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JOHANNESBURG FRIDAY JUNE 1 1984

Museum could lose grant over 'apartheid' exhibit

SA fossils start R9-m outcry in New York

By Andrew Walker,
The Star Bureau

New York

An astonishing row over the display of South African fossils at the American Museum of Natural History in New York has become a major political controversy.

If the museum does not withdraw the "apartheid fossils", it could lose R3 million in grants.

Fewer on brought on the museum authorities resulted in a promising yesterday.

• To ban all further South African Tourist Board advertisements to the museum magazine.
• To mount prominent posters in the middle of its international anthropology display declaring that the display repudiates "racism or the concept of racism".
• To put up other posters decrying apartheid.

• That the museum's board of directors would meet to consider withdrawing the South African fossils from the display.

The fossils are a major part of the museum's "Ancestors" display. They include the famed 14-million-year-old Taung child's skull.

This is madness!

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by the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa for its members. The
views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society or its Officers.*

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EDITORIAL

At the closing session of the symposium which launched the Ancestors' exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History in New York in April, the prominent South African scientist Professor Phillip Tobias made the cogent point that *Australopithecus* (which he had taken over to New York for the exhibition) demonstrated above all the unity of man. This was *our* ancestor. The message was one of unity.

The furore caused by the exhibition of "apartheid fossils" in New York is astonishing. Sadly, it is probably true that the contrived political aspect of this event has captured more newspaper space than even the announcement of the original discovery of the Taung Child 60 years ago.

What on earth has happened to our sanity? More power to the elbow of the American Museum for refusing to remove the South African fossils — but it is sad that they had to capitulate even in a token way to side-step petty threats against their financial grant from the city of New York.

The type specimen of *Australopithecus africanus* is part of the heritage of *all* people. South Africa is only its custodian. Perhaps the 'yobboes' in New York don't *deserve* to see it!

Editor



THE THIRD PSSA CONFERENCE STELLENBOSCH : JULY 16-18, 1984

The third Conference of our Society is just around the corner. Details of arrangements have been sent to those who responded to earlier circulars. For those who wish to know what is on the programme, the details as they were available at the time of going to press are given here:

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY July 16

9.00 - 10.00	AGM of the SOCIETY
10.00 - 10.30	TEA
10.30 - 11.00	Registration for the Conference
11.00 - 11.30	B. Newman: Memorable characters in palaeontology
11.30 - 12.00	T. Barry : Conservation of fossils
12.00 - 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 - 14.30	(to be announced)
14.30 - 15.00	A. Turner (title to follow)
15.00 - 15.30	TEA
15.30 - 16.00	A.S. Brink: (titel sal aangekondig word)
16.00 - 16.30	H.C. Klinger: (titel sal aangekondig word)
Evening:	Cheese-n-wine reception

TUESDAY July 17

9.00 - 9.30	E. Kovacs-Endrody: Polyphyletic taxa in palaeobotany
9.30 - 10.00	C.E. Gow: Phylogenetic systematics and class boundaries
10.00 - 10.30	E.S. Vrba: Evolutionary pattern and process in the sister groups Alcelaphini - Aepycerotini (Mammalia : Bovidae)
10.30 - 11.00	TEA
11.00 - 11.30	E. van Dijk & M. Lawes: The De Hoek, Natal, Triassic fossil site
11.30 - 12.00	A. Keyser: (titel sal aangekondig word)
12.00 - 12.30	J.W. Kitching: The confused state of Beaufort Group biozonation
12.30 - 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 - 14.30	I. Chesselet: Research entailed in the making of reconstructions of fossil animals
14.30 - 15.00	E. Kovacs-Endrody: Problematics in stratigraphical reasoning
15.00 - 15.30	TEA
15.30 - 16.00	C.K. Brain: New information on the sequence of deposits in the Swartkrans australopithecine cave.
16.00 - 16.30	J. Brink: A faunal analysis of the Florisbad fossil mammal bones: a comparison between old and new finds
Evening:	Braaiivleis

WEDNESDAY July 18

- 9.00 – 9.30 J. v.d. Heever and B. Rubidge: Fossil preparation with tungsten air-hammer bits
9.30 – 10.00 M.A. Raath: Towards a minimum documentation standard for South African palaeontological collections
10.00 – 10.30 B. Rubidge: A new anomodont reptile from the Ecca of South Africa
10.30 – 11.00 TEA
11.00 – 11.30 A. Scholtz: The microfloral biostratigraphy and dating of crater lake deposits associated with pipes of the Southern African Cretaceous Kimberlite Province
11.30 – 12.00 R. Smith: A South African Cretaceous crater lake deposit: sedimentation and fossils
12.00 – 12.30 A. Scholtz: some interesting aspects of the palynology and interpretation of microfloral assemblages from Cretaceous crater lake desposits
12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH
14.00 – 14.30 (to be announced)
14.30 – 15.00 R. Falcon and H. Pinheiro: (title to follow)
15.00 – 15.30 TEA
15.30 – 16.00 B. Oelofsen: *Mesosaurus* as a filter feeder: comparison with modern filter feeders
16.00 – 16.30 J. van den Heever: The maxillo-septomaxillary foramen in the Pristerognathidae
Evening: Conference dinner

THURSDAY July 19

- Excursions to:
either: Langebaanweg (Miocene-Pliocene fossils)
or: Worcester (Cape and Karoo sediments)

Poster sessions will run throughout the conference. Posters already announced at the time of going to press include:

- Ann Cadman (Witwatersrand University):
“Palynological interpretations of Makapansgat breccias : fossils or fantasy?”
Francois Durand (Witwatersrand University):
“The Whatsiid brain studied by means of an endocast of the braincase”
Marion Coventry (Witwatersrand University):
“Some fossil plants and cuticle from the Lower Cretaceous Kirkwood Formation”

This promises to be a most interesting conference, and it represents one of the high points of the Society's activities. In fact, our Society seems to exist mainly for its conferences. I hope we will see many of you there!

REPORTS ON IMPORTANT FOSSIL SITES

Following the call for reports on critical fossil sites contained in the last issue of *Pal News* (page 13), two members have responded.

James Kitching sent in this report on the Harrismith "Brickfield" Dongas.

"Since 1915 there has been a steady flow of papers describing new genera and species of fossil reptiles and amphibians from exposures on the Harrismith townlands, mainly from the "Brickfield" dongas and the adjacent Queens Hill, both to the east of the town. Some of the described species are only known from a single specimen. All the known *Myosaurus gracilis* (Haughton 1917) specimens came from the same horizon in the "Brickfield" dongas while the abundance of *Lystrosaurus*, *Thrinaxodon* and *Lydekkerina* material is well known.

These dongas are within easy reach from Johannesburg and Pretoria and with fossils continuously eroding out of the sediments, the site has over the years been an invaluable asset for teaching purposes and to illustrate to overseas visitors some of the lithological aspects of the *Lystrosaurus* zone and the occurrence of fossils in them.

In 1974, the Harrismith Municipality started dumping old motor cars, tyres, and household rubbish into the upper reaches of the "Brickfield" donga. This matter was discussed from time to time with the Municipality by members of the National Monuments Council and a number of palaeontologists, but to no avail. Dumping was still in progress as recently as July 1983.

On 16 March 1984, James Kitching accompanied by Drs. Greg Retallack, John and Heidi Anderson and Dick Rayner visited the dongas. On arrival they found the gate to the area locked and had to climb over the fence. At the main dumping area it became obvious that this practice has been stopped for some months. Let us all trust that this is not only a brief respite, but that it will be permanent.

Although the disposal of rubbish has been stopped the place remains unsightly with the old cars propped against the slopes of the dongas. The floor of the main donga is littered with old tyres of all sizes, and other rubbish. Half-buried pieces of metal, wire and broken bottles could cause injuries while examining and collecting from the exposures, so great care is needed. The place would look more respectable again if some of the old cars and other unsightly rubbish could be removed and deposited somewhere else."

[If the Harrismith Council has had a change of heart, it is to be applauded. It is part of *our* heritage (and *theirs*!) that they have in their care. Ed.]

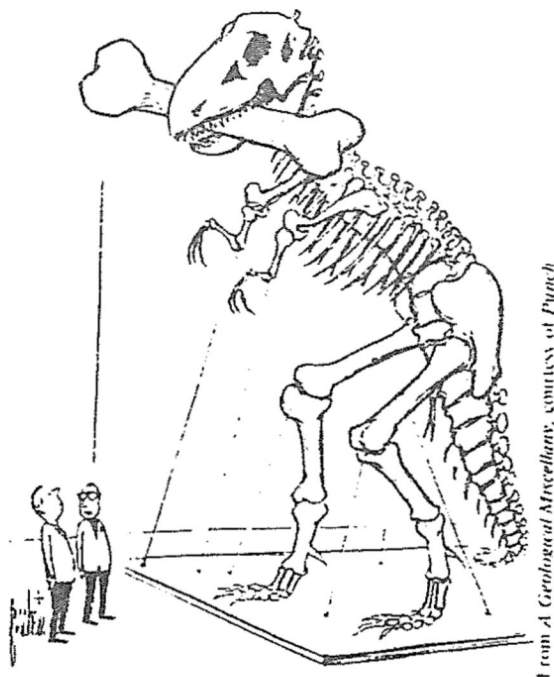
James also sent the following brief report on the dinosaur trackways on the farm Uniondale, Bethlehem District:

"These trackways are the best that have yet been discovered in the Republic of South Africa and were first visited by members of staff, BPI Palaeontology, at various times since 1949. On some of these occasions they have been treated with Glyptal cement to protect them.

Up to the mid-1970's the tracks were embedded in a large block of sandstone that had fallen from the top of the Clarens Formation (Cave Sandstone). During 1980 the site was again visited by BPI Staff and it was immediately noticed that the block had been intentionally split to try to remove the tracks, but fortunately not too close to the trackways.

Other recent reports of vandalism at the site of these tracks suggests that they require some more formal protection – perhaps by putting a protective fence around the block."

[Bruce Rubidge also mentioned these tracks in his news report. He notes that he and Johan Looek intend to visit them soon. Ed.]



From A Geological Miscellany, courtesy of Punch

"It seemed logical. We had one bone left over."



**ICSEB III — Third International Congress
of Systematic & Evolutionary Biology**

University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K.
4-10 July 1985

Sponsors
The Royal Society
British Ecological Society
Linnean Society
Palaeontological Association
Systematics Association

Please reply to:

The Third International Congress of Systematic
and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB-III) will
be held at the University of Sussex
on July 4-10th, 1985

The ICSEB Congress is a major international forum for Biological Science - the previous meetings attracted 1800 participants (Boulder, 1973) and 900 participants (Vancouver, 1980).

These Symposia are uniquely attractive to biologists because their aim is wider than that of the usual specialist meetings. They aim to integrate the diverse areas that lie within systematic and evolutionary biology. They provide an opportunity for pollination biologist to talk to palynologist, for palaeontologist to listen to reproduction biologist, for geneticist and cladist to exchange views. The ICSEB Congresses are therefore complementary to other meetings. Mycologists will still go to their Mycological Congress, and entomologists to their Entomology Conference. But ICSEB provides them with a unique opportunity to meet one another, and also to meet other biologists who work in adjoining areas, to discuss common problems and techniques and to inform one another.

At present, the Steering Committee has identified a number of broad, topical themes for Congress Symposia, for which convenors are now approaching speakers. These are: - The Biota of the Malay Archipelago; The Conservation of Tropical Ecosystems; The Measurement of Rates of Evolution; Symbiosis in Evolution; Co-evolution in Ecosystems and the Red Queen Hypothesis; Evolutionary Physiological Ecology; The Evolution of new Biochemical activities in Microbial Communities; Genome Biology and Evolution; Co-evolution and Systematics; Angiosperm Evolution and the Biological Consequences; the Reconciliation of Molecular and Classical Phylogenies; Random and Directed Events in Evolution; Developmental Constraints on Evolution; Marine Meiofauna.

Steering Committee: Professor C. Barry Cox (*Chairman*), Dr. D.L. Hawksworth (*Treasurer*),
Professor R.J. Berry, Professor W.G. Chaloner FRS, Professor M.P. Hassall,
Professor D. M. Moore, Professor J. Maynard Smith FRS

Congress Office: Conference Services Ltd., 130 Queens Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3WE
Telephone: 0273 28233 Telex: 916054 CONFER G



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Palaeontological Association
Systematics Association

Please reply to:

Continued

It is also proposed to hold a number of Special Interest Symposia, which may be narrower in concept but which will still bring together participants from separate but related fields. Some topics have already been suggested, such as Behaviour and the Fossil Record; the Evolution of Predator-Prey Relationships; Coloniality; The Co-evolution of Fungi with Plants and Animals; Late Palaeozoic Continental Biota; Homology; Ontogeny Theory; Biochemical Evolution in Plants; The Evolution of Chemical Signalling; The Evolution, Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Protists; Island Ecology in the North Atlantic; Bryophyte Phylogeny; The Origin of Higher Plants.

The Congress will also provide sessions for other contributed papers, and poster sessions.

The organizers would like to hear from anyone who has a suggestion for a symposium title and who would be prepared to act as convenor to arrange the speakers for that topic. They would particularly welcome participants from the Continent in this first European ICSEB, and also from developing or "third world" countries.

Anyone who is interested in giving a paper in one of the above Symposia, in organizing a symposium, or in attending the ICSEB meeting, should write to: -

Professor Barry Cox,
c/o ICSEB Congress Office,
130 Queen's Road,
Brighton, East Sussex BN1 3WE,
U.K.

Steering Committee: Professor C. Barry Cox (*Chairman*), Dr. D.L. Hawksworth (*Treasurer*),
Professor R.J. Berry, Professor W.G. Chaloner FRS, Professor M.P. Hassell,
Professor D.M. Moore, Professor J. Maynard Smith FRS

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NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Relatively few members responded to the last call for news reports. Those that were received follow:

Prof. Peter M. Galton (University of Bridgeport, USA):

"Sorry not to have sent you any news for a while but my efforts have been concentrated on European prosauropods, especially those from Germany. I am doing a detailed study of all the cranial material of *Plateosaurus* which includes a completely disarticulated skull, the skeleton of which is mounted on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. I have been discussing the diet of prosauropods and definitely disagree with the conclusions of Mike Cooper—prosauropods including *Massospondylus* were definitely herbivores and not carnivores—carrion feeders—canibals. However, Mike is correct in pointing out that relatively little has been said concerning the reasons why prosauropods should be regarded as herbivores, an omission that I am in the process of rectifying. Once I complete work on the *Plateosaurus* skull—it will be as two papers in *Geol. Palaeont.* with 10 plates and lots of figures—and the *Sellosaurus* material from the Stubensandstein then I'm planning a review paper on the cranial anatomy of prosauropods and a full systematic review of the group.

Now for some news since my last news of December, 1981; how time flies!

Published papers on southern African material since 1981 news:

- 1) A fuller description of the partial skull of the stegosaur *Paranthodon* from the Lower Cretaceous of South Africa was published (with Walter Coombs as junior author) in *Géobios* 14:299–309 (1981).
- 2) A discussion of *Elaphrosaurus* as an early ornithomimid dinosaur with illustrations of the humerus of the Tendaguru, (East Africa) specimen and of a referred humerus from the Morrison Formation of U.S.A. appeared in *Paläont. Zeit.* 56:265–275 (1982).
- 3) The description of the Tendaguru stegosaur *Kentrosaurus* was published in 1982—*Geol. Palaeont.* 15:139–160—rather than 1981 as originally expected.
- 4) The cranial anatomy of the hypsilophodontid dinosaur *Dryosaurus*—Morrison and Tendaguru species—has finally been published after being over 2 years in press in *Geol. Palaeont* 17:207–243 (1983).

Current projects involving southern African material include:

1) A description of the very robust prosauropod pes and tibia from the Lower Elliot Formation of South Africa (with Jacques van Heerden as senior author) — this is the Blikana prosauropod of Charig *et al.* (1965).

2) A consideration of the age of the Stormberg Series of South Africa (with Paul Olsen of University of California at Berkeley as senior author) that is in press in *Palaeont. Afr.* (Haughton Volume). We conclude that the Lower Stormberg fauna — Lower Elliot Formation — is Carnian and/or Norian whereas the Upper Stormberg fauna — Upper Elliot and Clarens formations — is Lower Jurassic. This is discussed on a worldwide basis for terrestrial skeletons and, in addition, we include a review of the footprint taxa of P. Ellenberger, many of which are referable to ichnogenera previously described from outside of South Africa.

3) During a visit to the Humboldt Museum in East Berlin in 1982 I managed to finally locate the "lost or destroyed" cranial bones of *Kentrosaurus* in the top of an "empty" cabinet in the basement — a description of this material is being prepared.

4) A restudy of the vertebrae and forelimb material of pterodactyls from the Tendaguru of East Africa has been started with Kevin Padian of the University of California at Berkeley."

Dr. James W. Kitching (BPI - Palaeontology, Wits University):

"During January and February 1984. I spent six weeks collecting from exposures assigned to the Elliot and Clarens Formations in the Elliot, Barkly East and Lady Grey districts as part of an ongoing BPI research programme in these sediments. Among the specimens recovered are a beautifully preserved crocodilian (cf. *Notochampsia*) skull, well preserved *Massospondylus* skulls and skeletal remains, fabrosaurid skull and skeletal elements and a block of matrix containing dinosaurian eggs, not to mention six more *Tritylodon* specimens recovered during a two day stop on the farm Damplaats, Ladybrand, enroute for Johannesburg. *Tritylodon* now counts among the more common and abundant elements of the palaeofauna in the Elliot Formation, especially in the northeastern and eastern Orange Free State.

While working in the Barkly East district I enjoyed, for a few days, the company of Bruce Rubidge, National Museum, Bloemfontein and in the Lady Grey district that of Dr. Chris Gow and Francois Durand, an M.Sc. student studying the endocranial casts of various thercephalians in the BPI collections.

Since 1979, steady progress has been made with the preparation of the better preserved specimens from the Elliot and Clarens Formations with the result that we now have excellent series of *Massospondylus* and *Tritylodon* skull and skeletal material in the process of being studied."

[James was appointed Reader in Karoo Biostratigraphy at Wits in 1983. Congratulations, James! Ed.]

Bruce Rubidge (Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein):

"Florisbad Research

At present research at the Florisbad site is being conducted in various fields of study.

Dr. Ron Clarke, who left the National Museum at the end of January 1984 to join the Medical School of the University of the Witwatersrand, has completed a new reconstruction of the Florisbad skull. This skull will accompany the Director, Hannes Oberholzer, to New York where it will be on display at the American Museum of Natural History from April to September 1984 as part of a display entitled "Ancestors".

Professor Van Zinderen Bakker of the University of the Orange Free State is conducting a new study of fossil pollens from Florisbad. As a result of recently dug test trenches, new profiles have been sampled by Prof. Van Zinderen Bakker.

A regional geological survey of quarternary sediments has been completed by Prof. Nick Grobler and Johan Looek of the University of the Orange Free State. This study yielded valuable information on the formation processes involved at Florisbad and has placed the site in context with its immediate surroundings.

Other work at Florisbad involves the study of a newly uncovered Middle Stone Age living area to the north of the spring eyes. Since 1981 Ron Clarke has opened up this area which produced good samples of MSA artefacts and bone fragments. The stone tool sample is being studied by Kathy Kuman as part of her Ph.D. project.

The bone remains from the living site, as well as the fossil bones from earlier excavations at Florisbad, are being studied by James Brink. He intends to use this as a basis for a masters degree.

A drilling programme has produced soil samples of the Florisbad hill. Bruce Rubidge and James Brink have conducted a preliminary study of these samples, but a complete sedimentological study must still be carried out on these samples as well as on new samples from test trenches.

Karoo Palaeontology

Bruce Rubidge completed his M.Sc. thesis on the Cranial Morphology of *Eodicynodon* last year, and is now continuing his study on the palaeontology and palaeoenvironment of the Upper Ecca (Waterford Formation) in the Southern Karoo. Recently he has undertaken a field trip to the Upper Ecca near Rietbron and Prince Albert and found more specimens of *Eodicynodon* in both localities. To date about 35 Ecca fossils have been collected.

Recently the museum has acquired a new compressor and air driven pen scribes for preparing fossils. This has largely replaced the vibro-tool and is far more effective in the extremely hard Ecca matrix, so speeding up the rate of preparation.

New Palaeontology Displays

On Thursday evening, 1 March, Dr. C.K. Brain conducted the official opening of the new palaeontology exhibit and delivered a very stimulating lecture entitled "New life for old bones: modern approaches to a reconstruction of the past".

The palaeontology displays at the National Museum depict the origin of animal life on earth from the Precambrian to the present day. Dr. Ron Clarke and Bruce Rubidge were responsible for the scientific content of the displays.

Recent Publications

First Record of a Therocephalian (Therapsida: Pristerognathidae) from the Ecca of South Africa. *Navors. nas. Mus., Bloemfontein*, Vol. 4, Part 10. By B.S. Rubidge, J.W. Kitching and J.A. van den Heever."

Dr. Elisabeth S. Vrba (Transvaal Museum, Pretoria):

"Preparation of recently excavated fossils from the Gondolin Site (a new cave site near the Hartebeestpoort Dam) and from the Kromdraai Australopithecine Site is continuing slowly but surely under Alan Turner's supervision. Alan's recent research has been concerned with further investigation of problems of quantification in fossil assemblages, the discernment of seasonal deposition patterns at fossil sites, and the re-assessment of some earlier works on large carnivore fossils. Work on this latter topic has been done in part in collaboration with D. Torre and G. Ficcarelli of the University of Florence.

David Panagos has been perfecting his casting techniques. Orders for fossil casts, especially of early hominids, are flowing in at a high rate, and David is having his hands full keeping up with the demand.

Elisabeth Vrba's work on bovid systematics, palaeoecology and chronology of Plio-Pleistocene strata, and on evolutionary theory is continuing. One recent paper (Greenacre and Vrba, *Ecology*) looks at modern antelope census data with a view to identifying "palaeoecological habitat indicators." Some papers on evolutionary theory, with special emphasis on the role of palaeontologists in studying such theory, have recently gone to press (Vrba and Eldredge, "Individuals, processes and hierarchy: towards a more complete evolutionary theory," *Paleobiology*; and Vrba, "What is species selection?", *Systematic Zoology*).

Bob Brain, Alan Turner and Elisabeth Vrba gave papers at the SASQUA conference on Palaeoclimates, held in Swaziland in September 1983. Bob and Elisabeth left on the 30th March, 1984, for the "Ancestors" Exhibition and Conference at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. They took along several specimens from Sterkfontein and Swartkrans for inclusion in this exciting and unique exhibition of original early hominid fossils. The fossils will be returned to South Africa in September, 1984."

Prof. Richard V. Dingle (Marine Geoscience Unit, Univ. of Cape Town):

"1. R.V. DINGLE

I am continuing my work on S. African and Gondwana Mesozoic ostracods.

Publications:

Dingle, R.V. 1984. Mid-Cretaceous ostracods from southern Africa and the Falkland Plateau. *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.*, 93; 97-211.

Dingle, R.V. (in prep). Turonian, Coniacian and Santonian ostracoda from south-east Africa.

I soon hope to write up a preliminary account of my collections from New Zealand.

With Bob Newton and Bill Siesser (now at Nashville), we have recently seen the publication of our book *Mesozoic and Tertiary geology of southern Africa*, 1983, Rotterdam, Balkema.

2. J. FREWIN

Jody is continuing her part-time studies on Lower Tertiary ostracods.

3. A. WINTER

Amos is a CSP sponsored post-doctoral Fellow. He is working on Quaternary coccolithophores from around southern Africa that our group has collected in piston cores and from the surface waters. The work will have a strong palaeoclimatic bias and will be done in conjunction with stable isotope studies that we hope to initiate soon.

Publications:

Winter, A., Almogi-Labin, A., Erez, Y., Halicz, E., Luz, B. and Reiss, A. 1983. Salinity tolerances of marine organisms deduced from Red Sea Quaternary record. *Mar. Geol.*, 53; M17-22.

4. M. FINCHAM

Mark started an M.Sc. study under Amos Winter's supervision in 1983. He is working on coccolithophores from piston core tops collected from ocean basin sediments off the east coast.

5. S. ROBSON

In addition to his marine geological studies, Simon is working on the distribution of radiolaria in surface water and piston cores taken in traverses from the east coast across to the Mozambique Ridge (35°E).

Publication:

Robson, S. 1983. The distribution of Recent Radiolaria in surficial sediments of the continental margin off northern Namibia. *J. Micro-palaeontol.*, 2; 31-38.

6. L. SHACKLETON

Leslie is working on palaeoclimatic and water productivity problems relating to the diatomaceous mud belts off Namibia. One technique that she is using is to monitor fish-scale distribution down core.

7. VISITORS

The Marine Geoscience Unit hopes to take on board a diatom specialist from Lamont during 1984 (Dr. W. Pokras)."

Dr. Chris Potgieter (Dept. Geologie, Univ. van Stellenbosch):

"Onlangse Publikasies

Potgieter, C.D. en Oelofsen, B.W. (1983). *Cruziana acacensis* - the first Silurian index-trace fossil from Southern Africa, *Trans. geol. Soc. S. Afr.*, 86. 51-54.

Hierdie artikel gaan hoofsaaklik oor die bekendstelling van 'n indeks-spoorfossiel in die Peninsula-Formasie. Van verdere belang is die identifikasie van korreleerbare spoorfossielsones (biostratigrafiesones). Sedert die ter perse gaan van hierdie artikel is *C. acacensis* ook in die Swartbergpas aangetref terwyl dieselfde spoorfossielsones ook in die Seweweekspoort aanwesig is.

Die moontlikheid bestaan dus dat ons hier te doen het met 'n korreleerbare sone in 'n andersins moeilik korreleerbare Peninsula-Formasie, wat moontlik selfs tot in Natal uitgevolg kan word. Die toekoms sal leer, so hou julle oë oop!"

Dr. Arthur Cruickshank (Open University, U.K.):

Arthur has been working on the following:

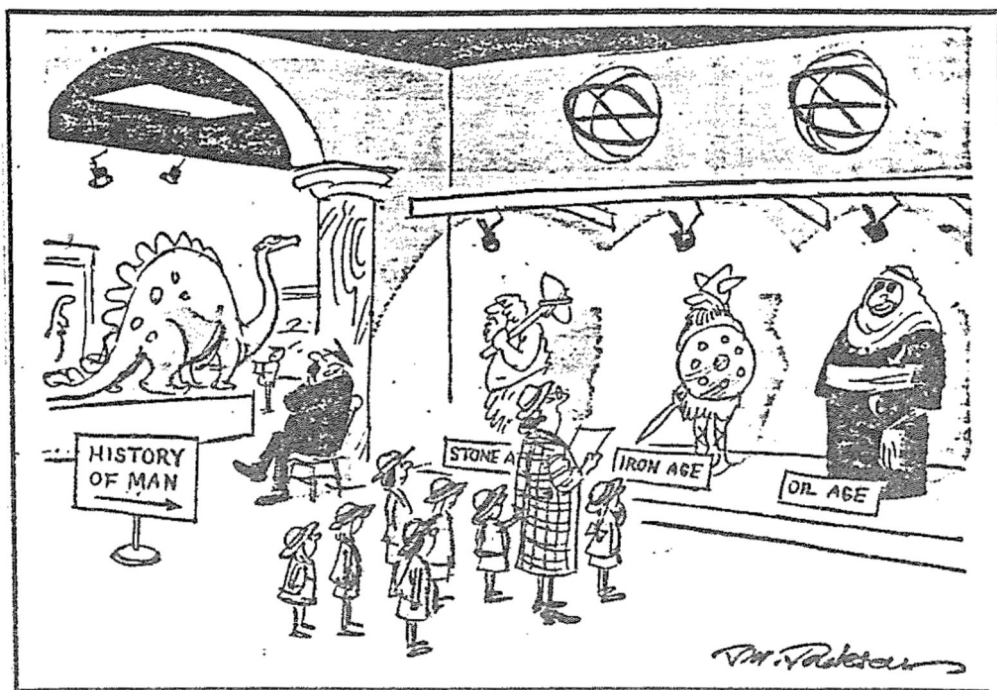
a) Ruhuhu Triassic dicynodonts and biostratigraphy, based on the Cambridge collection.

The large edentulous form spoken about previously is a new (?) species of Cox's Zambian genus *Sangusaurus*. This seems to be intermediate in character between *Kannemeyeria* and *Ischigualastia*; with the possibility now of using Kannemeriine dicynodonts to refine the "stages" of the Lower-Middle Triassic. It has also given rise to a "new" classification of Triassic dicynodonts to refute the Cox and Li effort in *Palaeontology* last year.

Preparation of the post-cranial skeleton of the Ruhuhu *Sangusaurus* is well advanced.

b) One femur of the specimen discussed above has two rows of tooth marks "stitched" across the shaft. It was done by something about the size of a large *Stagonosuchus* (to be called *Mandaodon*, gen. nov.). The tooth row is sigmoid, with many (± 26) tooth positions.

c) A joint paper with Andre Keyser has been submitted to the *Trans. Geol. Soc. S.A.* It deals with *Geikia* and its relationships.

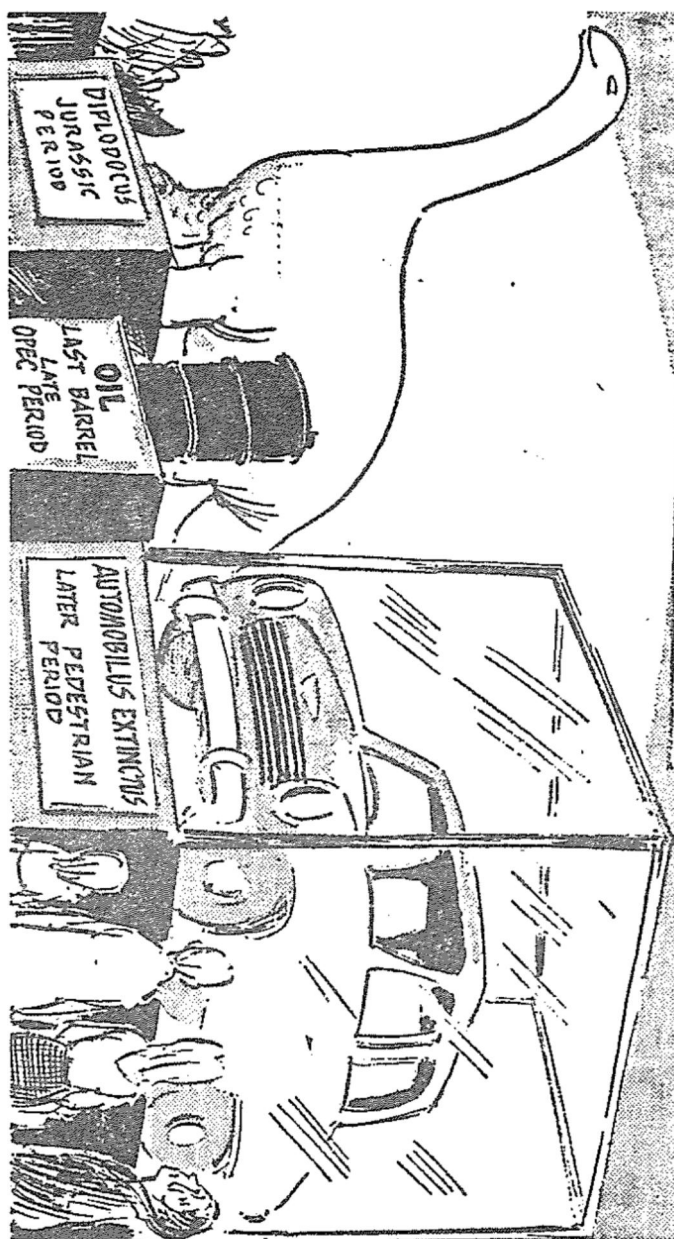


Mr & Mrs Simon P—
 request the honour of your
 presents at the marriage
 of their daughter Eve to
 Mr James J—

Wedding invitation

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

BERNARD



THE SOCIETY'S EMBLEM

Following the discussion of this item at the last General Meeting in Pretoria, Dr. A.S. Brink was asked if he would contribute something further on it. Here is his contribution:

At the Society's AGM immediately after the Conference in Pretoria in 1982, the matter of an emblem was one of the items on the Agenda. Agreement could not be reached, due to some misunderstanding. I reminded members that whichever proposal or entry is favoured, we should bear in mind that we were discussing a matter for which there happens to be an official body called the South African Bureau of Heraldry. I also pointed out in a fairly extensive analysis that heraldry is steeped in traditions with countless do's and don't's.

Although one is not bound by the dictates of the Bureau, or the rules and regulations of heraldry in general, and can freely please oneself, I pointed out that one may as well civilly recognise the Bureau and aim for something which the Bureau would sanction as acceptable. If the emblem can then in addition be registered with the Bureau, it will have legal status, adding official status to any document or structure on which it is used. Surely an official emblem is more prestigious than a home-made effort.

I also pointed out that there are three levels to consider. A full Coat of Arms is justifiable only for a large organization (say, a University). The Shield, with or without the scroll, is customary for a smaller unit (say, a faculty or department). Any kind of design normally featured on the shield is customary for an activity (say, some Society, branch of sport, or industrial or business enterprise).

Furthermore, in terms of rules and regulations, only certain designs are permissible, or rather, any design of any description, provided it adheres to specific rules. For example, there are standard shapes to which shields must conform and even though the Transkei was permitted a shield of unusual shape, it is nevertheless an actual military shield. But no Bureau of Heraldry will ever sanction a shield in the shape of a *Lystrosaurus* skull. There can, of course, be no objection to a *Lystrosaurus* skull being the design on a shield of some prescribed shape, for a larger Department.

What I emphasised in particular is the modern trend to reduce a design of some relevance to the simplest, most basic motive, being at the same time as eye-catching and meaningful as possible, which can then in an abstract way symbolise and encompass as much as possible. Something more definitive could favour, or do justice to, only an aspect or subsection of the field of interest. The present trend is to avoid anything that is too elaborate or 'too fanciful'.

My advice that we should abide by the rules and aim for something that can claim legality — become properly official — was misinterpreted as if I favoured the idea that the Bureau should design an emblem for us; prescribe to us what they feel would suit us and not granting us the freedom to decide for ourselves. With this ridiculous accusation discussion was terminated and the emblem remained undecided.

I should like to appeal to members to exercise more logical discretion when the matter is raised again at the following A.G.M.

(Dr) A.S. Brink

BOOK REVIEW

The cult of the Expert, by Brian J. Ford, 1982. Hamish Hamilton, London, R5.95 net.

"No-one who reads this book has escaped from the effects of the cult of the Expert". That is why "we should come to grips with the way Experts work, and how Nonscience (pronounce it how you will) functions. That is the most reliable way to keep a hold on our sanity."

According to the author "democracy is dead. A new race of super-motivated Experts has silently slid into power and, between them, have taken over the major decision-making processes in this teetering society of ours."

The Expert is defined: "If you have the right long words, no matter if there is no meaning behind them. If you have the grandiose aim, no matter if there is no integrity. If you are obsessed with power, no matter if you lack wisdom or worldliness. You have now become an Expert and your craft is the converse of altruistic science. It is Nonscience."

The author offers help, how to find suitable expressions with the "right degree of authority and unintelligibility", and to learn the Expert's language which is "rich with complicated and intimidating words and unfamiliar phrases, which anyone but a witch-doctor could never interpret." "Invent new words whenever postulacious"; "Cultivate the craft of vagueness"; "Learn an abstruse style", etc. "Scientists and specialists are concerned with clarity and communication. Experts use words to hinder communication and repel all outsiders."

There are guidelines for aspiring writers of Nonscientific papers from the title to references. "Diagrams and graphs should be cluttered with facts and figures, or fictions and figures if necessary. All possible avenues of clarity should be eliminated" : "The Discussion is where you should make all your excuses . . . you can cover up a mass of uncertainty by the liberal

use of disclaimers including 'it is widely accepted that . . .' or 'it is generally conceded . . .' even if it isn't and you merely wish it was."

There are chapters as The Fashionism principle, Training for today, Success at all costs, etc. The examples, in several cases with names and dates, are hilarious. Topics are discussed which climbed steadily up the charts and had gained international acceptance, when they did not even exist in the first place. For example, the study of N-rays, or of the poly-water.

I must say that the style of the book is not always *comme il faut*. But I suppose several PSSA members will not mind. For example in connection with maths, data and figures in publications: most people make love twice a week, "twice" is a pretty ordinary-looking amount. "The average couple make love 2.64283 times per week" has all those authoritative figures to prove the point. A more decent example for the artificialities of mathematics: If one Mona Lisa costs \$5m, how much do three Mona Lisas cost?

Traditional-vs-Modern qualities are compared. Intellect, originality, creativity, integrity are replaced by contemporary qualities, all helping Experts to painstakingly copy their forebears, set premises and routine procedures, all along the Nonscience movement.

This review is already too long. For more fun you have to read the book. I close the review with one more quotation:

"I have no doubt that we should aim at 'holism' (a word coined back in 1926 by General Smuts)".

Eva Endrödy

OBITUARY – BRIAN MAGUIRE (1922–1983)

Brian Maguire, a man known to his colleagues and friends as a perfectionist in all his scientific endeavours, passed away on the 17th August 1983, having suffered ill-health for some years.

Born in Pretoria on the 2nd February 1922, he spent his youth on the family farms in the Potgietersrus district where his many rambles over hills, through the bush and deep valleys with patches of forest, stimulated his love for nature. It eventually found formal expression in his University studies and he graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1949 with Botany as one of his major subjects.

It was during his years at University that he also developed a keen interest in archaeology through his contact with Professor C. van Riet Lowe, then Director of the Archaeological Research Unit, and members of his staff, such as Mr. B.D. Malan and the Abbe H. Breuil.

From 1950 to 1955, he was employed as Botanical Assistant at the National Botanical Gardens, Kirstenbosch, and during this period he was twice seconded as botanist to major expeditions to South West Africa. In mid 1952 he joined the Brock Medical Expedition and in mid-December 1952 to February 1953 he accompanied the Marshall-Harvard-Peabody Anthropological Expedition; both parties concentrated their research in the northeastern areas of South West Africa. Here Brian undertook a general survey of the vegetation, made careful and comprehensive botanical collections and studied the food plants of the !Khu and Haikon Bushmen. Twenty six years later this botanical collection and his meticulous field notes formed the basis of his M.Sc. dissertation on the food plants of the !Khu Bushmen of northeastern South West Africa. Not surprisingly, he acquired this degree with distinction due to his almost overwhelming perfectionist tendency. It remains a matter of regret among his colleagues and friends that Brian could never find the time to edit this important work for publication.

After leaving Kirstenbosch in 1955, he returned to his family home in Potgietersrus to continue his botanical survey of the Makapansgat area and to renew his acquaintance with the fossiliferous cave deposits in the Makapansgat Valley he had known during his student days. Brian's wide range of interests and meticulousness soon came to the notice of Professor R.A. Dart, who in 1960 appointed him Technical Assistant in charge of the excavations at the Makapansgat Limeworks. This was the beginning of Brian Maguire's long association with the research work at the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research.

In 1962, he carefully surveyed and constructed a surface grid over a large area near the cone at the Limeworks and thereafter proceeded to clear out the contents of numerous solution cavities within the breccias. He painstakingly recovered and recorded a large number of controversial stone tools. This work culminated in a paper read at the 1979 SASQUA Conference and it was published as a major contribution to the Proceedings in 1981.

Brian Maguire was a meticulous collector and recorder of botanical specimens as is evident from collections in the Moss Herbarium, University of the Witwatersrand those still housed in what was his office; as well as those in other herbaria (Kirstenbosch and the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria).

From 1960-1969, Brian accompanied Professor H.J. Heinz, Associate of the Max Planck Institute for Human Ethology and a member of the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, on a number of field trips to Western Botswana to collect botanical specimens and to study the food plants of the !Ko bushmen. This intensive study culminated in 1974 in a paper entitled "The Ethno-biology of the !Ko Bushmen".

In 1981 a joint paper with Charles R. Peters of the Anthropology Department, University of Georgia, U.S.A. was published, dealing with the "Wild food plants of the Makapansgat area". Through his own publications and co-authorship on food plants Brian could have described himself as an ethno-botanist.


Technically, he was a superb photographer — especially of plants and his rather unphotogenic stone tools, as is evident from his illustrations in his unpublished thesis and publications. He was a very careful map-maker and an accurate observer of nature, but anything mechanical on the other hand was almost beyond his grasp. He abhorred narrow specialization but considered careful and painstaking observations the ultimate basis upon which conclusions could be determined. He was conservative to a degree and far from following local fashions. His close-cropped hair-style epitomized his almost defiant conservatism. At times he became hot-headed and quick of temper but equally quick was his fine sense of humour and ready wit.

In 1973, at an unconventionally late age, Brian married Judy Roets. He became a model father and few sights were more pleasing than to see Brian with his two delightful and charming young daughters, Catherine and Patricia, of whom he was so proud.

We his colleagues and friends will miss him and share with his wife, Judy, the children and other members of his family in their deep sense of loss.

J.W. Kitching

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