

HOGG

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



**Number 48
June 2013**

Front cover

Frederick Soddy (left) and Arthur Holmes

(illustrations from, respectively, Wikimedia Commons and courtesy Cherry Lewis)

This year's William Smith Meeting of The Geological Society celebrates *The first century of Isotope Geochronology* and the legacy of Frederick Soddy (1877-1956) and Arthur Holmes (1890–1965). Their respective works on the discovery of 'isotopes' (paper in *Nature*) and the age of the Earth (booklet published by Harper & Brothers) both appeared in 1913. Together, these two landmark publications established the field of science known today as isotope geochronology.

The meeting will be held at Burlington House in London from 25th- 27th June.

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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).

HOGG NEWSLETTER 48

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the summer issue of HOGG's Newsletter. Bookings will open via the HOGG website on 15th June for our weekend field trip to Selsey where Edward Heron-Allen lived and worked as a micropalaeontologist. Leaders David and Anne Bone, who may be known to many of you through the Geologists' Association (GA), have arranged for Heron-Allen experts to speak about the man and his work, and we will visit the environment that stimulated his interests. The date of the meeting (6th-8th September) has been selected to take advantage of extreme low tides off Selsey. For those of you who prefer more traditional methods, there is a booking form at the back of this newsletter.

Committee member Cherry Lewis informs me that there are a few places available on the Inhigeo field trips which are now open to HOGG members without the necessity to book into the full conference in Manchester. At the time of writing, there are seven places on 'Ruskin's Geology', based in Bowness-on-Windermere 28th – 30th July, led by David Oldroyd and Alan Bowden. The basic price for B & B, dinner and transport is £255. For more information, visit http://inhigeo2013.historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/?page_id=231 and see pages 6 – 7 of this newsletter.

The HOGG visit to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff has been rescheduled to 15th November. The previously announced date was the day before the GA Festival of Geology in London on 2nd November which would have made life very awkward for those of us attending and exhibiting at the GA Festival.

With the INHIGEO conference and field trips, and the Selsey and Cardiff visits, your committee felt we were over-committed and that particularly the autumn programme was so full that the various plans would be competing with each other in members' budgets. Therefore, we have deferred the HOGG field trip to Burgundy until 2014. We hope to extend it from the Beaune area to include sites in Dijon associated with Henri Darcy, the 'Father of Hydrogeology'.

Finally, in preparing for the INHIGEO field trips, your committee became aware that we did not have insurance cover. To resolve this problem quickly and economically, we have affiliated with the GA which has cover with Zurich Re that extends to the GA's affiliates. I am pleased to say that the GA has welcomed us unhesitatingly. A bonus for HOGG members is that you now have the GA members' discount on all GA publications. Considering the quality of the GA's many field guides, this is a real benefit.

Let us hope that after this wet and cool Spring, we have a warm and dry summer at least for our field trips.

Best wishes
John Henry

May 2013

HOGG COMMITTEE 2013

Chairman John Henry **Vice Chairman** Bob Symes **Acting Vice Chairman** Dick Moody
Secretary Leucha Veneer **Treasurer** Beris Cox **Membership Secretary** Cherry Lewis
Ordinary members Alan Bowden, David Earle, Tom Hose, Tom Sharpe, Dave Williams

HOGG WEBSITE

Since October 2012, HOGG has had its own website at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/>. This is our main website although we continue to have a presence at www.geolsoc.org.uk/. The HOGG site provides easy access to all aspects of HOGG including details about HOGG meetings and the facility for online registration and payment. It also includes links and latest news from elsewhere.

If you have any queries about the site or material to add to it, please contact Cherry Lewis at cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk in the first instance.

E MAIL ADDRESSES

Please check that the Membership Secretary has your correct e- mail address and advise her of any future changes, otherwise HOGG news and alerts will not reach you.

Contact the Membership Secretary at cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk

ORDNANCE MAPS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: A VISIT TO THE LIBRARIES OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Barrie Chacksfield¹ reports on the recent joint Charles Close Society (CCS) and HOGG meeting.

On the afternoon of Friday 31st May, the Geological Society of London opened its doors to CCS and HOGG to allow a rare viewing of the treasured maps held in its Map Library.

The meeting was led by Nina Morgan and John Henry who brought along many old geological maps from his own collection. Visitors were restricted in number to a lucky 29. The meeting started in the foyer beneath the geological maps of William Smith and George Bellas Greenough, where a brief introduction to the Geological Society's collection and the history of early geological mapping using Ordnance Survey base maps was given. In the library itself, we were treated to a wonderful display of important early geological mapping including a hand-coloured map of 1830 by De la Beche of Weymouth in Dorset from the Geological Society library, and a variety of other hand-coloured maps and sections on early 1 inch Ordnance Survey topographic base maps. Also on display was the "Index to the Ordnance Geological Maps of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset" map by Henry De la Beche, the earliest quarter-inch map and the only known map with "Ordnance Geological Maps" in the title. This map was published in the *Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset* (1839) which was the first recognized Geological Survey memoir; at that time, the Survey was part of the Ordnance Geological Survey. Many other fascinating examples of early geological mapping carried out in France, Belgium, Germany and elsewhere in Europe were also viewed. The meeting ended with a guided tour of the Geological Society building and a talk given by Paul Johnson, the Geological Society's map librarian, regarding the scanning of the map archive.



John Henry talking about maps.



English geological maps on display, including De la Beche's 1839 "Index to the Ordnance..."

John Henry would like to add his appreciation of the interest and enthusiasm of the visitors who attended. Their questions, clarifications, corrections and broadening comments added, at least, to his learning. In particular, he would like to thank Richard Oliver (Exeter University), Francis Herbert (retired Royal Geographical Society), Geoff Walton (PGW Associates Ltd) and Peter Sabine (retired British Geological Survey). Finally, he would like to thank Fabienne Michaud, Wendy Cawthorne, Caroline Lam and Paul Johnson for their support in the preparation for the event and on the day itself; we could not have done it without them.

¹ e mail b.chacksfield@googlemail.com

FUTURE HOGG EVENTS

***2013 INHIGEO CONFERENCE**

MANCHESTER

Monday 22nd – Sunday 28th July 2013

All HOGG members are invited to attend or participate in the 2013 INHIGEO Conference which will take place as part of the 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine (iCHSTM). See pages 6 - 7 of this newsletter.

***WEEKEND MEETING IN SELSEY AND CHICHESTER**

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th September 2013 (dates have been determined by the coincidence of lowest tides with a weekend.)

This meeting will focus on the local geology and archaeology through the career of foraminifera expert Edward Heron-Allen (1861-1943). Details on pages 8 - 9 of this newsletter.

***VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, CARDIFF**

Friday 15th November 2013

A behind-the-scenes tour of the geological collections which are rich in the history of Henry De la Beche, William Smith and G. B. Greenough. **Including HOGG AGM.**

Full details in the October newsletter.

***FIELD TRIP: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE GEOLOGY AND WINES OF BURGUNDY**

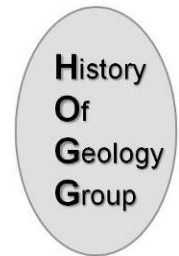
2014

Originally planned for October 2013, this trip has now been postponed until 2014.

***WILLIAM SMITH CELEBRATION**

2015

Planning is underway for a year-long, country-wide celebration of the bicentenary of William Smith's ground-breaking map of 1815. Further news and updates will appear in later newsletters. HOGG contact is John Henry (john@geolmaps.com).



2013 INHIGEO Conference

This conference will be held during the

**24th International Congress of
History of Science, Technology and Medicine**

www.ichstm2013.com

Manchester, England

Monday 22 to Sunday 28 July, 2013

(Thursday 18 to Tuesday 30 July, 2013, including INHIGEO field trips)

This will be the largest ever history of science meeting, and the first time the Congress has met in the UK for over 40 years.

Registration

It is still possible to register for this meeting by going to the registration page at

www.ichstm2013.com

Programme details

The INHIGEO symposium ***Geology in art and literature*** (S112) will be held all day on Tuesday 23 July, continuing into the morning of Wednesday 24 July. Full details of speakers and their topics can be found here:

<http://www.ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/s/S112.html#a>

The INHIGEO symposium ***Geologists in the Field*** (S113) will be held all day Friday 26 July, continuing into the morning of Saturday 27 July. Full details of speakers and their topics can be found here: <http://www.ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/s/S113.html#a>

By clicking on the title of any talk, you can view the abstract.

INHIGEO Field trip vacancies

We still have a few places available on both the 'Buxton spar and spa' and the 'Ruskin's geology' field trips. If you wish to register for either of these trips, you can still do so, but now need to pay the full registration amount:

http://inhigeo2013.historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/?page_id=225

Film celebrating the life of John Milne

John Milne (1850-1913) is arguably the 'Father' of modern seismology. *The Man Who Mapped the Shaking Earth* is being released to coincide with the centenary of Milne's death (31 July 1913). After the screening the film-maker, Dr Will Twycross who is John Milne's great-nephew, will join a panel of fellow authorities to answer questions about the life of John Milne. Further details about this event can be found here:

<http://www.ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/s/E307.html>

This film (Session E307) will immediately follow S112 on Wednesday 24 July (late morning).

INHIGEO business meeting

This business meeting (C256) will commence at 2 PM on Saturday 27 July.

Other things going on at the Congress you might like to know about

On the evening of Sunday 21 July at 18:00 hours, there is a Welcome Reception at the Manchester Museum: <http://ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/s/J321.html>

On the Monday evening (22 July) there is the UK Learned Societies' Reception. Both HOGG and INHIGEO are part sponsors of this: <http://ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/s/J322.html>

In addition to these events, there are many other things happening at the Congress that you might like to participate in, such as the formal and informal social programmes. For details of these, as well as the plenaries and general assemblies, tours, visits and excursions, and much more, please see the programme details page:

<http://ichstm2013.com/programme/guide/index.html>

ICHSTM mailing list

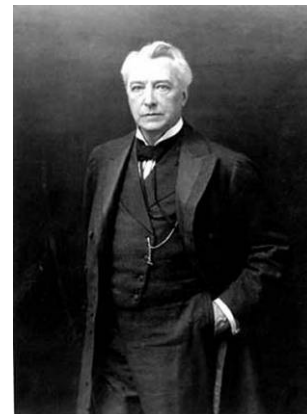
If you wish to be on the mailing list to be kept informed of latest developments regarding the Congress, please subscribe to it here: <http://www.ichstm2013.com/maillinglist/index.html>

See you there!

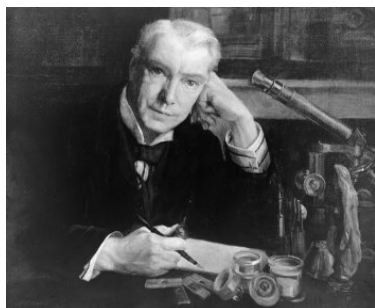
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HERON-ALLEN: GEOLOGIST AND POLYMATH OF SELSEY, WEST SUSSEX

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th September 2013

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN was a polymath, one of the most remarkable of his era. By profession a solicitor, he was also a distinguished zoologist (FRS), historian, Persian scholar and translator, author of a classic book on violin-making studied worldwide, cheirosopher, and writer of early science-fiction novels and stories, some of these being published pseudonymously and now much sought after.



Having moved to Selsey in 1906-7, Heron-Allen engaged in a wide range of local studies resulting in the publication of *Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric* (1911), which includes a detailed description of the geology. This comprises the Eocene Bracklesham Group, a series of marine and near-shore sediments, overlain by ‘drift’ deposits that were laid down from around 400,000 years BP through to the early Bronze Age, about 4,000 years BP. Coastal erosion is aggressively wearing away these soft sediments, more-so in Heron-Allen’s day when Selsey had the distinction of losing more land per yard of frontage than any other place in the British Isles.



This weekend visit to the Selsey area will investigate Heron-Allen’s contributions to geological studies in the area. Lectures by leading experts on Heron-Allen and the local geology will be combined with short walks around Selsey and a fossil hunt on the beach at Bracklesham.

PROGRAMME (PROVISIONAL)

Speakers will be David Bone (local West Sussex geologist), Tim McCann and John Whittaker (Heron-Allen Society) and Anne Bone (archaeologist and local historian).

Friday 6th Sept. at Selsey Town Hall.

2.00 – 3.30 Talks on the local geology (Palaeogene and Quaternary) and introduction to Heron-Allen.

TEA/COFFEE/BISCUITS. Transfer by shared car to Bracklesham (car park fee payable).

4.30 – 6.30 Fossil hunt on the foreshore at Bracklesham (Site of Special Scientific Interest and well-known fossil collecting locality).

EVENING MEAL: although not included in the cost, we aim to locate a suitable place to eat together; venue to be confirmed.

OVERNIGHT IN SELF-ARRANGED ACCOMMODATION

Saturday 7th Sept. at Selsey Town Hall.

10.00 – 12.30 Morning talks on Heron-Allen, the Mixon Rock and Heron-Allen’s “Saxon feet”; including tea/coffee break.

LUNCH: venue to be confirmed.

2.00 – 4.00 Afternoon walk around the old parts of Selsey and the church.

REFRESHMENT BREAK AT SELSEY TOWN HALL.
Car share for transfer to sea front area.

4.30 – 6.30. Late afternoon on Selsey beach to view locations of mammoth finds (East Beach) and view the Mixon reef (from Selsey Bill).

FREE EVENING OR EVENING MEAL TOGETHER.
OVERNIGHT IN SELF-ARRANGED
ACCOMMODATION



Sunday 8th Sept.

10.00 – 12.00. Historic building stones of Chichester guided walk.

Chichester is a medieval cathedral city with Roman roots, which is reflected in the changing use and reuse of building stone throughout its long history. A two-hour, 1 mile circular walk around the city centre and the cathedral precincts with David Bone will reveal the hidden stories captured in the historic and modern building stones. Depending on numbers we may need to divide the group into two to avoid blocking narrow pavements, in which case the second group would walk from 12:30 to 14:30.

Transport and venue On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, lectures will be held in Selsey Town Hall, 55 High Street, Selsey PO20 0RB (accessed directly off the High Street). There are bus services from Chichester bus station (directly across the road from the railway station) to Selsey on a 15 minute interval during the day. Car parking for the Town Hall is in Budgens car park (more or less directly opposite).

Weather and clothing Full details will be provided on each day. The Bracklesham foreshore is accessed across a shingle beach and the area is extremely exposed. Wear appropriate clothing for the prevailing weather conditions with due allowance for significant wind chill (it can be very cold). Wellington boots are recommended.

Accommodation Please arrange your own accommodation. We suggest staying in Selsey. Local hotels, bed & breakfasts and caravans available for hire are listed at <http://www.visitchichester.org/where-to-stay>. St Andrew's Lodge comes recommended. The Travelodge in Chichester has the least expensive accommodation if booked well in advance.

Registration After June 15th, you may book on-line at www.historyofgeologygroup.co.uk. Alternatively, there is a booking form on page 22 of this newsletter. Bookings accepted until 18th August.

Costs The cost (£45.00 for HOGG and GA members; £50.00 for others) covers teas/coffees on Friday and Saturday, lunch on Saturday, and information handout. It does not cover evening meals, local accommodation and transport to/from Chichester and Selsey. Local transport will be in group members' cars.

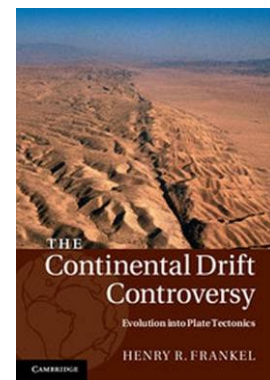
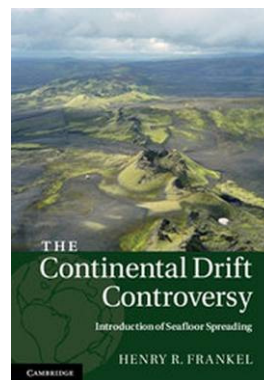
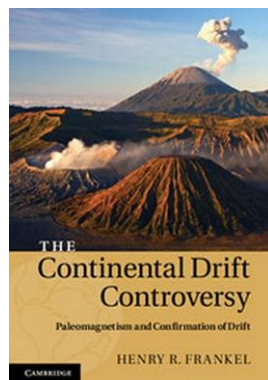
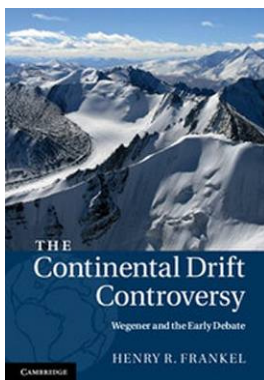
SUE TYLER FRIEDMAN MEDAL 2013

This year the Geological Society of London has awarded its Sue Tyler Friedman Medal to Professor Henry (Hank) Frankel of the Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri – Kansas City, USA. The award was established by Gerry Friedman in 1987 by a gift of the Northeastern Science Foundation Inc. of Troy, New York, and dedicated to his wife Sue Tyler Friedman. The award is made annually, or at such intervals as the GSL Council may determine, in recognition of distinguished contributions to the recording of the history of geology.

Henry Frankel's major interest concerns the evolution and resolution of scientific controversies. During the late 1970s, he became interested in the continental drift controversy and the plate tectonics revolution while teaching a course on conceptual issues in science. The controversy provided him with an example of a recent and major scientific revolution by which to test philosophical accounts of scientific growth and change.



Last year saw the publication by Cambridge University Press of his four-volume treatise *The Continental Drift Controversy* which is “the first complete history of the origin, debate and gradual acceptance of this revolutionary explanation of the structure and motion of the Earth’s outer surface. Based on extensive interviews, archival papers, and original works, Frankel weaves together the lives and work of the scientists involved, producing an accessible narrative for scientists and non-scientists alike”. According to Dan MacKenzie of the University of Cambridge, it is the completeness of this monumental work that makes it so impressive; “Frankel has gone back to the original sources and papers to ensure complete understanding of the scientific issues involved”. This year’s GSL awards ceremony took place at Burlington House on 5th June.



Sources: Cambridge University Press, and Dept of Philosophy University of Missouri- Kansas City websites.

JOHN MORRIS (1810-1886)



Simon Leach, who joined HOGG earlier this year, is interested in Victorian palaeontology and palaeontologists, in particular John Morris (1810-1886) who is his great great grandfather. Members may remember that Morris featured on the cover of HOGG Newsletter 39 (June 2010) in recognition of his bicentenary. Simon is currently researching Morris' life and would be pleased to hear from anyone with information on or interest in John Morris and his associates. Contact Simon by e mail at simonleach@phonecoop.coop

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR OPENS NEW EXHIBITION



On Monday 15th April, the Japanese Ambassador His Excellency Mr Keiichi Hayashi visited Carisbrooke Castle Museum on the Isle of Wight to open a new exhibition celebrating the life and work of seismologist Professor John Milne who retired to the island in 1895 and the centenary of whose death is commemorated in 2013. The Museum holds many artefacts relating to Professor Milne and his study of seismology both on the Isle of Wight and in Japan where he was based for the majority of his career.

See page 19 of this newsletter for details of the exhibition and other John Milne events.

Photo © Michael Dunkason

www.carisbrookecastlemuseum.org.uk

BOOK and MAP NOTES

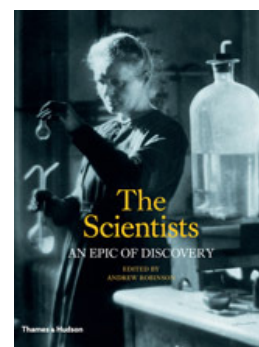
The Scientists. An Epic of Discovery

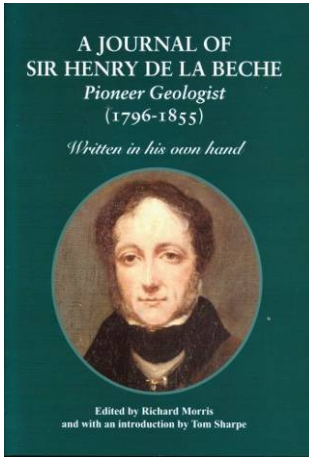
Andrew Robinson (editor)

Thames & Hudson Publication. 2012. 304pp.

ISBN 978-0-500-25191-1 (hardback) £24.95

This volume was reviewed by Douglas Palmer in the April 2013 issue of *Geoscientist* (Vol.23, No.3) and features a “well-presented selection of potted biographies” of 43 interesting scientists. According to Palmer, these biographies are “written by appropriate authors, many of whom are emeritus professors of a discipline relevant to their subject, plus some well-known science journalists and historians of science”. Of special geological interest are the biographies of James Hutton and Charles Lyell, both written by Martin Rudwick who “turns in a couple of very interesting essays”. Alexander von Humboldt, Alfred Wegener, Ernest Rutherford, Carl Linnaeus, Charles Darwin, and Louis and Mary Leakey also feature.





A Journal of Sir Henry De la Beche, Pioneer Geologist (1796-1855)

Richard Morris (editor)

Royal Institution of South Wales (RISW) 2013

£4.95 (plus £1.60 p&p)

Launched on 6th April, only 300 copies are to be printed.

Available from: Gerald Gabb, 38 Woodland Avenue, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5LY. Cheques payable to 'RISW'.

“Sir Henry De la Beche (1796-1855) was a pioneer geologist who had close links with Swansea and its museum, and after whom streets in the centre and in Sketty are named. His daughter, Bessie, married Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn. So, when Richard Morris, RI member and prolific chronicler of the Dillwyns,

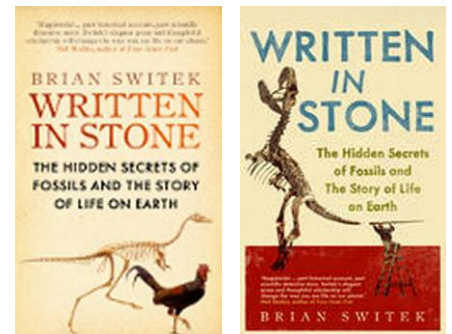
heard of a personal journal of Henry’s on ebay, he was determined to secure it. And here it is for you, transcribed by Richard and published by the RI. But that’s only the half of it. Tom Sharpe from the National Museum of Wales, a geologist and considerable expert on the subject, has added a superb 15 page account of De la Beche, and both men have tracked down and included fascinating pictures.” (from RISW website and order form)

Written in Stone: the Hidden Secrets of Fossils and the Story of Life on Earth

Brian Switek

Icon Books, UK. 2011. 320pp. £8.99

ISBN 978-1-84831-342-2



According to Leslie Noè’s review in Newsletter 82 of the Palaeontological Association (2013), this book is about the search for the so-called ‘missing links’ in life’s evolutionary tree but, in so doing, it is “an exploration of vertebrate palaeontology, and importantly the men of science, leisure, and business... that sought, and continue to seek out fossils”. Noè identifies the importance of politics and culture in the progress of science as an important theme explored throughout the book, as well as “the development of ideas regarding fossils, and the way natural historians took considerable time to recognize [them] as the remains of once living things”. The review in *The Independent* last year described Switek as having “a knack for communicating difficult scientific ideas to a lay audience” and the book’s narrative as “sweeping and fast-paced”.

A History of Geology and Medicine

Duffin, C. F., Moody, R. T. J. and Gardner-Thorpe, C. (editors)

Special Publication of the Geological Society No. 375



Special Publications

21 papers live as at 15th May 2013 sp.lyellcollection.org/online-first/375

The early history of geology is full of examples of physicians who contributed to the development of the science. The therapeutic use of geological materials extends from ancient Egyptian times to the present. This volume draws together research currently being undertaken by an international collection of geologists, medical personnel, historians and linguists. Many of the included papers were presented at the HOGG meeting held in November 2011.

BGS HISTORICAL MAPS



The British Geological Survey has recently released scans of all the early hand-coloured maps of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland (1835-1905). During this period, the entire mapping output, at the basic scale of 1:63 360 or one inch to the mile, was produced as engraved sheets that were then hand-coloured. For more information, see

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/historicalmaps/home.html> and <http://britgeopeople.blogspot.co.uk/2013/04/historic-map-scanning-project-online.html>

These historical maps are delivered under the Open Government Licence, subject to the following acknowledgement accompanying the reproduced BGS material: “Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [year]”.

MURCHISON’S MAP OF ‘THE SILURIAN REGION’

Prints of Murchison’s map of ‘The Silurian Region’ are available from The Geological Society at the price of £25 + VAT & postage for Fellows of the Society or £35 + VAT & postage for non-Fellows. It is the first map to show the Silurian formations in South Wales and adjacent counties of England. It accompanied his work *The Silurian System* published in 1839, although it is frequently missing from the book. The scanning work was undertaken to a high specification by the Royal Geographical Society.



For more information, visit the website <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/mapsale> or to order a copy, e mail Paul Johnson: paul.johnson@geolsoc.org.uk

Society for the History of Natural History

Patron: Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS

SHNH is an international society for the history of botany, geology and zoology in the broadest sense.

"Anyone who loves the history of natural history will find a warm welcome, like I did."

Professor Janet Browne
Harvard University



Alamy.com

President: Prof. Hugh Torrens

Founded in 1936, the SHNH welcomes as members everyone with an interest in the history of natural history, natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography, for all periods and cultures. The Society publishes an internationally respected journal *Archives of Natural History* as well as an informative *Newsletter*. The website (www.shnh.org.uk) gives details of all the SHNH's activities including meetings and events.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Archives of natural history

A journal produced twice a year comprising about 400 pages annually. This is published for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. It is a highly respected independent voice. All members have free online access to the current issue via the Edinburgh University Press website. Members do not pay page charges on papers accepted for publication in *Archives of natural history*.

Newsletter: Three issues each year. Announces forthcoming events, provides a forum for notes and queries, offers notice of new publications, and much more.

Meetings: Reduced registration rates to Society meetings and

invitations to those we co-sponsor.

Discounts on publications: Members normally receive reduced rates on the Society's special publications. Members also are entitled to discounts on publications issued by Edinburgh University Press.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

All members who have paid an annual subscription are entitled to vote at general meetings and to stand for election to Council, the Society's governing body. They also receive all discounts available to members.

The SHNH has three categories of membership:

Individual membership: Receives the printed copy of *Archives* and the *Newsletter* as well as free access to the online electronic version and to back-issues of *Archives*.

Dual membership: For two people living at the same address. Receive one printed copy of *Archives* and the *Newsletter* as well as free access to the online electronic version and to back-issues of *Archives*.

Associate membership: For individuals who are full-time or part-time students: proof of enrolment may be requested. Receives free online access to the current issue of *Archives* and to all back-issues, and a printed copy of the *Newsletter*.

Membership of the SHNH, including personal subscription to *Archives of natural history* in print and online is administered by Edinburgh University Press.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES should be sent to: Journals Marketing, Edinburgh University Press, 22 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LF, UK. Subscribe online at www.eupjournals.com/ANH

CONTACT: Hon. Secretary, Society for the History of Natural History, c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK Email: info@shnh.org.uk

JOHN LAVIN AND THE EGYPTIAN HOUSE

David Earle³ reports on an unusual holiday-let in Cornwall.



The March 2013 issue of the *BBC History Magazine* included an article about the 19th century British craze for reproducing ancient Egyptian architectural forms in public buildings¹. One of the examples referred to is the Egyptian House, Penzance, which was built about 1835 as a shop and geological repository for the geologist John Lavin. The article states that the Egyptian House bears a strong resemblance to the former Egyptian Hall in London's Piccadilly, designed by P F Robinson, and the design of the Egyptian House has been attributed to either Robinson or John Foulston of Plymouth.

More detailed background on John Lavin (1796-1856) and the Egyptian House is given by Michael Cooper in *Robbing the Sparry Garniture*². By 1823, John was operating as a stationer and bookbinder in East Street, Penzance. In 1830, he had moved to Chapel Street and was also dealing in minerals. His business

was successful enough to warrant the construction of the Egyptian House. Cooper believes that the architect was probably John Foulston (1772-1842) who also built the Classical and Mathematical School in Devonport in similar style; this became the local library and once housed the famous John St Aubyn mineral collection.

Some members of the Lavin family emigrated to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and at least one was a source of specimens to supplement John's Cornish stock. His main local supplier was James Wall.



Besley's Hand Book Advertiser.

Students of Mineralogy and Geology, and Tourists
TO THE
SCENERY, ANTIQUITIES, & MINES OF CORNWALL,
Will be interested by a visit to
LAVIN'S MUSEUM,
CHAPEL STREET, PENZANCE.

The Lizard Serpentine Ornaments.
Stereographs.
Views, Hand Books, Pocket Maps, &c.
Photographs.

This unique Collection of Cornish Minerals contains Specimens of the most interesting and rare substances, with perfect crystallizations, for which the above County has been so justly celebrated.

100 MINERALS scientifically arranged in a case, with descriptive catalogue, from 21 to 63. Larger Specimens neatly set in a Mahogany Cabinet, from 45 to 110.

More extensive Selections and first-rate Specimens from £20 to £50 and upwards.

GEOLOGICAL SELECTIONS, comprehending Specimens of the various Rocks of the County.

See A Specimen of Carbonate of Iron, from Wheal Maudlin Mine, for which the sum of £130 has been refused, as well as a great many others, presumed to be unrivalled.

THE LIZARD SERPENTINE,
Manufactured into Fountains, Obelisks, Vases, Chalicees, Hebe Jugs, Thermometers, Inkstands, Candlesticks, Toilet Bottles, Ringstands, &c., &c. No material, British or Foreign, equals this stone, either in brilliancy of colour, or in elegance of appearance.

Photographs, Stereographs, and Plate Paper Views of Cornish Scenery
HAND BOOKS, POCKET MAPS, ETC.

Cooper mentions Lavin's notoriety for passing off faked specimens and cites in particular "...an infamous faked cassiterite pseudomorph after feldspar copied after the Cornish classic from Wheal Coates, St Agnes and made from sheet lead covered in crushed cassiterite". Perhaps generously, Cooper believes that "...there is no evidence for systematic forgery".

According to Cooper, Lavin's most famous *genuine* specimen is "...a geode of siderite from Wheal Maudlin, Lanlivery, Cornwall. It consists of concentrically colour-zoned greenish to brownish crystals of siderite, with quartz, filling a cavity 20 x 33 cm across. This and many smaller specimens were collected about 1820 probably from a single unique occurrence. The advertisement (*see left*), reproduced from Cooper, notes the Wheal Maudlin specimen "for which the sum of £130 has been refused" together with various tourist items manufactured from Lizard Serpentine such as those still familiar to Cornish visitors today. In 1834, Lavin was offering it for sale at £150; unsurprisingly it remained unsold at his death."

John's son Edward inherited the business on the death of his father but, in 1863, sold the entire stock to Baroness Burdett-Coutts (1814-1906) for £3500 and with the proceeds purchased the Mounts Bay Hotel on the Penzance esplanade. After her death, the collection was considered to be poorly labelled and overpriced. The Wheal Maudlin siderite was acquired from her collection by the British Museum (Natural History) where it is now on display. Cooper notes that boxed sets of minerals made by Lavin are known to survive in the collections of Hampshire County Council Museum Service (Winchester), the Perth Museum (Scotland) and the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

The building was restored in 1973 by the Landmark Trust (www.landmarktrust.org.uk) who now rent out upper rooms as holiday accommodation and the ground floor as a National Trust shop.

With thanks to Katherine Oaks (Landmark Trust Press Office) and Wendy Cawthorne (Geological Society Library). Pictures of the Egyptian House © Landmark Trust.

¹ *BBC History Magazine* Vol. 14 no. 3 March 2013 p. 79 "Egypt in Britain".

² Cooper, Michael P. 2006. *Robbing the Sparry Garniture. A 200 Year History of British Mineral Dealers 1750-1950*. Mineralogical Record Inc., Tucson, Arizona.

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Every little helps

Anthony Brook¹ tells the tale of a putative Mantell memorandum.

One day, about six months ago, my geological colleague Roger Cordiner came rushing up to me, all excited: "I've found a Gideon Mantell document!" "Quite possibly, but most unlikely" I replied. "Show me", and he produced the Memoranda pages 119-120 as shown here. "First of all, it's a reproduction, which I'm sure you realized; and secondly, that is NOT Mantell's handwriting! I've seen enough of his scrawly script in his Correspondence to say, quite categorically, that is not his. Nevertheless, it might still be significant. Where did you come across these pages; and was there anything else?"

Apparently, the pages were interleaved in a copy of Mantell's *Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex* (1827) which Roger had viewed online from the Oxford Digital Library at www.digitalbookindex.org. They were accompanied by a receipt for the purchase of a copy of Mantell's *Geology of Southeast England* (1833) dated 2nd January 1922 for the princely sum of 8/6d from Henry Glaisher, discount bookseller of Wigmore St., Cavendish Square, London W1, by a gentleman named S. Spokes of 4 Portland Place who can be none other than Dr Sidney Spokes who published the first biography of Gideon Mantell in 1927 (see HOGG Newsletter 46, pp.19-21). Neatly written on the back of the receipt was a brief three-line note, in a script identical to that of the Memoranda pages: "This copy [of *Illustrations*] belonged to Sir Thomas Mantell, as his name can be seen left after the label had been soaked off". Sir Thomas Mantell (1751-1831) of Dover was Gideon's distant paternal relative, and featured in his Journal in June 1830 and April 1831 (Curwen 1940, pp. 79, 94-95). Indeed, prior ownership is confirmed by Spokes (1927, p. 25): "There were only 150 copies printed, and the copy under notice belonged to Sir Thomas Mantell, of Dover, a kinsman of the author". By strength of association, I therefore proposed Sidney Spokes as the writer of the Memoranda pages but I wanted confirmation.

To Samuel Woodward.

Castle Place, May 12, 1833. My dear Sir, I reply to your letter this day
referred, but it should show the date of your former favour, for my time and
attention are so engaged by my profession at times that I am become a
most irregular correspondent. I shall be most happy to put my name down
for your new work, respecting which I much regret I did not know your
intention before mine was completed; however I did not forget you on your
subject. My own work is not much upwards of 200 and I believe will be done.

The first specimens of the teeth were found by Mr. Mantell, in the course of his
of the Forest; in the spring of 1822 (see Vol. I, p. 50, N. 10, ed.) and he has,
subsequently, collected a most interesting series, displaying every gradation of form
from the perfect tooth of the young animal, to the last stage, that of a mere long
stump, worn away by mastication. These teeth are comparatively rare; and the
only locality in which they have been hitherto noticed, is in the immediate vicinity
of Folkestone Forest; they have not been discovered in any other part of England.

Then follows the account of the difficulty he had in finding out what animal they
belonged to, the opinion of Cuvier, and an anatomical description of the whole
parts of the skeleton. Amongst these was one of his should not especially
found but which it was afterwards discovered he had wrongly interpreted. *One of*
the Iguanodon, he has now requested the reader's attention to a very remarkable
specimen, with which there is every reason to believe the Iguanodon was provided.
This is not less than a *horn*, equal in size, and not very different in form, to the
horn of the Rhinoceros. This unique rib is represented in the natural size,
Plate XX, fig. 2. It is externally of a dark brown colour, and exhibits some
marks of its surface are smooth, others are rugose and furrowed, as if by the
pressure of blood vessels. Its base is of an irregular oval form, and slightly
concave. It possess an osseous structure, and appears to have no internal
cavity. It is evident that it was not united to the skull by a bony union,

Taking the longer lower part of the text, I played a hunch and went straight to Spokes' biography of Mantell where I found it, word for word, on pages 26-27, unequivocal confirmation of Spokes as the writer. Apart from the medial commentary by Spokes, this is, in fact, a repetition of text from Mantell's *Illustrations* (pp. 268-269, 280-281), which Spokes clearly indicates as directly quoted material. This handwritten passage is only the first part of a much longer paragraph in which Mantell considers the horned species of iguanas and "establishes another remarkable analogy between the Iguanodon and the animal from which its name is derived". However, as we now know, Mantell was mistaken; his 'nasal horn' turned out to be a vicious thumb spike.

The shorter upper section, with the diagonal crossing-out line, which appears to be the opening part of a letter from Gideon Mantell to the Norfolk geologist Samuel Woodward (1790-1838) is perhaps more interesting because it has not appeared in print before. The Woodward are like the Sowerbys; their scientific contributions extend over several generations,

as are the horns of the mammalia. The nature of this extraordinary fossil
for some time unknown; and it is to the discrimination of Mr. Portland, that
a cast of it was shown by Professor Buckland, that we are indebted for the
suggestion that it probably belongs to some saurian animal. It is well known
that some reptiles, &c. &c. page 79.

and it can be difficult telling them apart. Samuel Woodward, patriarch of this geologically inclined dynasty, was Mantell's exact contemporary, and an equally-fervent fossil collector and regional geologist. His *Synoptical Table of British Organic Remains* (1830) was the first attempt to list all known fossils. As was customary among provincial fossilists in those days, Mantell and Woodward exchanged letters and boxes of fossils; 16 of their letters, covering the period 1828-1837, are preserved in the Mantell Correspondence Archive, on microfilm, at the East Sussex Record Office in Lewes, as well as in the Woodward Correspondence at Norwich Castle Museum.

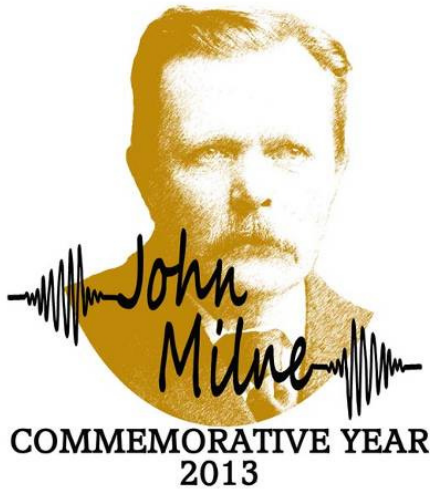
Although Spokes makes good use of some of these letters in the section "The Woodward Correspondence" (pp. 31-33 of his Mantell biography), he only quoted extracts from letters written in 1828 and 1829 so this fragment, dated 12th May 1833, becomes significant. It relates to Mantell's recently published volume *The Geology of Southeast England* which was formally published on 10th May, only two days previous, "with over 200 copies already delivered". It would seem that by mid March 1833, Mantell assured correspondents like Samuel Woodward of Norwich to whom he wrote on

the back of the Prospectus [issued on 8th February] that his book [*Southeast England*] was in the press and would be out in three or four weeks (Dean 1999, pp.117-118). Despite being a “most regular correspondent”, Mantell makes amends by becoming a subscriber to Woodward’s “new work” *An Outline of the Geology of Norfolk* which was not yet available. It duly appeared later the same year (1833), and included a coloured Geological Map of Norfolk, a Lateral Section of the Norfolk Cliffs, and Systematic Tables of the Organic Remains of Norfolk, in which Woodward refers to previous books by Mantell: *Fossils of the South Downs* (1822) and *Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex* (1827), although he calls it by its subtitle of *Fossils of Tilgate Forest*. Neither of the 1833 publications sold particularly well at the time but both have since gained a certain significance.

I believe the Memoranda pages, which must have been part of a much thicker Memoranda pad, were part of Spokes’ worksheets and preliminary drafts for his Mantell biography. Don’t be disheartened. Every scrap of antecedent information has potential and they all help to paint the historical picture. In the insistent aphorism of the dominant supermarket chain: “Every little helps!”

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FUTURE MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES



The 100th anniversary of the death of Professor John Milne 'The Father of Modern Seismology' (1850-1913) will be celebrated on 31st July 2013.

See the dedicated pages on the Isle of Wight Society's website <http://www.isleofwightsociety.org.uk/jmilne.aspx> for listings of local Isle of Wight, national and international celebratory events.

In particular:

WEDNESDAY 31st JULY 2013: Memorial service at St Paul's Church, Newport, Isle of Wight

THURSDAY 1st AUGUST 2013 : The John Milne film at the Quay Arts Centre, Newport Harbour.

AND

MARCH 29th to OCTOBER 30th 2013: A new exhibition at Carisbrooke Castle Museum

Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1XY Tel. 01983 523112

info@carisbrookecastle museum.org.uk

Open daily – Admission included with entrance fee to Castle.



Earth-Shattering Science



JOHN
MILNE
2013

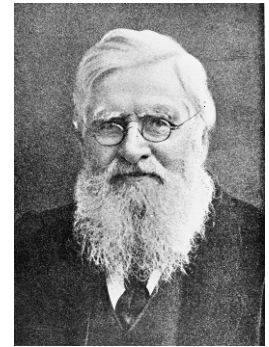


STUDENT
TEACHER
EXPLORER
CELEBRITY

John 'Earthquake' Milne (1850–1913) was at the forefront of the new science of seismology. Come to the Museum and find out about his work, travels, and larger-than-life personality.



Described as an intrepid explorer, collector, brilliant naturalist, geographer, anthropologist, political commentator and remarkable intellectual, Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) had the revolutionary idea of evolution by natural selection entirely independently of Charles Darwin.



WALLACE 100 is an informal; international association of organisations with projects that are designed to celebrate, in **2013**, the 100th anniversary of Wallace's death.

*See the Natural History Museum website

www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/wallace/events for an extensive list of commemorative Wallace events in the UK.

**GEOHERITAGE 2013
CONFERENCE IN THE KLEIN KAROO, SOUTH AFRICA
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
9th – 11th SEPTEMBER 2013
BUFFELSDRIFT GAME LODGE,
OUDTSHOOM, SOUTH AFRICA**



The Klein Karoo of South Africa is a domain with a dramatic geological history, preserved as mountain ranges, deeply incised valleys, ancient land surfaces, and caves. The area has long been used by humankind. A large part of the area is incorporated into the UNESCO-designated Gourtiz Cluster Biosphere Reserve. There are many aspects of the geology and geomorphology of the Klein Karoo and the Reserve deserving of GeoHeritage and GeoConservation status.

Guided Field Excursions

- A. 8th September - Pre conference Excursion: Red Hills at Calitzdorp, Cango Caves with lunch at Wilgewandel.
- B. 11th September – Geology of the Cango valley and the famous World Heritage Swartberg Mountain and historical Pass, Prince Albert museum fossil collection, lunch, Meiringspoort (Swartberg Canyon).
- C. 11th September – Landscape in the Kammanasie river valley, African land surface and duricrusts, erosion caves and rock art, lunch at Uniondale, red Cretaceous conglomerates (Enon Formation)

Registration opened on 1st April. Full details are on www.geoheritage.co.za

THE SIR ARTHUR SMITH WOODWARD 150th ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2014

Arthur Smith Woodward (ASW) built his scientific reputation on detailed and meticulous studies of fossil fish, many of which helped to form the foundations of current research on numerous fish groups. However, he also contributed to our knowledge of other extinct animals and regional geology, and he endured some notoriety for his involvement in the Piltdown Man hoax. Almost no attempt has been made to assess Smith- Woodward's wider impact on palaeontology. This one- day symposium aims to rectify this omission, with invited speakers who will present papers on Smith Woodward's life and career, his varied scientific outputs, and his involvement in Piltdown.

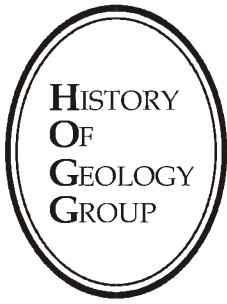


Dr & Mrs Smith-Woodward 1907 (Photograph reproduced with the permission of the NHM)

ASW joined the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) at South Kensington in August 1882 at just 18 years of age following his examination success in competition with 13 other candidates. He was made Assistant Keeper of the Department of Geology ten years later and succeeded Henry Woodward (no relation) as Keeper in 1901 at the age of 37, a position he held until his retirement in 1924. He died at his home in Haywards Heath in 1944.

When he arrived, the building in South Kensington had been open to the public for just 16 months and ASW immediately became involved in creating the public displays of fossils. More importantly, it was at this time that the extensive fossil fish collections of Sir Philip Grey Egerton and William Willoughby Cole (the 3rd Earl of Enniskillen) were acquired by the Museum. These collections contained many important type specimens and also many specimens that had been figured by Louis Agassiz in his monumental work on fossil fishes *Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles* (1833-1843). No doubt inspired by the series of lectures he attended given by Ramsay H. Traquair (1840-1912) in 1883, he devoted all his energies to the study of fossil fish, culminating in the four part *Catalogue of the Fossil Fishes in the British Museum (Natural History)* published between 1889 and 1901. This was and remains a very important reference point for fossil fish workers. ASW published extensively throughout his career at the Museum and following retirement. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society in 1901, received numerous awards and medals, and was knighted on retirement.

- The symposium will be held in the Flett Theatre of the NHM, is open to the general public, and is free of charge. There will be displays of important fossil specimens, memorabilia and other items of interest in the Flett Theatre foyer. Attendees will be required to pre-register to gain access to both the foyer and the lecture theatre.
- To pre-register and receive further information, please e-mail the Meeting Co-ordinator, Mike Smith, at ASW150@nhm.ac.uk.



REGISTRATION FORM
SELSEY FIELD TRIP WEEKEND
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDWARD HERON-ALLEN
FRIDAY 6TH – SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E mail _____ **Tel.** _____ **Mobile** _____

HOGG member YES / NO **GA member** YES / NO

I / We will be attending the field trip at Selsey
from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September @ £45.00 per person = £ _____

If other than HOGG or GA member, please add £5.00 per person = £ _____

TOTAL £ _____

Please make cheques payable to *HOGG* and send to

HOGG Treasurer, 151 Browns Lane, Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BN

HOGG STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Name of bank or building society.....

Branch address.....

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Sort code.....Account number.....

Account name.....

Please pay the amount of £15 (fifteen pounds) to the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society (Santander Business Account, Sort code ___ - ___ - ___ Account number _____) on 1st January (or closest date thereto) following the date of this instruction and annually thereafter until terminated by me in writing. **[NB Account details will be inserted by the HOGG Treasurer.]**

Signed..... Date.....

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED MANDATE TO

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