley Fund, which will enable me to pursue the subject that interests me so much, the study of graptolites. I tell you all this to show that it is possible. I get a great deal of satisfaction from studying what I have been trained to study. I live in a remote part of Scotland, yet manage to keep in touch with colleagues. I believe that as electronic communication improves, and with increased use of distance-learning courses, more people will find themselves linked in this way. Towards the end of the 'writing up' process I must admit it was hard work on my own, but I found that I was never really alone and always felt involved. I was not within the standard system, but did not feel that I was excluded.

There are many sources of motivation and encouragement. Many colleagues are at the end of the telephone, willing to discuss ideas. Most authors will send reprints of papers and there are many folk within university departments with access to facilities that they can share or arrange use of. The main source of motivation for me was attending various meetings. I always leave the annual Pal. Ass. gathering feeling inspired to continue and with many research ideas. For me the British and Irish Graptolite Group (BIG G) meetings have been useful and most branches of palaeontology have similar groups. The discussion at these meetings is more informal. It is a chance to compare notes with colleagues, find references to obscure papers and initiate collaborative projects. It is these projects that sometimes help bring back to the subject many of those who have not practised palaeontology for a while.

Amongst the many enthusiastic amateurs there is a vast untapped resource of qualified individuals with an interest in fossils and, potentially, a significant contribution to make. There are many who, for whatever

reasons, were unable to obtain employment as palaeontologists after finishing their thesis and have let their contact lapse.

If more of these people can be encouraged to take up research again, there is much to be gained. It is up to those individuals and to the palaeontological community to make sure that this resource is used. The longer you leave it, the more difficult research seems. Perhaps you didn't write up that chapter from your thesis that you said you would. It doesn't matter how long ago it was, do it now. It may take you a few hours to catch up with the literature, but if you once enjoyed it you will again. There are very few people who work as palaeontologists full time. I suspect that even those few with university positions spend much of their time on administration and teaching. A great deal of the research work published is testament to the dedication of people working outside the standard 9-5 day.

There are many projects out there to be tackled and a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction waiting for you when you finally solve the problems and see your work in print. There are even small grants and funds to be applied for, just enough to help you get going and to advance our subject one step further. All you have to do is to get up, get in contact and do it.

*Dr Elizabeth Bull*

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## Articles

### **The Geologists' Association - from 19th to 21st Century**

Nearly 140 years ago the Geologists' Association was founded to promote the study of geology, particularly drawing together professional geologists and a wider amateur community with varied geological interests. Having throughout its history played the role of a learned society for its members, it has in recent years developed new roles, promoting and supporting a wider awareness and appreciation of geology and strengthening the place of geology in a broader view of the environment.

From its first days the GA has held regular lectures at which a wide range of geological subjects are presented and discussed, and four times a year it publishes a learned journal - the Proceedings - in which authors report on

their work, details of field meetings can be recorded, with reviews and correspondence. It also provides a members' newsletter - the Circular - with articles, views, comment and reports on anything geological. Celebrating its centenary in 1958 it introduced a series of Guides which continues to grow, covering many geological locations in Britain and more recently a range of popular holiday destinations overseas. An annual programme of field visits both within the British Isles and to places abroad is maintained. The Association's Library and map collection are incorporated with the Library of University College, London to which GA members have access.

The GA is able to provide support in practical form to any geological activity, regardless of origin, by means of several funds from which it can grant money. In recent years it has provided over [[sterling]]200,000 for site and specimen conservation and display, exhibitions, publications of local guides and leaflets, fieldwork and hire of plant, individual travel both from and to the UK.

The Association maintains wide and friendly links with other geological and outdoor organizations and societies, and with the Royal Society for Nature Conservation organizes a geological club - RockWatch - for young people, providing regular magazines and material to encourage their own activities, and a growing programme of field and museum visits. It has an editorial interest in the popular magazine *Geology Today*.

Finding that more and more outdoor conservation and 'green' debates, pressures and legislation were taking place without taking account of geological interests, the GA has provided input and evidence to safeguard these and to seek to provide for the growing public interest in geological matters, working with landowner and business interests. It is not possible to keep track of all that is going on throughout the country and cover it from the office in Burlington House in London. The Association therefore encourages and supports its 18 Local Groups and over 40 Affiliated Societies to monitor, contribute to and initiate local developments in addition to their own programmes of lectures and field meetings.

Over the last two years the Association has reviewed its way forward, taking account of its traditional functions, its responsibilities as a Registered Charity, members' views on what they liked and wanted and the increasing outside demands. To support its ability to undertake these growing activities it has initiated a campaign to strengthen its membership (with already over 450 new members since last summer), and has established an ongoing programme of seeking sponsor companies to fund

particular activities. It recently set up a wholly-owned company, GA Enterprises Ltd, to handle merchandising, and its Council is now implementing a radical review of how it organizes and runs its many functions.

Ninety-six years ago the Geologists' Association moved smoothly from the 19th to the 20th Century. With the plans in hand or in embryo it will move from the 20th to the 21st Century even stronger and better able to meet its aim to expand study and appreciation of Geology.

### **A suggestion for plate-making for *Palaeontology***

*Palaeontology* is rightly acclaimed for the standard of its illustrations, particularly the plates. Of course this not only reflects the care that every author takes when making up the plates, but the zeal of the *Palaeontology* editors in checking that the lighting really is predominantly from the upper left, that the shadows are not too dark, that a print has not been cropped too close to the image, or that all the prints on a composite plate match tonally.

As a result of all these checks, it is not inconceivable that an author may need to replace the occasional print on a plate, or even remake a plate.

The use of an adhesive for sticking the prints onto the mount may preclude re-use of existing prints or even ready removal of a print judged substandard. Most of the proprietary glues are either too permanent or not permanent enough. I understand that it is not unknown for an editor to open up a package containing plates and find clean mounts with a collection of loose photographs at the bottom.

Some of my colleagues swear by *Cow Gum*. Personally I find it somewhat messy, and although the smell and the fun of rubbing off the dried surplus from the fingers clearly adds to its attractiveness for some, I believe I have found a more satisfactory alternative.

This is *Uhu Colour Stic*, also sold as *Uhu Magic Stic*, widely available in high street stationers. It goes on as a mauve colour, so that you can easily see where and how much you have applied, but dries clear so you need not worry about excess on the mount. It is claimed to be solvent free, but I suspect it is water soluble. It also sticks very well, but allows you to slide the print around to the desired position prior to a firm press into place. A scalpel blade inserted between the print and mount, even after several months, will allow the two to be parted with a clean separation. I claim no

connection with the manufacturers, but write as a so far totally satisfied user. Its present price is 99p per stick and is, I suggest, a sound investment for those who want to make up their plates easily and cleanly with the knowledge that prints can be removed or re-used later.

*John C. W. Cope*  
*University of Wales Cardiff*

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## FUTURE MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

### Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution Meeting

Washington D.C., USA  
3 - 7 June 1996

The 4th stated meeting of SAPE will be held in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., from 3-7 June 1996. If you have not already requested to be placed on the list to receive circulars and registration forms, please contact: Storrs L. Olson, National Museum of Natural History MCR 116, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

**The deadline for receipt of manuscripts of papers presented at the meeting will be the last day of the meeting - Prepare your paper now**

Manuscripts may be submitted to Storrs Olson at any time prior to the meeting. Publication is intended for Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology.

Because the auction that we held at the SAPE meeting in Frankfurt was so successful and entertaining, we will be holding another auction to raise money for SAPE at the Washington meeting. Bring books, reprints, fossils, casts, memorabilia, etc. that you wish to donate for the auction.

**Do NOT bring specimens (e. g. skeletons) of modern birds.**

U.S. laws regarding importation of wildlife are very strict and cumbersome. Attempting to bring in skeletal specimens without proper permits might cause considerable legal problems. If you wish to offer skeletal specimens

for the SAPE auction, bring a certificate that the purchaser can redeem upon returning to his or her institution. It will be up to the supplier and the purchaser to obtain the necessary permits for shipping specimens between their respective countries. If it is absolutely necessary for you to import non-fossil specimens of birds for research purposes during your visit to the U.S., please contact us for information about the required permits.

Storrs Olson asked Peter Wellnhofer to organize a symposium/roundtable discussion on **The origin and early evolution of birds.**

Within the program of the 4th SAPE meeting, Storrs and Peter have agreed that the final day of the meeting, Friday, 7th June 1996, should be devoted to Mesozoic birds with formal presentations in the morning session and a roundtable discussion in the afternoon. Emphasis is given to the "early" evolution of birds thus excluding late Cretaceous birds of modern aspect.

For the roundtable they do not plan, and do not wish to admit, formal presentations or scheduled talks. It should be our goal to discuss frankly and openly a number of problems where there are opposing views. Our discussion should also greatly benefit from new data based on recent discoveries of Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous birds from China and Korea. The format of the roundtable could be a series of colloquies on given themes, moderated by selected participants. Moderators should be responsible for directing the discussions. If you want to participate in the roundtable discussions you may bring handouts and specimens. There will be probably a projector if you want to show a slide, and a blackboard.

The major themes for a roundtable that Peter has identified so far include: 1) New aspects of birds' ancestry; 2) Early evolution and radiation of birds; 3) Origin and evolution of the flight apparatus of birds.

Peter is open for any further proposals of areas which should be included as well as for any suggestions concerning the format of the roundtable. But, please, remember there will not be formal presentations, and emphasis is given to the "early" fossil records of birds.

If you have any ideas and suggestions, please contact:

Peter Wellnhofer, Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie, D80333 München, Germany, Tel (+49) 89 5203365, Fax (+49) 89 5203276, e-mail: [100071,1711@compuserve.com](mailto:100071,1711@compuserve.com)

 **North American Paleontological Convention - VI**

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

*9 - 12 June 1996*

Contact: NAPC-VI, c/o Department of Paleobiology, Mail Stop 121,  
National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. 20560, USA.

### **Biotic Recoveries from Mass Extinctions, IGCP Project 335**

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

*9 - 12 June 1996*

A symposium on "Biotic Recoveries from Mass Extinctions" will be held during the Sixth North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC 96) 9-12 June 1996 in Washington DC. The first circular is now available from NAPC-96, Dept of Paleobiology, MRC-121, National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC 20560, USA.

Contacts: Douglas H. Erwin, Dept of Paleobiology, NHB-121, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA 20560, Ph. (202) 357-2053, Fax: (202) 786-2832, email: [MNHPB028@SIVM.SI.EDU](mailto:MNHPB028@SIVM.SI.EDU); and

Erle G. Kaufman, Sabbatical Address: Earth Systems Science Cntr, Deike 248, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-2711, Ph: (814) 863-9663, Fax: (814) 865-3191, email: [claudia@essc.psu.edu](mailto:claudia@essc.psu.edu)

### **Fourth EPA Workshop: Environmental changes and Hominoid evolution**

Budapest, Hungary

*30 June - 2 July 1996*

\* First day (June 30th)

Pre-meeting excursion

8.00 am field trip to Ipolytarnóc and Hollókő: Lower Miocene footprints, plant fossils and petrified tree trunks; traditional village belongs to World Heritage

2.30 pm lunch at Hollókő

6.30 pm arrival Budapest

\* Second day (July 1st)

9.00 am welcome by the Director of the Geological Institute of Hungary

9.05 am welcome by the President of the EPA

9.10 am keynote address of Prof. Fritz F. Steininger (Forschungsinstitut



Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

### **Paleogeographical background of Hominoids in Europe**

9.55am keynote address of Prof. David R. Begun (University of Toronto, Canada)

### **Events in European Hominoid evolution**

10.40 am coffee break

11.30 am discussion of lectures and posters

12.30 am lunch

2.00 pm keynote address of Prof. László Kordos (Geological Institute of Hungary, Budapest, Hungary)

### **New records of Hominoid research at Rudabánya**

2.45 pm keynote address of Prof. Jorge Agusti (Barcelona, Spain)

### **Neogene Mammal dispersal events in Europe**

3.30 pm coffee break

4.00 pm keynote address of Prof. Jean-Pierre Suc (Lyon, France)

### **Late Neogene vegetation changes in Europe and Northern Africa**

4.45 pm discussion of lectures and posters

5.45pm visit to the Geological Institute of Hungary (including temporary exhibition of Hominoids and other fossils from Rudabánya locality, Hungary; video and slide programmes)

7.00 pm dinner

8.00 pm EPA Council Meeting

8.00 pm public talk by Prof. László Kordos (Budapest, Hungary)

### **Rudabánya and Human evolution (in Hungarian)**

\* Third day (July 2nd)

8.00 am field trip to Rudabánya Late Miocene Hominoid site (L. Kordos,

Budapest)

9.30 am break

11.30 am visit at the Hominoid site of Rudabánya

1.00 pm lunch at Aggtelek (Hotel Cseppkö)

2.30 pm EPA General Assembly

4.00 pm departure from Aggtelek

6.00 pm visit at the Middle Miocene Diatomic Quarry of Szurdokpüspöki

9.30 pm arrival Budapest

- Registration fee: 500.-FF (300.-FF for students) (including visits to Rudabánya and Szurdokpüspöki, lunch for 2nd day, coffee breaks, abstracts and guide book)
- Pre-meeting excursion fee: 150.-FF (including transportation, lunch)

Contact: Professor László Kordos

Geological Institute of Hungary, H-1143 Budapest

Stefania út 14 (Hungary)

Fax (36) 1 251 07 03

Registration forms and payments should be sent to:

Léa Grauvogel-Stamm, Treasurer

Laboratoire de Paléontologie et de Sédimentologie

Université Louis Pasteur - 1, rue Blessig

67084 Strasbourg cedex (France)

Fax (33) 88.36.72.35

## **The Sixth Canadian Paleontology Conference**

### **Economic and Applied Paleontology**

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

*28 - 30 September 1996* Note New Dates

It has been discovered that there are no hotel rooms to be had in Corner Brook, western Newfoundland from September 21-23, 1996 (due to a political convention being held by the Progressive Conservative Party).

Consequently, the Sixth Canadian Paleontology has had to be rescheduled and will now take place September 28-30, 1996

Newfoundland is currently the focus of hydrocarbon and mineral exploration both in terms of surface and subsurface studies and lease bidding. This has provided an unparalleled opportunity for local palaeontologists to demonstrate how palaeontology can contribute to the

location and development of economic plays.

The meeting next September is planned to illustrate the key fossiliferous units of western Newfoundland, ranging in age from Cambrian to Recent and incorporating everything from oceanic graptolitic shales to shallow marine shelly carbonates and fluvial plant-bearing sandstones. The oral forum will include discussion of how paleontological studies can be applied to the solution of economic and other more general geological problems. The three-day meeting will be based in Corner Brook; the first and last days (Saturday 21 and Monday 23 September) will comprise excursions to the Port au Port Peninsula, presently the site of intense hydrocarbon exploration activity. Technical sessions, with mostly oral presentations, will be held on Sunday 22 September in newly completed facilities at the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. We will encourage presentations related to the theme for the meeting, although other papers, especially from students, will also be welcome.

A number of medium-priced hotels are available in Corner Brook (e.g. Holiday Inn). The airport at Deer Lake is 50 minutes by taxi or shuttle bus, and is served by regular flights from Halifax and St. John's (including both Air Atlantic and Air Nova). At least one 15-seat minibus will be driven from St. John's on 20 September, with room for a number of participants interested in seeing a little more of Newfoundland (approximately a 9 hour drive). We are anticipating a number of non-regulars at this CPC, including representatives from both government and industry, and plan to have both formal and informal discussions with them related to the applications of palaeontology.

The Second Circular, which will include more detail of schedules, cost estimates, etc. will be mailed during the spring. If you are on the GAC Paleontology Division Newsletter mailing list you will receive it automatically; otherwise, please contact us via mail or e-mail with your address and telephone number if interested.

Henry Williams, Elliott Burden, Convenors, Dept of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NF, A1B 3X5, Canada, Tel: (709) 737-8142. e-mail: [williams@sparky2.esd.mun.ca](mailto:williams@sparky2.esd.mun.ca); [etburden@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:etburden@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

 **British and Irish Graptolite Group (BIG G)**

University of Edinburgh, UK  
*5 - 6 October 1996*

Contact Sue Rigby, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JW; e-mail: [suerigby@glg.ed.ac.uk](mailto:suerigby@glg.ed.ac.uk). All are welcome.

### **Third Baltic Stratigraphical Conference**

Tallinn, Estonia  
*8 - 11 October 1996*

The main topic of this conference, to be held in Tallinn, will be 'High-resolution Biostratigraphy and Baltic Regional Stratigraphy'.

Contact: Dimitri Kaljo, Chairman, Institute of Geology, Estonian Academy of Sciences, 7 Estonia Ave, EE0100 Tallinn, Estonia. Phone 372.2.454653, Fax 372.6.312074. E-mail: [kaljo@pzgeol.gi.ee](mailto:kaljo@pzgeol.gi.ee)

Further information is available in [Newsletter No. 27](#).

### **PaleoForams '97**

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, USA  
*17 - 21 August 1997*

Examining all aspects of Paleozoic Foraminifera and their stratigraphic and geographic distribution. An initial list of topics for which talks and/or posters are solicited include: Evolution, dispersal and paleobiogeography; Classification and taxonomy; Biostratigraphy and zonation; Paleoecology and sedimentary environments of deposition; Biological interpretations and significance; Numerical and statistical methods; Composite standard sections and their utility in Foraminifera biostratigraphy; New techniques. At this time the organizers welcome additional topics that participants wish to have included.

Field trips are planned through the late Paleozoic accreted terranes of southern British Columbia and to the Mid-Carboniferous boundary succession in southern Nevada.

For further information, contact the organizer: C. A. Ross, Dept. Geology, Western Washington University, MS-9080, Bellingham, WA 98225, USA; Fax: (+360)650-3634; e-mail: [rossjrp@henson.cc.wwu.edu](mailto:rossjrp@henson.cc.wwu.edu)

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## Newsletter copy

Information, whether copy as such or Newsletter messages, can be sent in writing to Dr R. B. Rickards, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, or Faxed (01223 333450). It would be helpful if longer items of copy could be sent on a 3 1/2" disk with text in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect. Disks clearly marked with the owner's name and address will be returned as soon as possible.

Review material, news (also preferably on disk), emergencies and advertising suggestions to Dr Sue Rigby, Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JW; e-mail [suerigby@glg.ed.ac.uk](mailto:suerigby@glg.ed.ac.uk) Last minute items may be sent by e-mail to Lori Snyder at [ljps@esc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ljps@esc.cam.ac.uk)

**Deadline for copy for Issue No. 31 is 31 July 1996.**

### **Palaeontological Association on the Internet**

The Palaeontological Association has its own pages on the world-wide web, including information about the Association, and copies of the *Newsletter*. The locator is

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/paleonet/PalAss/PalAss.html>

Site-keeper Mark Purnell can be reached by e-mail on [map2@le.ac.uk](mailto:map2@le.ac.uk)

### **Advertising in the Newsletter**

Advertising space in the printed paper version of the Newsletter will be made available at the rates given below to any organization or individual provided the content is appropriate to the aims of the Palaeontological Association. Association Members receive a 30% discount on the rates listed.

All copy will be subjected to editorial control. Although every effort will be made to ensure the bona fide nature of advertisements in the Newsletter, the Palaeontological Association cannot accept any responsibility for their content.

£75 for a half page £130 for a full page

These rates are for simple text advertisements printed in the same type face and size as the standard Newsletter text. Other type faces, line drawings, designs etc. can be printed.

**Rates for distribution of separate fliers with the Newsletter:**

1100 copies for worldwide distribution £230

850 copies for worldwide distribution exclusive of No. America £200

600 copies for U.K. circulation only £150

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*Reminder:  
Deadline for copy for Issue No. 31 is  
31 July 1996.*

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*HTML version of The Newsletter by [Mark Purnell \(map2@le.ac.uk\)](mailto:map2@le.ac.uk)*