

# HOGG

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



**Number 39  
June 2010**

## Front cover

Professor John Morris whose bicentenary occurs this year.

John Morris was born at Homerton, London, on 19th February 1810, and died in London on 7th January 1886. Initially educated at private school at Clifton in Berkshire, and later at Parson's Green, Fulham, he developed an early interest in astronomy, writing his first paper in 1836 on the Aurora Borealis visible at Kensington [in London where] he worked for a number of years as a pharmaceutical chemist ....before leaving the business to concentrate on geology and the natural sciences.....

Morris' greatest contribution to science was in the field of palaeontology. Amongst his contemporaries were Darwin (for whom he identified fossils), Mantell, Buckland, Fitton, Lyell, Geikie, Jukes, Sedgwick and his personal friend Prestwich. His early papers were concerned with Tertiary deposits in London and the south-east of England. Around 1836, he became a founder member of The London Clay Club, and began to collect material that was subsequently published as the *Catalogue of British Fossils* in 1843 ..... In recognition of the importance of this work, the Council of the Geological Society awarded him funding for both editions (1843 and 1854) of the catalogue..... Following two geological tours around Europe in 1853 and 1854, Morris was persuaded by his companion, Sir Roderick Murchison, to apply for the Chair of Geology at University College London (UCL), a post he held until 1877. ....His inspirational teaching, his capacity for enthusing his students...and his great contributions to the study of the geological sciences did not go unrecognised. In July 1870, at a meeting of the Geological Society presided over by Sir Roderick Murchison, a special presentation was made to Morris, together with the sum of £600, as a token of their appreciation. Six years later, he was awarded the first Lyell Medal.....

*Taken from 'A Short Biography of John Morris (1810-1886)' in UCL Museums & Collections. The Geology Collection. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/geology/history.html>.*

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### Editorial subcommittee

Beris Cox (e mail: beris.cox@btinternet.com)

David Earle (e mail: daearle@btinternet.com)

Dick Moody (e mail: rtj.moody@virgin.net)

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**The HOGG newsletter will be issued in February (copy deadline 31st January), June (copy deadline 31st May) and October (copy deadline 30th September).**

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Details of the Chancellor's budget will be out by the time this newsletter is distributed and, if the news broadcasts at the time of writing are to be believed, we will be reassessing priorities. However, it is a time of opportunity as well of austerity and sometimes what may seem like a savage cut could be put to advantage. A couple of my colleagues are currently undertaking a survey of a geological collection that is shortly to be either broken up and dispersed, or found a new home. This collection may still retain many important historical items with original

documentation. In these uncertain times, when many institutions or private individuals are looking at future priorities, I would urge HOGG members to remain alert for the possible dispersal of archives and collections. Much of our lesser known geological collections, documentation and library heritage could be lost during a time of rapid economic cuts if suitable advice is neither sought nor forthcoming. We need to be mindful that many of the lesser known archives and collections are fruitful hunting grounds for historical research which may shed light upon more significant events. Fortunately, HOGG, working alongside other interest groups such as the Geological Curators Group (GCG), is able to be in a position to monitor such events closely.

Another major news item at present is the BP clean-up and capping operation in the Gulf of Mexico. Why mention this in the HOGG newsletter? – simply because this is applied geology and petroleum engineering history in the making which could have important ramifications worldwide. By coincidence, I have recently refereed a paper on the history of applied micropalaeontology as applied to petroleum exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. The article ends with the move to deeper waters and the challenges faced in future exploration; the current tragic and unfortunate accident and its aftermath is just such an example of the new challenges we face. How these deep water exploration wells are dealt with and developed will become an applied history in time, and could potentially form part of a paper in a future HOGG meeting as we begin to focus upon more recent historical events.

Whilst I am on the topic of applied matters, I will mention once again that the HOGG meeting on the History of Applied Geology in November (details elsewhere in this newsletter) will include the HOGG AGM at which your current Chair will retire and a new committee will be elected. I would urge as many of you as possible to attend this interesting meeting, which has already attracted a very eclectic mix of papers, and also take part in the AGM. The life blood of HOGG is its membership and I would certainly like to see more proactive initiatives coming from outside the committee.

The HOGG meeting held on 9th April at Manchester University on '*Geology in the History of Provincial Scientific Societies*' was very successful and enjoyable. Although numbers were lower than at our Burlington House meetings, it was nevertheless gratifying to see how many members attended from far afield to either give papers or listen to the presentations. Our thanks must go to Beris Cox and Leucha Veneer for the HOGG organisation of the meeting, and special thanks to Mandy Edwards of the University of Manchester's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences for giving up her time and making the university facilities available to us. A report on the meeting appears in this newsletter.

Finally, I am sure that all of the HOGG membership will warmly applaud the successful conclusion of Leucha's doctoral studies, a short summary of which formed part of an impromptu presentation at the Manchester meeting when two of the speakers pulled out at relatively short notice. Leucha is

now based at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester where she is pursuing post-doctoral research.

Alan J. Bowden  
June 2010

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## HOGG COMMITTEE

**Chairman** Alan Bowden **Vice Chairman** Dick Moody **Secretary** Leucha Veneer  
**Treasurer** Beris Cox **Ordinary members** Tony Brook, David Earle, Nina Morgan,  
Martin Rudwick, Bob Symes, Hugh Torrens.

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## MEDAL WINNER

At their AGM in May this year, the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH) awarded a Founders' Medal to HOGG Committee member **Hugh Torrens**. The medal is awarded to persons who have made a substantial contribution to the study of the history or bibliography of natural history.

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## COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Four members of the current HOGG committee will be standing down in January 2011 when their term of office comes to an end.

Two nominations to fill these vacancies have already been received but we need at least two more. New committee members will be voted in at the 2010 AGM, which will be held on November 16th during HOGG's Applied Geology meeting at Burlington House, and will take up their positions on January 1st 2011. Ordinary committee members serve for three years and are expected to attend four committee meetings, held at Burlington House, each year; travel expenses are paid. If more than four nominations are received, a ballot will be held.

If you are interested in joining the HOGG committee, please contact the HOGG Secretary:

Dr Leucha Veneer  
Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine  
Room 2-66 Simon Building  
University of Manchester  
Brunswick Street  
Manchester  
M13 9PL      e mail [leucha.veneer@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:leucha.veneer@manchester.ac.uk)

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## HOGG'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The HOGG Oral History Project has been running for some years now and we have recorded a number of great interviews but we are also aware that some great lives have been missed.

As well as interviews with 'the great and the good', we are also keen to hear told accounts of things/events that have not been or will not be recorded in the literature.

As an alternative to the conventional face-to-face interview, one conducted by e-mail is another option which some may find more convenient.

If you would like take part in the project, either as interviewer or interviewee, or can suggest potential interviewees, please contact Nic Bilham (nic.bilham@geolsoc.org.uk).

*Interested parties may also like to read the article by Susan Turner on p.22 of this newsletter which reports on the oral archive being made in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).*

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## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned in Alan Bowden's 'Letter from the Chair' in Newsletter 37 (October 2009), HOGG is hoping to publish some budget-priced popular publications. To this end, Hugh Torrens and Nina Morgan are working on the remarkable story of the Stone Pipe Company – an early nineteenth-century tale of enterprise, applied geology, industrial engineering and eventual failure, that took place near the Cotswold village of Guiting Power. (See also *Lost Books* on page 12.)

More news of this in future newsletters.

We will also be looking for other topics to include in this series. Memoirs about the life, times and work of 19th and 20th century geologists would be of special interest. If you have access to material that might make an interesting short book aimed at a general readership, please get in touch with Nina Morgan (ninamorgan@lineone.net).

## GEOLOGY IN THE HISTORY OF PROVINCIAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

*Jay Bosanquet reports on the HOGG meeting held at Manchester University  
on 9th April 2010*

Ten speakers provided an impressive coverage of provincial scientific societies, ranging geographically from Cornwall to Newcastle upon Tyne, and extending overseas to Jamaica, mainly but not exclusively in the nineteenth century. Appropriately, the first speaker, **John Pollard**, described the eight scientific societies in Manchester during the period 1780-1850, including the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society (1781), the Royal Manchester Institution (1824), and the Manchester Geological Society (1839). A key figure in the last named was Edward Binney (1812-81), a wealthy solicitor and self-taught geologist. He was a forceful and controversial personality who was a founder member, with other self-trained geologists, of the Manchester Geological Society. He was elected a member of the Manchester Lit. and Phil. in 1842, and was its president three times, never missing a meeting. He wrote on the Lancashire Coal Measures, especially fossil plants. A founder of the Manchester Museum, he opposed access charges and the transfer of the collections to Owen's College in 1870.



The next speaker, **Geoff Tresise**, described how the Liverpool Geological Society (1859) initially met in the house of its founder, George H. Moreton (1826-1900), when its membership was constitutionally limited to 18. A rival body, the Liverpool Geological Association (LGA), was founded in 1880 by students of William Semmons because the Liverpool Geological Society (LGS) was unfriendly towards students and did not admit women members. There was also a marked reluctance to allow students to partake of the teas which were served at meetings! A leading member of the LGS was Joseph Lomas, who was the secretary of a British Association committee which investigated *Chirotherium* trackways in Storeton Quarry. However, when Lomas was killed in a train crash in Algeria, the result was the disintegration of the committee and the LGS. When the LGS and LGA merged in 1910, only 29 LGA members joined the new organisation. The LGA had been a brave attempt to practise emancipated ideals in a geological society.

**Ronald Austin**'s topic covered Swansea, the centre of the South Wales coalfield and also of limestone, copper, lead and silver extraction. In 1819, letters appeared in the local press requesting geological maps and sections. In response, the Cambrian Geological Society was founded in 1821. There were other cognate societies, notably the Swansea Literary and Philosophical Society (1835), in which L. Weston Dillwyn (1778-1855), a wealthy friend of De la Beche and Buckland, was prominent.



Next, the focus moved north to Yorkshire with **Noel Worley**'s account of the history of the Yorkshire Geological Society, founded in the year of Queen Victoria's coronation (1837), though originally under a different name. This is a society whose significance transcends its native county, even Britain, as it has a tradition of publishing papers of international scope in its *Proceedings* (e.g. the discovery of Precambrian fossils). Founded originally out of frustration at the lack of interest in economic geology, its founders were mine and factory owners, clergy and gentry. It had a tradition of peripatetic indoor and outdoor meetings, extending outside Yorkshire itself. Increasing numbers of university graduates in geology provided an influx of members in the twentieth century. Membership rose to over 1200 though, more recently, numbers have declined in part because of government cutbacks in geological education.

After lunch, **Patrick Boylan** told us about the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society (1835). Its precursor philosophical society, founded in the 1780s, had to contend with the opposition of a corrupt and reactionary city corporation, in which voting was confined to Freemen, who had to be Church of England and ‘of sound constitutional principles’. In 1835, at the time of the Municipal Reform Act, a reconciliation was effected between the warring factions (traditionalist Tory on one side, radical Nonconformist on the other) at the instigation of reasonable men from both camps – and it worked. Geology was always a strong component of the new Lit. and Phil.’s concerns, and remains so today.



As a slight diversion, there followed a showing of the Woolhope Naturalists’ Field Club’s DVD ‘*Picnic in Siluria*’, featuring Hugh Torrens in the role of Sir Roderick Murchison. It has been reviewed previously in the last HOGG Newsletter (no. 38) by Beris Cox, so I will not say any more about it now except that I enjoyed watching it.

**Hugh Torrens** then spoke (in person!) about ‘*A forgotten English museological initiative: the Midland counties natural history societies and museums of the 1830s*’. The first in the region was the Worcestershire Natural History Society in 1833. The promotion of natural history societies was often carried out by doctors. An example is Dr Thomas Lloyd who was a founder of the Ludlow Natural History Society in 1833, which was an important provider of Silurian fossils for Murchison. Professor Torrens pointed out that the concept of the natural history society, usually with a museum associated with it, arose as an important intermediate step between the philosophical movement, which instigated Lit. and Phils, and the field clubs which expanded rapidly after the 1830s, assisted by the expansion of the railway network in the following decades.



The focus then shifted south-west for **Norman Butcher**’s talk on the Devonshire Association (DA), which he described as a unique organisation. It was founded in 1862 by William Pengelly FRS (1812-94) of Torquay, the excavator of Kent’s Cavern and long-time secretary of the Torquay Natural History Society. It was organised on similar principles to the BA, meeting in a different place in Devon each year and with a different president, but with a wider remit which included literature and art, as well as science. The DA is now based in the Bishop’s Palace in Exeter, publishes an annual volume of *Reports and Transactions*, and has an active geology section. The speaker lamented the closure of the geology department at Exeter University.

Staying in the south-west, the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (RGSC) was the subject of **Simon Naylor**’s talk. This was founded in 1814 in Penzance, as the Cornwall Geological Society, at a time when the county was the largest copper-producing region in the world, and published its *Transactions* from 1818. Humphry Davy was one of the founding members. It was socially elitist (showing gentlemen’s ‘seats’ on its maps) and favoured facts over speculation. The improvement of mining and agriculture were two of its principal aims. The paper considered the place of geological maps in nineteenth-century visual culture, thus giving a broader perspective at the same time as showing specific examples of Cornish geological maps, such as those of Henry S. Boase (1799-1883), twice the secretary of the RGSC, who mapped the whole of the county in eight traverses.



Moving north-east, **Leucha Veneer** (who had stepped into the breach at the eleventh hour when **Cynthia Burek** and the keynote speaker **Simon Knell** were unable to give their talks) described the local geology and mining scene in Newcastle, 1790-1840. Networks of people involved in coal mining shared information, particularly colliery viewers who were intermediate between owners and labourers, and generally well educated. The Newcastle Lit. and Phil. was founded in 1793, with the Unitarian minister William Turner (1761-1859) its most prominent founder. It was concerned, among other things, with how scientific advances could benefit mining. The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne was founded in 1829, and again Turner was significant. It too established a geological programme and set out to produce county maps at 4 or 6 inches to a mile. But obtaining base maps was a problem as the Ordnance Survey had not yet reached the north-east; the Geological Survey eventually took over, and a National Mining Records Office was established in 1838. A museum was opened in 1834, and was open to all comers including holidays and evenings.



The final paper by **Stephen Donovan** turned overseas to Jamaica. In the early nineteenth century, Henry De la Beche honed his geological skills there as a young man, mapping part of the island in his spare time from superintending his family's plantations. Other leading Jamaican geologists in the nineteenth century were Lucas Barrett (1837-62), who was killed in a diving accident, and his assistant James G. Sawkins (1806-78). After the formation of the Geological Survey Department under the direction of the Latvian geologist Verners Zans (1904-61), the Jamaica Group of the Geologists' Association was founded in 1955, the only such group in the world. It encouraged the study of geology in high schools and was for both amateurs and professionals. Lawrence Chubb (1887-1971), one of Zans' staff who had studied at UCL, was elected president, and did much to popularise geology in Jamaica. The Group organised 12 lectures and 24 field trips during its five years of existence, before it became the independent Geological Society of Jamaica.

In summary, this was a most worthwhile conference, with speakers who clearly had a great enthusiasm for their topic, and I found it enormously interesting to hear about such a range of scientific societies and the individuals who led them. We learnt how practical and economic aims combined with intellectual inquiry in the spread of scientific and geological societies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Everyone who organised and took part in it should be commended.

## HISTORY ON THE HOOF

**Nina Morgan**

Field trips provide a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, share information, stimulate discussion and inspire the imagination – often while exercising the body in appalling weather conditions. On Sunday 9th May, in a new twist to the traditional type of field trip, nine HOGG members met in the centre of Oxford for a gentle geological walk to examine and discuss the stones used in some of the city's loveliest historic buildings.

The walk was led by Philip Powell, former and now honorary assistant curator of geology at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUM), who opened our eyes to the wide range and characteristics of building stones used in Oxford from early mediaeval times to the present. The walk ended at the OUM with a discussion of the history behind the stone pillars and statues in the main exhibition hall of this important Neo-Gothic building and an opportunity to view the new



historical exhibits commemorating the 150th anniversary of its opening. The visit concluded with a cup of tea in the Museum Common Room – and for a few members, an opportunity to gaze at the historical collection of geological publications in the Museum's Arkell Library, which is not generally open to the public. Amusingly, the sight of a group of geologists peering at the walls of buildings

through hand lenses clearly made an impression on some of the tourists also visiting the city. As we headed off towards the Radcliffe Camera after examining a nice example of the use of Headington Hard (Upper Jurassic Corallian limestone) in the wall of Brasenose College, a small group of Japanese visitors swooped in to stare at the same patch of wall. It's not clear what they made of it all!



(Photo: Graham Hickman)

The cost of the field trip was free to HOGG members but £15 to all others, to include a year's membership of HOGG. As a result of this trip, we can now welcome five new members to the group. This was the first of what the HOGG committee hope will turn out to be a series of visits centred on archives, buildings, museums and libraries with collections of interest to the history of geology. Informal feedback suggests that trips which include even a limited opportunity to explore behind the scenes are likely to prove popular with existing HOGG members and provide a good way to attract new members to join. Anyone out there willing and able to offer a venue?

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## FUTURE HOGG EVENTS

### \* HISTORY OF APPLIED GEOLOGY

**16th – 17th NOVEMBER 2010**

**Burlington House, Piccadilly, London  
(including HOGG AGM)**

Programme, call for student posters and registration form in this newsletter (see next page).

### \* GEOLOGICAL COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING

**4th -5th April 2011**

A two-day meeting on geological collections and collecting - including maps, books, fossils etc. with talks, exhibitions, workshops and behind the scenes tours - is planned to take place at the Natural History Museum in London on 4th-5th April 2011. For more information or to suggest a specific topic, contact Nina Morgan (e mail [ninamorgan@lineone.net](mailto:ninamorgan@lineone.net)).

### \* GEOLOGY AND MEDICINE

**November 2011 (including AGM)**

### \* METALLIFEROUS MINING IN THE SOUTH-WEST AND ITS LEGACY

**2012**

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## HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GROUP

### HISTORY OF APPLIED GEOLOGY

#### PROGRAMME

#### DAY 1 TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2010

09.30-10.30 **Registration. Tea and Coffee**

10.30-11.00 *Anglo-Irish “advances”?: William Smith (1769-1839), James Ryan (c.1770-1847) and the invention of scientific mineral prospecting* Hugh Torrens

11.00-11.30 *The life and work of Thomas Sopwith (1803-1879): mining engineer & surveyor and geologist* David Greenwood

11.30-11.45 **Short break**

11.45-12.15 *W. Henry Penning: A 19th century applied geologist* Martin Culshaw and Alan Forster

12.15-12.45 *The contribution of the Royal School of Mines to Applied Geology* Dick Selley

12.45-13.15 *John Stuart Webb FREng and Applied Geochemistry at the Imperial College of Science and technology, London* Richard Howarth

13.15-14.30 **Lunch (including HOGG AGM chaired by Alan Bowden)**

14.30-15.00 *The ideas, social pressures and practical needs driving the development of groundwater supplies in the UK over the past 400 years* John Mather

15.00-15.30 *Luna B. Leopold – hydrogeologist* Steven Wainwright

15.30-16.00 *John Milne: father of modern seismology - his life and work* Paul Kabrna

16.00-16.30 **Tea and posters**

16.30-17.00 *Sand, wind, war and water - the extraordinary work of Ralph Bagnold* Michael Welland

17.00-17.30 *Agates and WW2* Alan Bowden

17.30-18.00 *The ground instability legacy resulting from historical chalk mining in south-east England* Clive Edmonds

#### Questions and answers

18.15 Wine Reception (Lower Library)

19.30 Dinner at Getti's restaurant, Jermyn Street

## DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2010

09.30-10.30 **Single Day Registration. Tea and Coffee**

10.30-11.00 *European “schools” of applied micropalaeontology: science driven by conflict and competition* Haydon Bailey

11.00-11.30 *Interesting claims for Nummulites from Herodotus to madness!* Dick Moody

11.30-11.45 **Short break**

11.45-12.15 *The history of petroleum exploration: multiple evolving technologies based on a handful of underlying principles* Ken Chew and Anthony Spencer

12.15-12.45 *Aspects of geological employment in the extractive industries and the rise of the EIG*  
Geoff Walton

12.45-13.15 *Geomaterials* Ian Simms

13.15-14.30 **Lunch and posters**

14.30-15.00 *Mineral exploration in Britain - the last 50 years* Tim Coleman

15.00-15.30 *Peak District mining* Richard Shaw

15.30-16.00 *Scientific advice vs government policy: the case of the Haswell Colliery disaster (1844)* Anthony Brook

16.00-16.30 **Tea and coffee**

16.30-17.00 *Contaminated land* Paul Nathanail

17.00-17.30 *Geology and landslips* Ed Bromhead

17.30-18.00 *UK site investigation in the early 1960s* Max Barton

18.00 **Closing remarks**

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**REGISTRATION FORM AT THE BACK  
OF THIS NEWSLETTER**



# HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GROUP



## HISTORY OF APPLIED GEOLOGY

**Conference Dates: 16th-17th November 2010**

**Conference Venue: Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly London, W1J 0BG**

*Nearest underground stations are Piccadilly Circus (Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines) and Green Park (Jubilee and Victoria Lines). Burlington House is also home to the Royal Academy.*

**CONFERENCE ORGANISERS:** Richard T. J. Moody, David Earle, Helen Reeves

## CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS

The practice and application of geological methods and skills probably predate geology as a written or pure science. Applied Geology has developed rapidly over the last 50 years but its roots are founded in the work of builders, craftsmen, engineers, surveyors and natural historians over hundreds even thousands of years. The use of metals, building materials and medicines stimulated people into acquiring local and regional knowledge of outcrops, and the association of minerals and materials to a common source. With time, new areas of knowledge were developed such that modern applied geology comprises a host of disciplines based on knowledge of core geological skills. Applied geologists use their knowledge to the benefit of society, the economy and an ever-changing environment.

Student posters should focus on the history of Applied Geology over the last 200 years; bringing to life the work of individuals or the development of institutions that have played major roles in the development of a diverse but increasingly important science.

**The posters will be assessed on 16th-17th November 2010 with prizes of £100 and £50 awarded to the winner(s) and runners up.**

**STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE FOR MEETING £5.00.**

**For further information, please contact David Earle**

[daearle@btinternet.com](mailto:daearle@btinternet.com)



## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (GSL) APPOINTS ARCHIVIST

*Wendy Cawthorne of the GSL Library tells us that the Geol. Soc. has appointed a much needed archivist.*

Caroline Lam has been appointed Archivist/Records Manager of the Geological Society, working two days a week. Caroline is responsible for managing the Society's archives, implementing records management procedures for the Society's administrative records, and provision of an archive reference and enquiry service. She also works part-time for the University of East London where her tasks include managing the institutional archive as well as the deposited collections of the British Olympic Association, 1906-2009, and Hackney Empire, 1965-2009.

Caroline's email address is [caroline.lam@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:caroline.lam@geolsoc.org.uk)

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## WORLD CLASS COLLECTIONS – WORLD CLASS ACCESS?

*A personal view from HOGG member Geoff Carss*

In the UK, we owe a great debt to generations of curators, collectors, scientists and educators who have both appreciated the importance of geology and had the foresight to preserve key documents, maps and artefacts in the public domain.

Clearly, the curation of these collections is crucial to future generations. Much of the early material is more than 200 years old and it needs to be around for centuries to come.

Equally important is access to this material.

As a lapsed professional geologist with a strong amateur interest in the history of geology, I have found gaining access to some of the archive collections now in public hands very variable. Some curators are keen to provide access and have been a pleasure to engage with; they are highly knowledgeable in general and have deep subject knowledge. However, I have come across other curators who seem to regard the material as their own and who make access very difficult.

There clearly needs to be a balanced approach to providing access to archive material which takes account of the custodial duties of the curator and the interests of the bona fide researcher. Denying access, which sadly has been my experience in some cases, seems hard to justify for material in the public domain.

If you have any views on this subject, please let's hear them!

Geoff Carss  
e mail [geoff@earthsciencebooks.com](mailto:geoff@earthsciencebooks.com)

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## LOST BOOKS

***Our regular feature highlighting books or papers known to have been printed but of which no copy apparently remains. Please provide feedback or items for inclusion to Hugh Torrens (e mail: gga10@keele.ac.uk).***

### ***No. 5***

*An Elegy, sacred to the Memory of Lady Wright, formerly of Ray-House, Essex, but late of Bath, who, on the 6th January 1802 quitted the dark wilderness of this World...., by the Author of "The Celestial Companion".*

Probably published by the author (Robert Woolsey) himself, in Islington, London, in 1802 or 1803.

The notice of this *Elegy* in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (Vol. 73(2), p.539, June 1803) called it "a pious and affectionate tribute to the memory of an affectionate friend; but a little too much tinctured with Methodism"!

Lady Wright was born Catherine Stapleton (c. 1732-1802), daughter of rich baronet Sir William Stapleton (1698-1739). She married James Wright on 6th December 1754. Notice of the marriage stated "Yesterday was married by a Special Licence, at St George's Church, Hanover Square, James Wright, Esq., of the County of Warwick, to Miss Stapleton, only Daughter of the late Sir William Stapleton; a beautiful young Lady, with a Fortune of 30000[£]....". The couple were firm dissenters, adherents to the Congregationalists' Argyle Chapel. Their only son, Sir George Wright (c. 1769-1809), was the founder of the Stone Pipe Company and the man who had the – but only with hindsight – crazy idea to make water pipes out of Cotswold Stone. To judge from her correspondence with Dr William Withering (1741-1799) of the Lunar Society, his mother, from whom much of the Stone Pipe Company's money must have been derived, was clearly a highly intelligent woman with a serious interest in science and technology.

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## WANTED ITEMS

***HOGG member Geoff Carss is seeking the following items to complete part copies***

- 1) Murchison, R., de Verneuil, E and von Keyserling, A. 1845. *The geology of Russia in Europe and the Ural Mountains*. John Murray, London. Vol. 2 ('Paléontologie').
- 2) Murchison, R. 1839. *The Silurian System.....* John Murray, London. Vol. 1.
- 3) Murchison, R. 1839. *The Silurian System.....* John Murray, London. Accompanying detached hand coloured map.

Contact Geoff at [geoff@earthsciencebooks.com](mailto:geoff@earthsciencebooks.com)

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## BOOK REVIEW

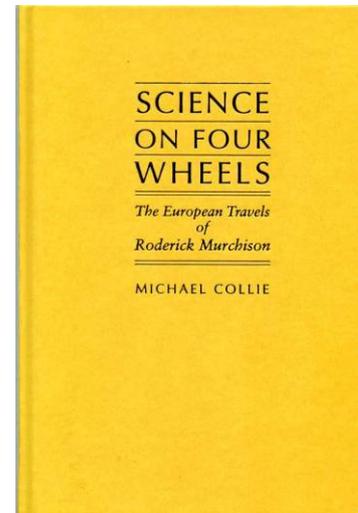
### *Science on Four Wheels: the Travels of Roderick Murchison (1840-1845)*

Michael Collie. 2010. Academica Press, xi + 199pp.

ISBN 9781933146591 (hardback) £78.50

Review by Leucha Veneer (University of Manchester)

Michael Collie has set out to write a book about scientific travel, examining the advantages that the careful planning of research-led fieldwork, combined with consideration of the practicalities of travel, gave the international geologist, and the problems that arose without or in spite of such planning. However, taking the example of Roderick Murchison's fieldwork in Russia, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia in the mid-nineteenth century, the book becomes almost a biography, and one that verges at times on hagiography. Collie becomes more interested in a psychological account of Murchison's work, and claims that his *Geology of Russia* (1845), in particular, was not and is not widely known, and therefore deserves historical attention.



Unfortunately, this contention, as with others that appear, is unconnected to any argument. In fact, the book has little in the way of sustained historical argument or analysis, either of scientific travel or of history of geology more generally. Collie states that, since his book is about travel, the intended reader is not just the historian of geology, but it is difficult to see what the intended readership is. The lack of detail regarding the wider historical setting irritates the specialist, yet would confuse the non-specialist, and not enough geological detail is given to interest the scientist. Nor are there any maps – a prerequisite, one might suppose, in a book about travel and geology. Furthermore, the production quality is so poor as to annoy any reader; errors of punctuation, grammar, spelling and spacing abound, and the use of scholarly apparatus such as quotes and footnotes is occasional and confusing.

Problems also arise through Collie's historical approach, which is to refer continually to present norms, both scientific and social; not only is this actually bewildering rather than illuminating, but this presentism and lack of historical context suggest there has been little consideration of history of science more generally. In particular, Collie's handling of 'science and religion' leaves much to be desired. On the positive side, the detail given regarding Murchison's itineraries, fieldwork, colleagues, correspondence and personal notes is useful, though some, at least, has appeared in other secondary sources with which Collie appears to be unfamiliar. Perhaps an edited collection of Murchison's journals, notes and correspondence might have better expressed the points Collie appears to want to make.

## BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE MONOGRAPHS

The British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) is having a ‘SUPERSALE’ with massive reductions on their monographs. These include

*To See the Fellows Fight: Eye Witness Accounts of Meetings of the Geological Society of London and Its Club, 1822-1868.*

2003

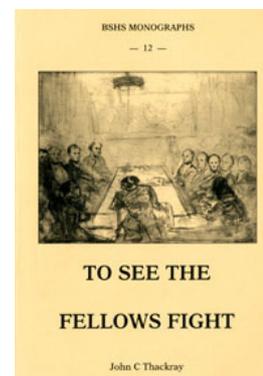
John C. Thackray, editor

**REDUCED FROM £15 to £2.**

Also, past monographs have been digitized and are now available for free download.

See the BSHS website for more details and an order form  
[www.bsbs.org.uk/monographs](http://www.bsbs.org.uk/monographs)

BSHS, PO Box 3401, Norwich NR7 7JF UK Tel. 01603 208563



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## REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

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### DARWIN IN THE FIELD: COLLECTING, OBSERVATION AND EXPERIMENT

*On 11th-12th July 2009, as part of their celebration of the bicentenary year of Charles Darwin's birth, the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge held a multi-disciplinary conference examining how Darwin operated as a field scientist. The conference was supported financially by the Palaeontological Association from whose newsletter (No. 72) the following report by Michael D. Barton, then of Montana State University, USA, is reproduced (with permission).*



Conferences about Charles Darwin abound[ed] in 2009. Most were broad in scope, exploring Darwin and his legacy, the impact of *On the Origin of Species*, evolution and society, and a myriad of other themes. Few conferences, however, have focused (or will focus) on rather narrow topics of research. ‘Darwin in the field: Collecting, Observation and Experiment’ was one such conference that brought together both historians of science and scientists interested in a very specific aspect of Darwin’s life and work: his practical work in the field, broadly interpreted. Whether geological, zoological or botanical, this conference explored how Darwin collected and observed in the field. Mostly revolving around the voyage of HMS *Beagle* in 1831-1836, and the many geological pursuits Darwin carried out then, papers also concerned regional excursions (Wales and Glen Roy), experimentation at Down House, and Darwin’s connection to botanical taxonomy.

“Hence, both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact – that mystery of mysteries – the first appearance of new beings on this earth”, Darwin wrote in his *The Voyage of the Beagle* (2nd ed., 1845). For a conference mostly about Darwin’s geological work, the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences (<http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org/>) at the University of Cambridge

was a fitting place to gather, especially since the museum now has an entire permanent exhibit devoted to Darwin as a geologist. Opened in 1904 in memory of the geologist Adam Sedgwick, and containing the collections he and John Woodward had previously accumulated, the Museum houses a vast collection of geological and palaeontological specimens, including those collected by Darwin himself. The timing of the conference was also very suitable, for it followed on from the week-long Cambridge Darwin Festival (5-10 July 2009, <http://www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk/>), giving the opportunity to conference attendees to get their fill of Darwin beyond 'Darwin in the Field' by way of lectures, panels, exhibits, art, theatre and music.

Eleven participants from the UK and the United States presented their research over two days. **John van Wyhe** (University of Cambridge) and **Gordon Chancellor** (University of Essex) began the first day with their research on Darwin's 15 field notebooks used during the voyage of HMS *Beagle*. This research is part of their project *The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online* (<http://darwin-online.org.uk/>) and the publication of their *Charles Darwin's Notebooks from the Voyage of the 'Beagle'* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). After describing the field notebooks as objects and their content, van Wyhe and Chancellor discussed how these notebooks can be used to understand Darwin's field methods and the process of turning his raw material into later publications. Rev. **Michael Roberts** of Lancaster presented on '*Darwin's Welsh Connections*', and how skills learned on excursions in Wales prepared Darwin for his time on the *Beagle*. Dr **Michael Howe** of the British Geological Survey outlined Darwin's data management system and how the Survey adopted an almost identical system of numbering specimens in the field. Howe also described other connections between Darwin and the Survey. Following Howe's presentation, the group broke for lunch and a special outdoor performance of the comedic "*Under the Floorboards: a time travelling adventure with the Rev. Adam Sedgwick*" by the street theatre group Pif-Paf Arts (<http://www.pif-paf.co.uk/index.php>).

Returning to Darwin, Professor **Paul Pearson**, a micropalaeontologist at Cardiff University, highlighted Darwin's attempt to synthesize his geological observations during the *Beagle* voyage into a unified theory of igneous geology, including a similar process to natural selection in the separation and settling of crystals that could cause changes to igneous rock compositions (a "liquid line of descent" according to Pearson). Professor **Martin Rudwick** (University of Cambridge), geologist turned historian of science, discussed Darwin's excursion to the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy in Scotland, his most substantial post-*Beagle* fieldwork, the resulting theory about their formation being "*one long gigantic blunder*", and the relationship between fieldwork and scientific reasoning. "*I give up the ghost*" said Darwin when he reluctantly gave up his interpretation decades later. Dr **Jim Endersby** (University of Sussex), author of *Imperial Nature: Joseph Hooker and the Practices of Victorian Science* (University of Chicago Press, 2008), presented on the practice of botanical taxonomy in light of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Joseph Dalton Hooker, one of Darwin's strongest supporters, downplayed Darwin's theory when applied to botanical taxonomy, stressing that since species are stable in human lifetimes, the theory of evolution should not have an impact on practice. In essence, Hooker allowed only himself to name new species in London, while his collectors, notably William Colenso, were limited in what they could do [taxonomically] with their specimens. Since Hooker worked as a botanist for a living, unlike the independently wealthy Darwin, keeping the number of plant species to a minimum allowed him to manage more easily the herbarium at Kew, in turn crucial to continuing government support. Dr **Jon Hodges** (University of Leeds), long-time Darwin historian, looked at the relationship between Darwin's fieldwork in South America with *Mastodon* bones and his reading with respect to accounts of species extinction.

Following the first day's presentations, there was a wine reception and viewing of the Museum's handsome new exhibit *Darwin the Geologist* (<http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org/exhibits/darwin.html>), focusing on Darwin's fieldwork, research and publications concerning geology. Of all the Darwin

exhibits I was able to see in Cambridge, this was my favourite, aesthetically pleasing in its layout and wonderful in its diversity of material. I particularly liked how the material is displayed in older wooden cabinets while a few computer-based activities are included in the exhibit, notably the giant touch screen globe allowing visitors to follow the *Beagle* voyage through the rocks Darwin collected.

The second day of 'Darwin in the Field' consisted of five more presentations, mine included. Dr **Phil Stone** of the British Geological Survey gave an appreciation for Darwin's fossil collection from the Falkland Islands and its use by his scientific contemporaries. Dr **Brian Rosen**, of the Natural History Museum in London, explored Darwin's long-overlooked coral reef collection and his related exhibit. Dr **Gowan Dawson**, Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature at the University of Leicester, presented on how fossils collected by Darwin during the *Beagle* voyage found a place in nineteenth-century popular culture. He focused on how the *Megatherium* became a metaphor for understanding novel technologies in a rapidly-changing era. My own paper, written as a history undergraduate at Montana State University, described Darwin's experimental programme with seeds at Down House. Darwin placed various seeds in salt water, then planted them to see if they would germinate. These experiments shed light on the possibility of transoceanic dispersal for various plants and animals, a crucial consideration to Darwin's transmutation theory. Joseph Dalton Hooker, however, argued against Darwin on these experiments, holding to the idea that land bridges and continental extensions explained the distribution of plants and animals across the globe. While I explored what occurred in these experiments and the dialogue between Darwin and Hooker, I argued that more was at stake with Hooker's dismissal of Darwin's ideas. Hooker did not approve of Darwin conducting the experiments at his home rather than a scientific institution such as Kew. In debating questions of geographical distribution, Darwin and Hooker were debating the geographical context of science itself. Following my presentation was **Alistair Sponsel**, a post-doctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution Archives in Washington, DC, and the only other presenter from outside the UK. Sponsel re-examined Darwin's claim that he developed his theory of coral reef formation on the west coast of South America, arguing that Darwin only developed the theory after leaving South America.

Personally, for a budding historian, the opportunity to present my undergraduate paper at this conference was a great experience for several reasons: one, for the actual experience of presenting a paper (my first beyond a strictly student conference); two, for the chance to meet a variety of scholars interested in the same kinds of history I am; and three, for being able to explore a place that I have read about for some time now: Cambridge. Being in Montana, far removed from the significant places in the life of one of my favourite historical figures, visiting Cambridge and all the associated Darwin and history of science sites was a real treat. Thank you to the organizing committee of the conference for accepting my paper, and to the Palaeontological Association for the travel funding making my trip possible. You can read more about my experience at this conference and in Cambridge on my blog *The Dispersal of Darwin* at <http://thedispersalofdarwin.wordpress.com/2009/08/18/cambridge-trip-posts/>.

Michael D Barton  
4611 SW Luradel St. #3, Portland, OR97219, USA  
e mail [darwinsbulldog@gmail.com](mailto:darwinsbulldog@gmail.com)

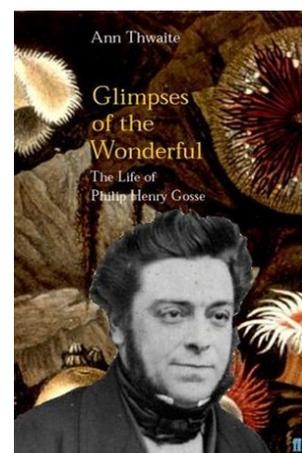


**SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF NATURAL HISTORY (SHNH)  
SPRING MEETING**

*Hugh Torrens reports on the SHNH Spring meeting in Torquay which commemorated the  
bicentenary of the naturalist Philip Henry Gosse.*

The Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH) held a memorable and effective Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888) bicentenary meeting in Torquay Museum over 14th-15th May 2010 to celebrate the life and work of this Victorian naturalist and religious writer whose image from his only son Edmund's infamous book *Father and Son* (1907) has survived too long.

The meeting got off to a fine start with a presentation by Ann Thwaite whose *Glimpses of the Wonderful* (2002) is now the standard biography of Gosse. She was followed by other noteworthy presentations on Gosse's work on aquaria, the birds of Jamaica, sea anemones and their Blaschka glass models, culminating in a fascinating paper on the printing history of Gosse's major work, the *Actinologia Britannica* of supposedly 1860 (but actually 1858 to 1859), by Ray Williams. All this had naturally rather little to do with geology but it should remind us that, for most Victorians, geology was still a vital part of natural history and had not become "the lost limb" of natural history amid today's specialisations. It was suggested that HOGG and SHNH might hope to have a joint meeting in the future.



Within geology, Gosse's only major contribution was his loss-making book *Omphalos* of 1857. As his *ODNB* entry (2004) well explains "...in 1857 Gosse became alarmed by the extent to which many scientists were taking the developmental ['evolutionary'] theory, yet he could not deny the scientific evidence which indicated that the earth was far older than had been previously believed. His precipitate action was to publish *Omphalos: an Attempt to Untie the Geological Knot* which he hoped would reconcile geology with the biblical account of creation and so halt the decline into apostasy. In it he.... argued that the earth had been created with fossils already in the rocks, giving it a false appearance of age, just as Adam would have had a navel, indicating an apparent past (*omphalus* is the Greek word for navel) although it had never been attached to an umbilical cord. Although *Omphalos* was widely reviewed, it was....universally condemned by both Christians and evolutionists. Gosse, however, stood firm and in 1866 issued a supplement entitled *Geology and God: which?*, in which he reaffirmed the prochronism hypothesis and replied to one of the main objections, namely that his theory implied God to be *Deus quidam deceptor*. Then in 1872 he again publicly defended *Omphalos* and wrote: 'Many have sneered at it (an easy process!) but I have not yet met with a single adversary who accepting my postulates have convicted me of non-sequitur' (*English Mechanic and World of Science*, 24 May 1872, 255). He claimed he had been greatly misunderstood, which is probably true (for it is clear he had never intended to defend a narrowly literalist interpretation of Genesis), but the damage had been done and his reputation had been ruined. To add to this, *Omphalos* was a huge financial loss but he bore this stoically and with good humour, for on 8 May 1869 he instructed his publisher Van Voorst to remainder the book and wrote: 'will you please arrange it: they will probably offer you as an old fox more than one whom they consider a Goose' ('Correspondence book of P. H. Gosse', privately held)."

## FUTURE MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

### GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP SEMINAR

#### *200 years of West Country sea dragons*

Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th July 2010

Strode Theatre, Street, Somerset



Following on from the highly successful PalAss review seminar 'Sea Dragons of Avalon', GCG has teamed up with three of the meeting organisers to run a similar event to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hawkins (1810-1889), the eccentric collector of Street and Lyme Regis marine reptiles.



The meeting will focus on Thomas Hawkins, his collections, legacy and modern collecting. Topics will include current locations and state of Hawkins' specimens, including issues of acquisition, mounting methods and conservation, as well as restoration/forgery. We will investigate Hawkins' life and work, his contemporaries, and Hawkins' (metaphorical) heirs – the modern collectors, preparators and curators, as well as site conservation.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**Thursday 22nd July** Strode Theatre, Church Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0AB

19.30           **PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE LECTURE**  
*The start of Dino-mania: the work of fossil monster hunters Mary Anning of Lyme Regis, and Thomas Hawkins of Street*  
Hugh Torrens (University of Keele)

**Friday 23rd July** Strode Theatre

#### SEMINAR

#### 200 YEARS OF WEST COUNTRY SEA DRAGONS: THOMAS HAWKINS AND HIS FOSSIL LEGACY

**9.00**           **Tea/Coffee**  
10.00-10.15   *Welcome*  
David Hill (Fleet Air Arm Museum and Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society)  
10.15-10.45   *Street as a fossil site*  
Leslie Noè (Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum) and Mike Taylor (National Museums Scotland)  
10.45-11.15   *Thomas Hawkins – his life and work*  
Mike Taylor (National Museums Scotland) and Jehane Melluish (Catcott)  
**11.15**           **Coffee break, posters**  
11:45-12.15   *Edward Charlesworth and Thomas Hawkins*  
Hugh Torrens (University of Keele)  
12.15-12.45   *The Hawkins collections at Cambridge and Oxford*  
Lyll Anderson (Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge)  
12.45-13.15   *The Etches Collection*  
Steve Etches (Kimmeridge)  
**13:15**           **Lunch**

- 14:15-14.45 *Fossil collecting in Dorset – the Charmouth Inquiry to today*  
Richard Edmonds (Jurassic Coast, Dorset County Council)
- 14.45-15.15 *Lyme Regis Museum - a home for Sea Dragons*  
Stephen Locke (Chairman of Trustees, Lyme Regis Museum)
- 15:15** **Tea break, posters**
- 15.45-16.30 *Summary and discussion*
- 16.30-18.00** ?Visit to Gillett Collection ichthyosaurs and plesiosaur etc and/or walk to old quarry sites

## **Saturday 24rd July**

### **FIELD TRIP**

- 09.00-15.30 Field trip to operating south Somerset quarries and scenery of the Polden Hills, including pub lunch; if weather or unforeseen circumstances dictate, an alternative will be arranged, probably Lyme
- c.15.30 Return to Street & depart

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For more information, please contact

Leslie Noe (e mail [Leslie.No@thinktank.ac.uk](mailto:Leslie.No@thinktank.ac.uk))  
Curator of Natural Science, Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum, Millenium Point,  
Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG

Mike Taylor (e mail [M.Taylor@nms.ac.uk](mailto:M.Taylor@nms.ac.uk))  
Research Associate, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

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**Madeley Living History Project**

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010*

**John Randall  
1810 - 1910  
*Shropshire's Grand Old Man***

**A day school to celebrate the  
bicentenary of his birth  
and the  
centenary of his death**

**10.00 am – 4.00pm**

**at**

**The John Randall School  
Queen Street, Madeley  
TF7 4DS**

***Tickets and further information from:***

**Shelagh Lewis,  
Madeley Living History Project,  
Jubilee House,  
74 High Street,  
Madeley,  
TF7 5AH  
01952 567288**

**[shelagh@madeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:shelagh@madeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

*(cheques should be made out to **Madeley Living History project**)*

**The day school will cover all aspects of John Randall's long and fruitful life from his birth and early years in Broseley, through his wide-ranging interests in geology and history and his skills as a china painter, to his death as a respected writer, publisher, local politician and Freeman of the Borough of Wenlock.**

**Speakers will include George Baugh, Neil Clarke, Roger Edmundson, Shelagh Lewis, Hugh Torrens and Barrie Trinder.**

**A small exhibition of Randall memorabilia, including photographs, family items, copies of his books and examples of his china painting, will be on display.**

**Lunch and morning & afternoon refreshments  
included in the ticket price of £5.00**

## Programme for John Randall day

<b>10.00-10.15:</b>	<b><i>Welcome and housekeeping</i></b>
10.15-10.40:	Neil Clarke ( <i>Randall's Early Years</i> )
10.40-11.20:	Hugh Torrens ( <i>Randall as Writer and Geologist</i> )
<b>11.20-11.50:</b>	<b><i>Tea /Coffee /view displays</i></b>
11.50-12.30:	Roger Edmundson ( <i>Randall the China Painter</i> )
12.30-12.45:	Questions
<b>12.45-13.45:</b>	<b><i>Lunch /view displays</i></b>
13.45-14.30:	Barrie Trinder ( <i>Randall the Historian</i> )
14.30-15.15:	George Baugh ( <i>Randall and Politics</i> )
<b>15.15-15.30:</b>	<b><i>Tea /Coffee / view displays</i></b>
15.30-16.00:	Shelagh Lewis ( <i>Randall's Madeley</i> )
16.00-16.15:	Questions and Close

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**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
FOUNDER'S DAY LECTURE AND DINNER  
THURSDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2010  
BURLINGTON HOUSE and LE MERIDIEN, PICCADILLY, LONDON**

**Lecture: *From Paviland to Pakefield: 700,000 years of Homo britannicus***  
**Speaker: Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum)**

**Dress: Black tie**  
**Tickets (price £70) are limited.**

**After dinner speaker: Dick Selley (Imperial College, London) *Dining with Dinosaurs***

The search for human origins has always been, and continues to be, fraught with issues of identity, race, religion and nationality. This, combined with a palaeontological record that is extremely fragmentary and difficult to interpret, makes palaeoanthropology one of the most hotly debated issues in science. Professor Chris Stringer will trace our attempts to make sense of the origins of *Homo britannicus*, from Dean Buckland's "Red Lady" to the present day.

For further details, contact  
Alys Hilbourne, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG  
Tel. 020 7432 0981 E mail alys.hilbourne@geolsoc.org.uk  
Web [www.geolsoc.org.uk/founders10](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/founders10)

## CAPTURING THE 50-YEAR HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (1961-2011)

*Susan Turner (Brisbane, Australia), member of INHIGEO, HOGG and ESHG (the Australian equivalent of HOGG), tells of plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the IUGS.*



In early 2009, the IUGS announced a plan to create their 50th anniversary history; a first workshop proclaiming this was held at the Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) meeting in Calgary in August. Previous efforts (see Schneer, 1995; Mason 2003) had looked particularly at certain events and aspects during the first decades and the time is ripe for a full analysis of the history and achievements of the Union going back to the post-WWII period when it was first mooted. Useful are the profiles and memories of the first IUGS president Jim Harrison and others of the executives to be found in *Episodes* (e.g. 1978, 1985, 1986). The new history work will allow reflection on the achievements and the future.

Early founders are getting older and Dr Johannes Dons, former Director of the Mineralogical Museum in Oslo and first IUGS Executive Treasurer died on November 14th last year. This sad news came just as the Secretariat, which has been based in Norway for 25 years was undertaking the massive job of transferring to a new country. The IUGS Secretariat moved to Trondheim when Richard Sinding-Larsen became Secretary-General in 1984.

At the same time, from November 10th –23rd, the Norwegian Committee hosted a visit by Australian INHIGEO member Dr Susan Turner, who as part of the task of preparing a 50th anniversary history spent some time assessing the state of the archives held at the Norwegian Geological Survey in Trondheim before the move to the USA. She had hoped to meet with Dr Dons but this was not to be. Fortunately, her successor in IUGS history work and another INHIGEO member, Emeritus Professor Cecil Schneer (University of New Hampshire, USA), had done so when working on the 25th anniversary and he had taped a conversation with Dr Dons. This tape is now one of an important oral archive being built for IUGS-50. While in Trondheim, Sue Turner interviewed, talked to and recorded several Norwegians who have been involved at high level with IUGS bodies to add to the legacy of tapes that Schneer had made. The tape archive now includes Cordani, Delaney, Dons, Drake, Lafferty, Refsdal, Sinding-Larsen, Trümpy and Wolff. We would ask all interested historians and IUGS National Committee members to see if they can tape their senior colleagues to help build the history of outreach.

Questions to ask: what work did they do for IUGS?; what brought them to work for IUGS or to hear about IUGS programmes, such as IGCP (e.g. Turner 2006)?; had they attended the 1960 IGC where IUGS was finally initiated, with draft Statutes submitted by the British delegation under Leonard Hawkes?; who had been involved with the foundation process in 1960-1961?; do they have memories, stories or anecdotes of their time with IUGS to share?

The former IUGS Secretariat in Trondheim, Anne Liinamaa-Dehls, undertook the job of scanning key documents and photographs amassed over the years to produce the first digital IUGS archive. Former Secretariat Hanne Refsdal had made tapes of meetings during her 15-year period in office and she has provided an invaluable photographic record to add to those already acquired from early Secretary-General Simon van der Heide and the Canadian GS and

*Episodes*, kept during Bill Hutchinson's era. These tapes with personal history and stories provide a very direct way of understanding the past workings of the Union. Also digitized were items such as IUGS brochures and other products, such as conference memorabilia, another collection to the archive which we are trying to build. *Please contact me if you are interested in finding out more.*

An IUGS-50 book is planned and a travelling exhibition using the collection might be developed for 2011 and beyond to show some of the achievements of the Union.

#### REFERENCES

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Dr Susan Turner  
e mail: [paleodeadfish@yahoo.com](mailto:paleodeadfish@yahoo.com)

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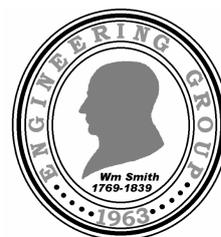
## TWO REMARKABLE GEOLOGISTS

This year has seen the deaths of two remarkable geologists – Claud William Wright (1917-2010) and John Hannes Callomon (1928-2010). Both had distinguished careers in professions other than geology but also achieved international reputations as geologists with substantial bibliographies, notably on Mesozoic palaeontology/stratigraphy. Obituaries were published in several national newspapers including *The Times* (editions of February 24th and May 29th respectively).

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**HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GROUP**  
**HISTORY OF APPLIED GEOLOGY**  
**NOVEMBER 16th-17th 2010**  
**Meeting Registration Form**



**NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

.....

**Postcode:** ..... **Telephone:** .....

**E mail:** .....

The conference will be held at the **Geological Society, Burlington House**, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG  
 (nearest Underground stations are Piccadilly Circus and Green Park).  
 The Brunel Museum trip will be undertaken by public transport.

**Registration:** I wish to register for the following (please tick where appropriate)

**November 15th 2010 (afternoon) Field trip:**

Brunel Museum Rotherhithe £12.50  .....

**November 16th-17th 2010 Conference:**

HOGG, GA, OUGS members £20 00  .....

Engineering Group members £20.00  .....

Others £30.00  .....

Students £5.00  .....

Single day registration £16.00  .....

Please tick day (16th) (17th)

**Reception (November 16th)** (*free to speakers and conference delegates*)

**Conference Dinner (November 17th)** £30.00  .....

**TOTAL PAYMENT**

.....

Please complete and return this form, together with a cheque (*payable to HOGG*), to  
 Professor Richard Moody, Gnoll House, 15 Forster Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9AE  
 E mail [rtj.moody@virgin.net](mailto:rtj.moody@virgin.net)

**\*\*Deadline for receipt of registration form: 30th October 2010\*\***