

Following the resignation in June 1842 of the incumbent William Lonsdale, who unsurprisingly had to take early retirement due to ill health caused by overwork, the Society received six applications for the post of curator, including one from Edward Charlesworth, unemployed and back in London.

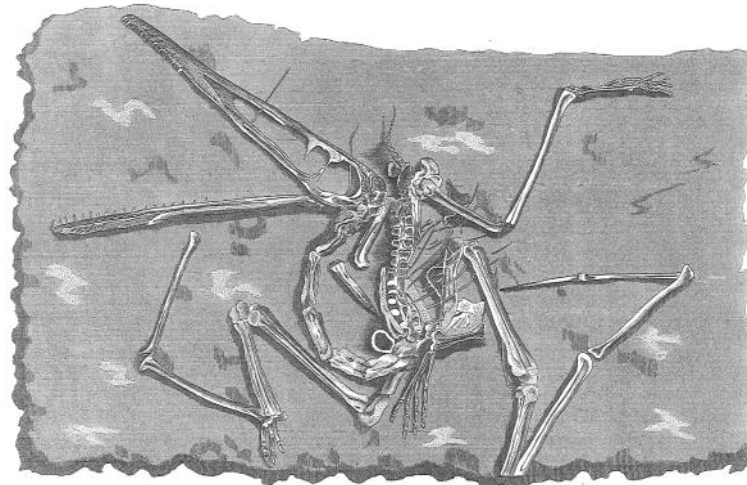
Despite glowing references and previous experience, Charlesworth's application was rejected. William Buckland and Richard Owen, both of whom had been publicly criticised in the *Appendix to the 39th Number* strongly objected, resulting in the Society's Council ruling him 'ineligible to apply'.



The affronted Charlesworth declared that Council had acted illegally, and rallied his supporters, termed the 'Norwich Requisitionists', to petition for a Special General Meeting. Resorting once more to the print-

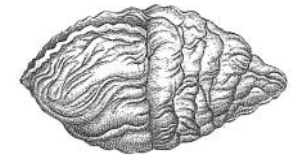
WANTED!!!

A LEARNED SOCIETY in London is in immediate want of a respectable gentlemen to act as **CURATOR** of its Museum. The applicant will also be responsible for the editorship of the Transactions, the Library, housekeeping & accountancy and act as assistant secretary.



*Unexceptionable references will be required.
Applications to be made to Mr R I Murchison,
President, Geological Society, Somerset House,
London WC2.*

ing press to outline his grievances, Charlesworth accused Council of failing to follow the regulations set out in the Society's Charter and therefore acting outside of its power.



The SGM was held on 2 December 1842, to hear the findings of the special committee (which included Charles Darwin) established to examine the actions of Council. The report stated that Council did have the power to appoint members of staff and Charlesworth's application was rejected as they believed that he 'did not possess that judgment and discretion, which they conceive to be indispensable in the character of the person by whom those duties are to be discharged'. The motion to acknowledge and accept the explanation was carried unanimously by the 108 Fellows present.

Two weeks later, Edward Forbes was appointed to the post.