

PAL

NEWS*NEWS

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Q.P.

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CONTENTS - INHOUD

3. First PSSA Conference
8. Guide to Bloemfontein
10. News - Nuus
11. Study Tour Report - *Q.B. Hendey*
19. PSSA Members, May 1979
21. Fossielspore in die Beaufort - *R. Oosthuizen*
22. Reëls van hierdie Paleontologie-Laboratorium
23. On the Track of the first Fossil Hunters - *Jacques van Heerden*

Front Cover:

A fine specimen of *Atherstonia seeleyi*, more or less natural size, from Victoria West district. Photograph: Dr R A Jubb.

FIRST PSSA CONFERENCE

An international conference on Karoo Palaeontology was held way back in 1963, followed by the 1977 Karoo Symposium at the Bernard Price Institute. In the meantime SASQUA has been meeting more regularly, but now, for the very first time, we will have a Palaeontological Conference encompassing the whole field of research on fossils. This first PSSA Conference will be held in the Auditorium of the National Museum in Bloemfontein from Monday the second to Thursday the fifth of July, 1979. We hope that all members have already made a note of these dates and that we will all meet here.

The preliminary programme of the Conference is as follows:

Monday, 2nd July, 19h00:

Reception by the Council and Staff of the National Museum. Official opening of the Conference by the Chairman of the Museum Council, Prof. Rocco van Pletzen.

Venue: National Museum grounds and tearoom.

Tuesday, 3rd July:

09h00: Late registrations.
09h30: Business meeting: Word of Welcome by the President of the Society; Personalia; Election results
10h30: Presidential Address
11h00: Tea and light snacks
11h30: Papers
13h00: Lunch (A light lunch will be served at the Museum free of charge)
14h00: Papers
15h30: Tea and light snacks
16h00 - 17h00: Papers
19h30: Mayoral Reception and a short address by the Mayor of Bloemfontein.

Wednesday, 4th July:

09h00: Papers
11h00: Tea and light snacks
11h30: Papers
13h00: Lunch (at the Museum)

- 14h00: Papers
- 15h30: Tea and light snacks
- 16h00: Papers
- 17h00: Summary by the Chairman and official closing of Conference.
- 19h30 for 20h00: CONFERENCE DINNER at Cest la Vie, Charles Street, Bloemfontein, including the presentation of Certificates of Honorary Membership of the Society.

Thursday, 5th July:

- 09h00: Bus leaves the National Museum for a one-day excursion to Thaba 'Nchu Guide: Johan C Looock and James Kitching
- 16h00: Bus leaves Thaba 'Nchu for Bloemfontein (expected time of arrival 17h30)

FEES:

This is, of course, the most important aspect of the whole Conference! We have tried to keep costs as low as possible as there are several amateur members who would like to attend the Conference and who would not be able to claim their expenditure from a parent Institution. Provided you register on or before the 15th June, the Conference fee will only be R10-00 per person. The spouses of members may attend the Dinner on payment of R7-50.

After 15th June the fees will be R12-00 and R9-00 respectively.

We are grateful to the National Museum Director, Mr Hannes Oberholzer, for placing the Museum Auditorium at our disposal free of charge, and to the Staff Society of the National Museum for the Monday evening reception as well as the tea, coffee, snacks and lunches which will be served. This has contributed to a very large extent to keeping the fees as low as they are.

Please note that the Dinner is free to all members.

What is not included in the above fee of R10-00 is the cost of the excursion to Thaba 'Nchu. With the minimum of 30 delegates on this excursion the cost should not exceed R7-00 per person, but those who have met our guides would probably join them on a one-way trip down a mine-shaft, so don't miss this opportunity. The more the merrier - and the cheaper!

ACCOMMODATION:

Another item which is not included in the Conference fee is hotel accommodation. Here the choice is up to you, but please bear in mind that you only have to book for bed and breakfast. The following hotels are all within easy walking distance of the Museum:

Hotel & Tel. no.	Bed only	Bed and Breakfast
Bloemfontein XXX ph. (051) 70595	R22-00 with bath	
Cecil XX ph. (051) 81155		R13-50 with bath R13-00 without bath
Maitland XX ph. (051) 83121		R12-00 with bath
Capitol X ph. (051) 77711	R8-25 with bath R6-75 without bath	R10-00 with bath R8-50 without bath
Oranje X ph. (051) 79849		R9-00 with bath R8-00 without bath

Provided you register on or before 15th June and indicate your choice of accommodation we undertake to make the hotel reservation for you. After 15th June you will have to make you own bookings, but it is strongly recommended that you make arrangements before that date, as there might be a shortage of accommodation due to other events coming off in Bloemfontein at the same time.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT

Those travelling by air should note that there is no regular bus service between the airport and the city. Please inform us as soon as possible (and at the latest 24 hours before arrival) of your flight number and expected time of arrival at J.B.M. Hertzog Airport. The Museum Kombi has been placed at our disposal to take delegates into town until 18h00 on Monday.

Transport will also be available from the city to the airport on Thursday and Friday: arrangements should be made during the Conference, preferably before Wednesday evening.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

As stated at the beginning, this is a multi-discipline Conference and it would therefore serve little purpose to read a paper on the detailed morphology of a group which is only of interest to a few delegates. A special effort should therefore be made to present a paper which is of more general interest. Technical papers are most welcome.

Members who wish to deliver papers should -

1. Indicate this on the registration form:
2. Indicate whether they would need a slide projector and/or overhead projector; and
3. Submit a one-page, typewritten (double spaced) summary of the paper on or before 15th June to the Organiser in Bloemfontein.

Any member may submit up to a maximum of three papers. The summaries of all papers will be circulated amongst the Committee members who will have the final say as to which papers are more suitable. After being approved, the summaries will be circulated amongst the members.

A maximum of 20 minutes for the reading of a particular paper and 10 minutes for discussion will be allowed. Please make sure that your papers(s) can be delivered within this time, as no exceptions will be allowed.

The National Museum has undertaken to publish the proceedings of the Conference as a Museum Memoir. For this reason the full text and illustrations should be submitted to the Editor on or before 4th July, 1979.

BUSINESS MEETING

Any proposals regarding amendments to the Constitution or other matters you would like to have discussed during the Business Meeting will be included in the Agenda provided the Secretary of the Society or the Organiser is informed of these on or before 15th June. Should it be necessary, the time set aside for the Business Meeting can be prolonged.

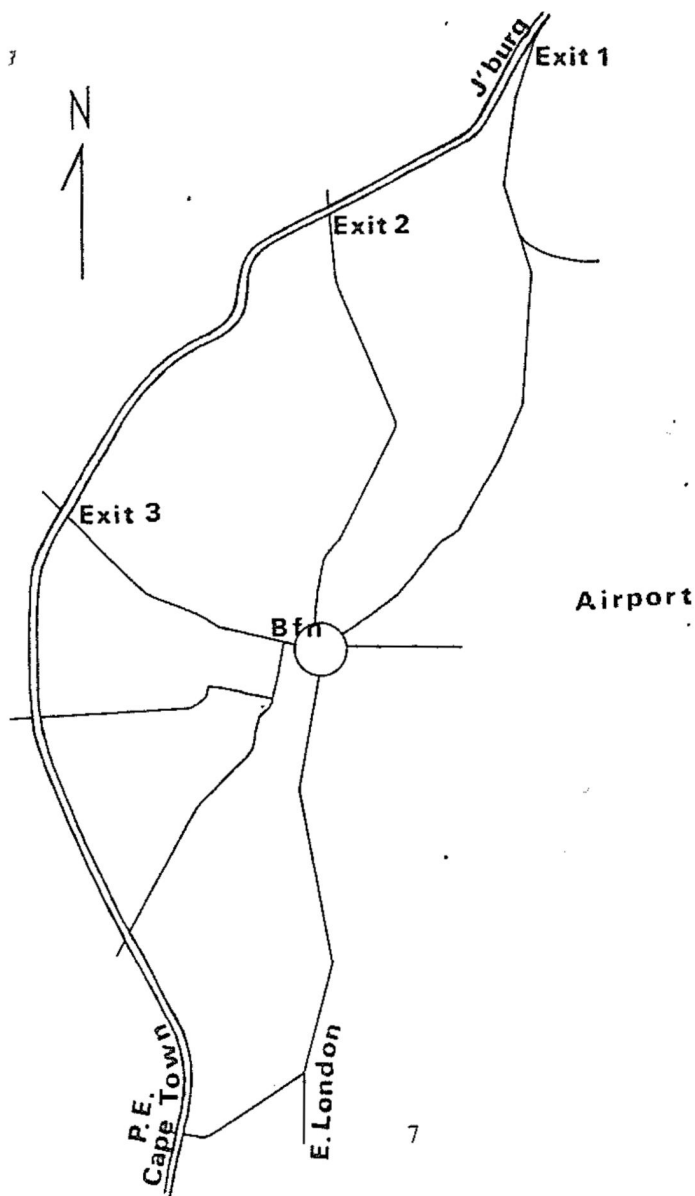
WHAT TO DO NOW

All you have to do is to fill in the enclosed registration form for the Conference; members with cheque accounts can postdate the cheque 15th June but must please

include ten cents bank exchange if the cheque is drawn outside Bloemfontein. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to

PSSA Conference

and *not* to the Society itself, as a special bank account will be opened for the Conference.



GUIDE TO BLOEMFONTEIN

Entries into the City:

*From Johannesburg, Pretoria & Durban: Take the second exit (marked Eeufees Rd on road signs)

*From Cape Town & Port Elizabeth: Take the fourth exit (Exit 3 on map, marked Dealesville/Bloemfontein on road signs)

*From East London: You come via the old N1 (Cape Road), which becomes Church St

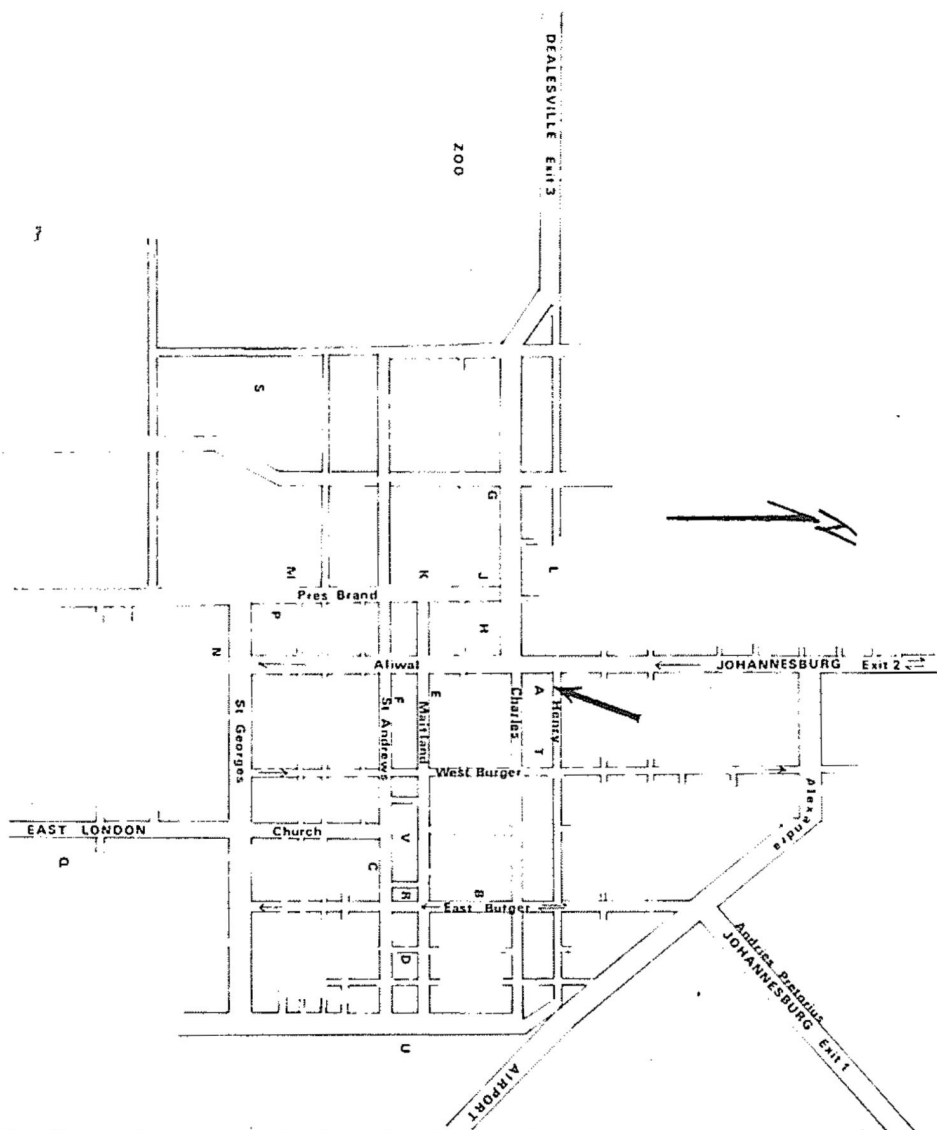
Abbreviations:

A	National Museum, sharing the block between Aliwal, Charles, Henry and East Burger Sts with the Public Library (T)
B	Bloemfontein Hotel XXX
C	Cecil Hotel XX
D	Maitland Hotel XX
E	Capitol Hotel X
F	Oranje Hotel X
G	Civic Theatre/Cest la Vie (CONFERENCE DINNER HERE)
H	Appeal Court
J	Government Building
K	Nasionale Afrikaanse Letterkundige Museum en Navorsingsinrigting
L	Town Hall
M	Old Presidency (now being restored)
N	First Raadsaal (part of the National Museum)
P	Magistrate's Court
Q	Old Fort (Military Museum - not yet open to public)
R	Main Post Office
S	Caravan Park
T	Public Library
U	Railway Station
V	Hoffman Square (bus kiosk)

One-way Streets

Maitland St is a one-way from east to west (away from the station) and St Andrew St runs in the opposite direction.

Aliwal St is a one-way from north to south from near Alexandra Ave to St George St;



West Burger is a one-way in the other direction between the same two streets; East Burger is a one-way from north to south between Charles St and St Georges St.

All other streets carry traffic in both directions, except for the two short streets on the eastern and western boundary of Hoffman Square, which cause traffic to flow only anti-clockwise around the Square.

NEWS - NUUS

ANN ANDERSON (RAU) spent a considerable time in hospital fighting a tenacious bone infection. We hope that she recovers soon, and completely, especially with the Conference coming up in July.

LOUIS BOTHA (Middelburg, K.P.) is besig met die beplanning van 'n klein uitstalling in die biblioteek van Grootfontein Landboukollege. Hy het reeds die agtergrond vir 'n diorama wat handel oor die Beaufort-tydperk. Daar sal ook modelle van *Lystrosaurus* en 'n paar van sy tydgenote wees; die Nasionale Museum sal 'n paar skedels vir die uitstalling beskikbaar stel. Louis het verlede jaar 'n soortgelyke, maar tydelike, uitstalling op Cradock gehou en daar was baie belangstelling by die plaaslike boeregemeenskap.

JIM HOPSON (at present at the SAM) and CHRIS GOW (BPI) recently visited the National Museum in Bloemfontein to have a look at the *Diarthrognathus* material. Chris is now going to prepare some of it to solve the double jaw-joint problem. Jim gave a very interesting public lecture on "The Behaviour of Dinosaurs" in the Museum Auditorium on 25th April.

RUSSEL SHONE's paper on trilobite (?) tracks from the Beaufort will appear in the next issue of *Trans. Geol. Soc. S. Afr.*

BILL SIESSER has joined the staff of the South African Museum as Micropalaeontologist.

ELIZABETH VRBA (Transvaal Museum) and JACQUES VAN HEERDEN (National Museum) were admitted as members of the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology during the past year.

STUDY TOUR REPORT

Q.B. HENDEY,

South African Museum, Cape Town.

⁷ DURATION OF TOUR

18 August to 21 October 1978.

INSTITUTIONS VISITED

British Museum (Natural History), London, England.

Naturhistorisches Museum, Basle, Switzerland.

Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland.

Universitäts-Institut für Paläontologie und Historische Geologie (which includes the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie), Munich, West Germany.

MEETING ATTENDED

26th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy, Reading, England.

SUMMARY

The study tour was undertaken primarily to examine fossils of Miocene and Pliocene age which are relevant to research on similar materials being carried out at the South African Museum. Some post-Pliocene fossils were also examined, as were skulls and skeletons of a few species of recent mammals not represented in South African collections. Although emphasis was on Carnivora, observations were also made on representatives of other mammalian groups. Originals or casts of over 300 specimens from 59 localities were examined.

Use was made of libraries in two of the institutions visited, and, when possible, museum displays were viewed with the future exhibition of fossil mammals at the South African Museum in mind. Methods of storing study collections were also observed.

Casts of fossils were exchanged, or arrangements made for future exchanges, at the four institutions visited.

The 26th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy held at Reading during September was attended.

The study tour was a rewarding experience and my future research, as well as other activities connected with my position at the South African Museum, should benefit from it.

INTRODUCTION

When the study tour was planned, the British Museum (Natural History), with its large collections of fossil and recent mammals, was selected as the most suitable institution on which the tour could be focussed. There are, however, many other important collections of fossil mammals in Europe, and since it was clearly impossible to see them all, the choice of those to be visited proved difficult. It was decided to visit one other institution where there are large collections of fossil and recent mammals, and the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basle, was selected since its collections both complement and supplement those in London.

Two other institutions were chosen because of specific collections in their possession. The first was the Institut für Paläontologie, Munich, which houses the "Stromer collections" of Niocene and Pliocene vertebrates from South West Africa/Namibia and Namaqualand. This material is directly relevant to the South African Museum's own collections from the west coast regions of southern Africa. The second such institution chosen was the Palaeontological Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, which houses the "Lagrelus collection" of Chinese fossil mammals. Unfortunately due to problems of timing and finance, the visit to Uppsala was cancelled, but this was partly compensated for by the late addition to the itinerary of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva. The fossil mammal collections in Geneva are small, but research currently being undertaken there in part parallels that at the South African Museum, and the visit was motivated by contact with a colleague rather than content of the museum.

At each of the institutions visited the first specimens to be examined were those of fossil carnivores which are relevant to my part or current research. Thereafter material belonging to non-carnivore groups was studied, but only in the case of southern African fossils in London and Munich was this done in detail. When time permitted, osteological material of recent carnivores was studied.

The collections seen were well curated and specimens were generally readily accessible, while host colleagues were helpful and considerate. These factors meant that little time was wasted in gaining access to material studied.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY), LONDON (BM(NH))

(21 August to 12 September and 13 October to 19 October).

Dr. A.W. Gentry of the Department of Palaeontology was my host during this part of the tour, while Dr J. Jewell arranged access to osteological material in the Department of Zoology.

The fossil mammal collections at the BM(NH) are large, a significant part being formed by material of Miocene and Pliocene age from many localities in Eurasia and Africa. The collections are housed in a recently completed and spacious building. They are arranged by localities in geographical and chronological order, with holdings of each locality being arranged taxonomically and, to some extent, by body part. An office leading off the storeroom was provided.

Over 100 casts and original specimens from 20 localities were examined, most time having been devoted to representatives of the Ursidae and Hyaenidae. The fossil carnivores in the BM(NH) have been well documented in publications dating back to the last century, and consequently little that was unexpected was encountered. Nevertheless, much useful data was collected.

The only non-carnivore fossils dealt with in detail were Miocene mammals from South West Africa/Namibia. They were comprised largely of material collected by Dr. W.R. Hamilton in 1975. Also available were originals and casts from collections in Munich and New York, as well as relevant material from East Africa and elsewhere. The "Hamilton collection" is the property of the South African Museum and is due to be returned soon, but it was useful seeing it together with so much comparative material, a situation which might be impossible to duplicate in Cape Town.

Studies on the fossils were supplemented by making use of the superb libraries at the BM(NH) and parts of some publications were photocopied through the kind offices of Dr Gentry.

Two afternoons were spent in the Department of Zoology, records being made of monk seal (*Monachus* spp.) and giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) skulls.

A few hours were spent in the public galleries, particular note being taken of the

controversial "Human Biology" exhibit, and of displays in the fossil mammal gallery.

26th SYMPOSIUM OF VERTEBRATE PALAEONTOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY

(13/14 September)

This meeting, held at the University of Reading, was attended by about 90 delegates from Britain, several European countries, the United States of America, South Africa and Australia. Most of the contributions dealt with lower vertebrates and none were directly relevant to the South African Museum's fossil mammal studies. Much interest centred on a "Disputation of Hennigian Classification", and a discussion of "The Natural History Museum's New Exhibition Scheme". On a less profound note was an account of the trials and tribulations of "The International Palaeontological Expedition to Sokoto State, Nigeria, 1977-1978", and a tape-recording made by Prof. J. Douglas of Oxford University shortly before his death in which he accused Prof. W. Sollas, also of Oxford, of plotting the Piltdown fraud. The British journal *Nature* has since published a report of the latter revelation (Vol. 276 (5683)), as well as a summary of opposing views of the BM(NH)'s exhibition scheme (Vol. 275 (5682)).

The "Disputation of Hennigian Classification" was interesting, but probably made no converts for either side. The differences between proponents and opponents of the system were well illustrated by reactions to the thesis that "a lungfish is more closely related to a cow than to a salmon". It was found perfectly acceptable by Dr C. Patterson (BM(NH)) - a proponent, but left Prof. F.R. Parrington (ex Cambridge University) - an opponent - incredulous.

NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM, BASLE (NMB)

(15 to 28 September)

My host at the NMB was Dr B. Engesser of the Osteologisches Abteilung.

This museum has one of the best collections of European Tertiary mammals in existence. Although the building is old and the public galleries less than impressive, the collections are adequately housed below ground level, most material being in a recently constructed basement which is apparently capable of withstanding a nuclear explosion. The latter precaution is no doubt unusual, but at all the institutions visited the great attention given to security of collections was evident. Some of the older accommodation at the NMB is not suitable and the department concerned is seriously

under-staffed. Nevertheless, the collections are well curated, the system used being the same as that in the BM(NH).

The palaeontological collections in the NMB are unusual in that they are limited almost exclusively to mammals. In addition, the recent mammal collection is mainly an osteological one and forms an integral part of the department which includes the fossil collections. In other words, the department concerned is one which deals with vertebrate osteological material of Cenozoic age (including the present), with a heavy emphasis on mammals. The collections are complemented by an excellent departmental library. This arrangement, which may well be unique, approaches an ideal for palaeomammalogists, and is due to a century of effort by such persons as L. Rütimeyer, H.G. Stehlin, S. Schaub and J. Hürzeler.

Approximately 110 original fossils and casts from 24 localities were examined during the course of the visit. Osteological material of five species of recent carnivores was also studied. Some of the specimens are undescribed and these included the most interesting single specimen seen on the whole tour. It is a maxillary fragment of *Agriotherium insigne* from Montpellier, France, which may prove to be the most informative specimen of this taxon available.

In spite of the difficulties confronting the Osteologisches Abteilung at the NMB, it may well be the best place anywhere for studying European fossil mammals. Although of limited duration, my visit there was the highlight of the study tour.

MUSEUM d'HISTOIRE NATURELLE, GENEVA (MG)

(29 September to 3 October)

My host in Geneva was Dr G. de Beaumont.

Although the MG is world-renowned for its collections of recent zoological materials, its fossil mammal collection is small. The purpose of the visit to this museum was mainly to discuss matters of mutual interest with Dr de Beaumont. However, it transpired that he had borrowed originals, or obtained casts from other museums of Mio/Pliocene Hyaenidae and Felidae, so there was more material to see than anticipated. In all about 20 specimens from 15 localities were examined. In addition, access was obtained to records of undescribed hyaenas from Greece and China. Three skulls of recent *Hyaena hyaena* were also examined.

Although the institution dates back to the last century, the MG is now the most modern natural history museum in Europe, the present building having been opened

to the public in 1975. It is very impressive. The research departments are spacious, well-planned and well-equipped, there appears to be no shortage of staff, and the public galleries attract large numbers of visitors. Although it is so new, the galleries which house the earth sciences displays are already being extended in order to house a newly-acquired dinosaur skeleton. The air of affluence at this museum contrasts strikingly with the situation at the one in Basle.

**UNIVERSITÄTS-INSTITUT für PALäONTOLOGIE und HISTORISCHE GEOLOGIE
(& BAYERISCHE STAATSSAMMLUNG für PALäONTOLOGIE), MUNICH (BSM)**

(4 tot 12 October)

My hosts in München were Prof. Dr V. Fahlbusch, Dr K. Heissig and Dr N. Schmidt-Kittler.

A total of 77 specimens from 15 localities were examined, somewhat less than anticipated since much material from the BSM collections was lost during the Second World War. Little now remains of the Miocene assemblages from South West Africa/Namibia and the Mio/Pliocene assemblage from Kleinzee, which were described by E. Stromer earlier this century. Nevertheless, the examination of the surviving specimens was useful since it corrected several mistaken impressions gained from published descriptions. Having seen almost all the known vertebrate fossils from South West Africa/Namibia, it is now more obvious than ever that they are too few and too fragmentary to give a clear insight into the character and composition of southern Africa's vertebrate fauna early in the Miocene.

The second group of specimens examined in Munich were the Mio/Pliocene carnivores from Turkey which were recently described by Dr Schmidt-Kittler. Although the specimens are generally fragmentary, they are of great significance because of Turkey's situation on the path of migration routes between Europe and Africa/southern Asia.

A few specimens from other Eurasian and African localities were also examined.

In contrast to the situation in London and Basle, the Munich collections are arranged taxonomically rather than by locality. Both systems have their advantages, although I preferred the traditional one used in London and Basle.

CONCLUSION

The data collected on this tour will only gradually be put to use as research on

material in the South African Museum progresses. Amongst those projects which should benefit from the accumulated information are those relating to:

- (1) The Langebaanweg bear, *Agriotherium africanum*, and its relationships to other Agriotheriinae.

The suggestion that *Agriotherium* and the living giant panda, *Ailuropoda*, were descended from late Miocene *Indarotos* (Hendey 1972; 1977), has not been favourably received, but further evidence in support of this theory has now been obtained.

- (2) Inter-relationships of late Tertiary Hyaenidae

There is as yet no consensus of opinion on this subject (e.g. Schmidt-Kittler 1976; Galiano & Frailey 1977; Hendey 1978a). During the tour much relevant information was collected which supports the suggestion that the Langebaanweg Hyaenidae are unique in reflecting a pattern of representation established in the late Miocene ("Pontian"). However, the composition and inter-relationships of the "hunting hyaena" group are likely to remain controversial.

- (3) Age of the Varwater Formation, Langebaanweg.

Recent studies on the fauna of the Varwater Formation have produced conflicting relative age evidence, with the result that previously suggested age limits of 4.5 million years before present have been extended to 3.5-7 m.y. Evidence collected on the tour indicates that the 4.5 m.y. range may after all be appropriate, but this matter still needs more attention devoted to it.

- (4) Zoogeography of southern African late Tertiary mammals.

One of the unexpected developments during the tour was the realization that certain of the mammals from Arrisdrift are not as closely related to taxa elsewhere in Africa and in Eurasia as had been supposed (Hendey 1978b). Thus it appears that the Namib Miocene faunas are characterized by the presence of a high proportion of endemic taxa. There are apparently some endemic species represented at Langebaanweg as well. There is thus increasing evidence that at certain times during the late Tertiary intra-continental migration of mammals in Africa was inhibited, as was faunal interchange between Africa and Eurasia. As studies on materials in the South African Museum progress, account will be taken of their zoogeographic implications.

In general the study tour was a most rewarding experience. Apart from the

information gained by the study of specimens, it provided the opportunity of making personal contact with colleagues and of learning something of the structure and activities of departments similar to my own at the South African Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the South African Museum for the financial support which made the study tour possible.

I also wish to record my gratitude to colleagues in London, Basle, Geneva and Munich who did so much to ensure the success of the tour.

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PSSA MEMBERS - MAY 1979

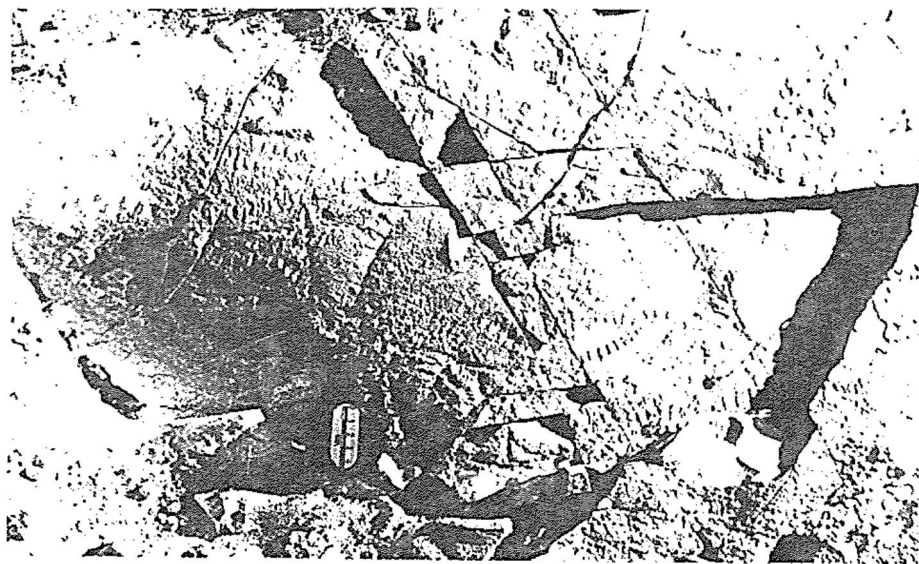
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FOSSIELSPORE IN DIE BEAUFORT

In die voorlaaste uitgawe van *Pal. Nuus* is gewag gemaak van Louis Botha se belangrike ontdekking van fossielspre naby Middelburg, K.P., en Louis het ook gevra of spore van werweldiere elders in die Beaufort al gevind is. Roy Oosthuizen (Klaarstroom) skryf as volg:

“Ek dra net kennis van die *Tapinocephalus*-sone en daarin kom wel spore van ongewerwelde diere op verskeie plekke voor. Die meegaande foto toon spore van die “Umfolozia-tipe” op die plaas Putfontein, Beaufort-Wes. Op Vindraersfontein naby Merweville is reguit, ronde, vertikale gange, ongeveer 4cm in deursnee, wat moontlik deur longvisse kon gemaak gewees het. Verder kom daar gange en sleepsels op verskeie plekke voor, maar is meestal onduidelik en moeilik om te interpreteer, vernaamlik dié in growwe sandsteen.”



In 'n latere brief skryf Oom Roy:

“I have just recently been informed by Mr Willo Stears (who is employed by an exploration firm) that Roger Smith has found reptile tracks in the *Cistecephalus* zone near Richmond and also that the late Dr L D Boonstra mentioned reptile tracks (presumably in the *Tapinocephalus* zone) in his private notes, but I can't confirm any of these personally.”

Perhaps Roger Smith can give us more information on the tracks from Richmond?

Daar was blykbaar in sekere kringe misverstand oor die neergelegde reëls en vir diegene wat soos die sensors meer in 'n stuk wil lees as wat die outeur bedoel het, gee ons hier 'n vertaling. . .

REËLS VAN HIERDIE PALEONTOLOGIE-LABORATORIUM

1. Enige gesprekke oor godsdiens, politiek en perdewedrenne is abseblommetjies verbode. Gesprekke oor Ontwikkeling en Genetika (nog blommetjies) is welkom, maar hou in gedagte dat sommige onder ons niks hiervan verstaan nie.
2. Maar as u 'n resiesstorie, souserige versie (Kookkuns) of 'n Opus oor Venus (óf Mercurius) het, vertel dit só dat almal dit kan hoor.
3. Ten spyte van wat u eerste indrukke mag wees: hier word gewerk, maar net twee op 'n slag met een stuk gereedskap.
4. Moet asseblief nie op die tafel of werksbanke sit nie. Ons moet weer verantwoording doen as die ameublement beskadig is.
5. Dames, hou asseblief u elmboë van die tafel af. Dit maak duike in die rubberafgietsels en 'n slegte indruk op besoekers. Diegene in stywe klere moet ook beseft dat 'n mens nie swaar fossiele daarmee kan optel nie.
6. Geen gestelery of gestrelery van enige deel van die blommetjies-geslag sal hier plaasvind nie, en veral nie as hulle dit ten strengste verbied het nie. Dit geld ook vir die ander geslagte, jou vader van seep.
7. As u geraamte aanmekaar wil sit, doen dit op 'n plek waar u nie gesteur sal word nie.
8. Confucius he say: He who pinch will get pinch.
9. Vandag is alles só duur dat dit die beste is om water te drink.
10. Behalwe miskien vir reël 9, sal geeneen van die bogenoemde reëls van toepassing wees op die Paleontoloog in Bewaring nie.

Ditsem!


..... (Maak kruisie hier)
Paleontoloog in Bewaring

ON THE TRACK OF THE FIRST FOSSIL HUNTERS

Andrew Geddes Bain is usually credited with having found the first vertebrate fossils in South Africa round about 1845. However, a certain Mr J Trotter appears to have discovered dicynodont remains already in 1836 (see *Pal. News* 1 (2)), while C H Grisbrook, in a letter published in the fifth volume of the *S. Afr. Quart. J.* (reprinted in *Pal. News* 1 (3)) might well have been the first who consciously discovered fossil vertebrate remains in South Africa. However, even this was not the first fossil discovery in the subcontinent. A J Clement, in an article entitled "The Road to the North" which appeared in the April 1978 issue of *Lantern* mentions that four early explorers of the South African interior set out to discover the mouth of the Orange River. Near what later became known as Cliff Fields they found fossil oyster shells. The year was 1779.

If there is anybody who has more information on this fossil oyster discovery, please let me know. And if you know of an even earlier find we would also like to hear from you.

Jacques van Heerden



"If it is what I think it is,
we'll have to do an awful
lot of digging yet."

VACANCIES

NATIONAL MUSEUM' BLOEMFONTEIN

PROFESSIONAL/SENIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER:
KAROO PALAEONTOLOGY

DUTIES: Will assist the existing Karoo Palaeontologist in the research on and collecting, curating and display of Karoo fossils.

PROFESSIONAL/SENIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER:
QUATERNARY PALAEONTOLOGY

DUTIES: Will be responsible for research on and collecting, curating and display of Quaternary fossils.

GENERAL:

Minimum qualifications: At least a B degree in an applicable course. Further qualifications and/or experience will be a strong recommendation.

Salary scale will be supplied on request.

Holiday bonus paid is similar to that of the Civil Service.

Leave of at least 30 days per annum; excellent sick leave benefits.

Housing Scheme and State housing subsidy.

Membership of the Pension Fund and Medical Aid compulsory.

CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH APPLICATIONS: 30 June 1979.

Acceptance of duties not later than January 1980.

Please write to: The Director, National Museum, P O Box 266, Bloemfontein, 9300, and ask for the official application forms. The names of at least two referees must be sent in with the completed application forms.