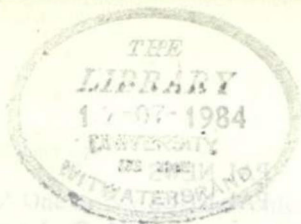


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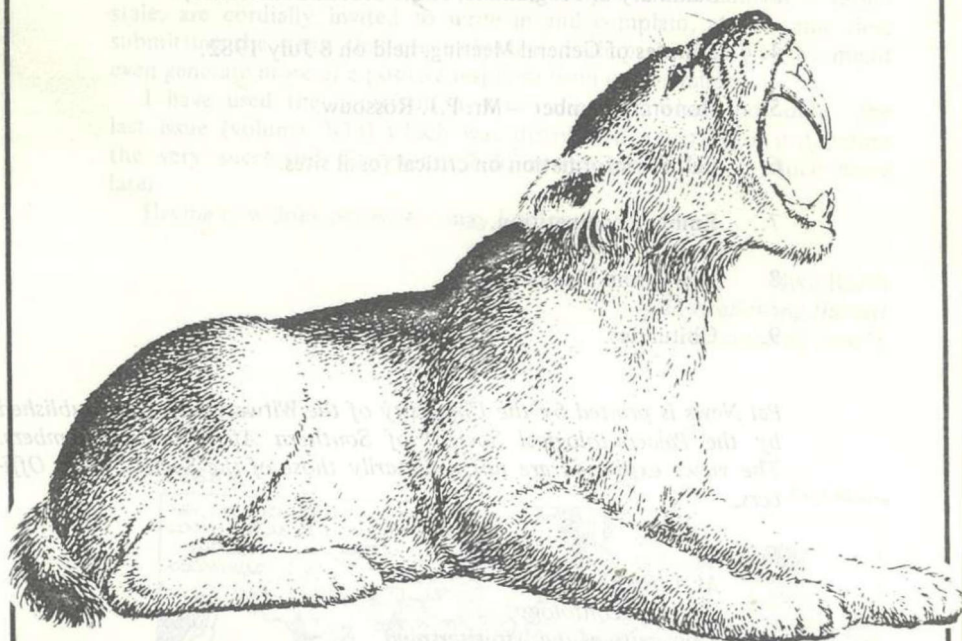
PAL NEWS NUUS

Biannual Newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa

Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider Afrika

Vol./Band **3(2,3)**

Oct/Okt 1983



SABRE-TOOTH FROM LANGEBAANWEG (PLIOCENE)

(Sketch by C.Hunter, from Q.B.Hendey's book: Langebaanweg)

PAL NEWS
PAL NUUS

Vol./Bd. 3 (2,3)
Oct. 1983

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Pal News is printed by the University of the Witwatersrand and published 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 least *somebody* is awake out there! One or two have not only noticed that there has been no newsletter for a L-O-N-G time, but have even made the effort to *enquire* about it.

As Editor, I must take full responsibility for it. How does one begin to excuse the inexcusable? I could whine on about pressure of work, etc, etc, but that would really be doing nothing more than making excuses. So — Let me say I am sorry, and then get on with the job.

I have decided that rather than try to squeeze in two separate issues of the newsletter now, I will combine them into one. Members who feel that the "news" contained in this long overdue number is rather stale, are cordially invited to write in and complain, at the same time submitting the items that are truly *new*. Perhaps in that way we might even generate more of a positive response from our members.

I have used the contributions from members which *post-date* the last issue (volume 3(1)) which was distributed a year ago, just before the very successful Conference held in Pretoria — about which more later.

Having now done penance — may I proceed?

Mike Raath
(still swallowing the last
remnants of crow!).

TIGER

by Bud Blake



PSSA SECOND CONFERENCE

July 1982

Summary of Programme

Monday 5 July :

Presidential address : Dr. M.A. Cluver

Papers: J.M. Anderson : Devonian to Cretaceous megafloras in Southern Africa.

H.M. Anderson: The 'Gogga' Brown collection of fossil plants.

E. Kovács-Endrödy: The story of *Gangamopteris*.

Tuesday 6 July :

Papers: R.M.S. Falcon, H.J. Pinheiro & P. Shepherd: The maceration of miospores from South African coal seams and the application of palynology in coal seam correlation.

I.K. McMillan: The role of micropalaeontology in the exploration for petroleum off the coast of South Africa.

A. Scholtz: The palynology of the Arnot Pipe, Banke, Namaqualand — a restudy.

C.S. Macrae: Computer plotter biostratigraphic range charts.

R.B. Toms: 'Gaps' in the insect fossil record.

D.E. van Dijk: Fossils and palaeoecology of some Upper Karoo sites.

A.W. Keyser: The palaeontology of SWA/Namibia.

B.S. Rubidge: A primitive reptilian fossil fauna from Eccra Rocks near Prince Albert - progress report.

J.W. Kitching: The stratigraphic distribution and occurrence of the infra-orders Therocephalia, Scaloposauria and Bauriamorpha in the Beaufort Group.

R.M.H. Smith: Sedimentology and taphonomy of the Lower Beaufort strata near Beaufort West, Cape Province.

Wednesday 7 July : Papers: B.W.Oelofsen: the mesosauridae as faunal fossils in the Irati and Whitehill Formations.

C.E. Gow: Dentitions of juvenile *Thrinaxodon* (Reptilia : Cynodontia) and the origin of mammalian diphyodonty.

M.A. Raath: Sexual dimorphism in the theropod dinosaur *Syntarsus rhodesiensis*.

B.W. Oelofsen and S. Tarsitano: Temporal fenestrae, their origin and the phyletic lineages in reptiles.

A.S. Brink: Some observations on the phenomena of "splitting" and "lumping".

J.W. Kitching: On *Tritylodon*.

G.E. Lewis: New World tritylodonts, after a century of *Tritylodon*.

G. Groenewald: Enigmatic trace fossils.

A.S. Brink: Objective and subjective research.

E.C. Kovács-Endrődy: More on objectivity and subjectivity.

M.R. Johnson: Creationism and Palaeontology.

Thursday 8 July :

Papers: **J.M. Maguire, F. Schrenk and I.G. Stanistreet:** The lithostratigraphy of the Makapansgat Limeworks australopithecine site — some matters arising.

A. Turner: Palaeoecology of British Upper Pleistocene hyaenas.

T.N. Pocock: Fossil rodents of southern Africa, with particular reference to Makapansgat.

M. Levinson: Are fossil rodents useful in palaeontological interpretations?

J.M. Maguire and F. Schrenk: From living animal to museum specimen — taphonomic processes and their effects on bone.

G. de Graaff: The Bathyergidae (Rodentia) and the fossil record.

B. Maguire: The distribution and probable origin of quartzite inclusions in the Limeworks deposits.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE PSSA.

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Didacta Building, Skinner Street, Pretoria on Thursday 8th July 1982 at 2.00 p.m.

1. Present:

Dr. M. Cluver (President)
Mrs I Chesselet (Minutes Secretary)
Dr. A. Keyser
Dr. J.W. Kitching
Dr. E. Endrödy
Dr. J. Maguire
Dr. G. de Graaff
Dr. A.S. Brink
Mr. D.C. Panagos
Mr. B. Rubidge
Mr. C.J.M. Kitching
Dr. B.W. Oelofsen
Mr. R. B. Toms
Mr. F. Schrenk
Mr. T.N. Pocock
Prof. M.A. Raath

Apologies:

Dr. C. Gow, Dr. C.K. Brain, Dr. E. Vrba, Mr. B. Maguire.

The President noted with regret the death of Dr. S.H. Haughton, an honorary member of the Society, and members were asked to stand in silence in his memory.

2. President's Report:

Dr. Cluver reported that the records and funds of the Society were still in the possession of Dr. J. van Heerden, who has resigned from the Society, and that these were to be handed to Prof. Raath. He thanked Prof. Raath for taking over the editorship of the newsletter and the functions of treasurer in conjunction with Dr. Kitching.

He noted that the PSSA has been recognised by the National Monuments Council, and has been consulted by them.

3. Report by Treasurer & Editor of Newsletter:

Prof. Raath reported that many of the records of the Society had been lost in a burglary shortly after Dr. van Heerden's move to Fort Hare.

The Society shows a small credit balance but he urged members to pay their subscriptions to enable him, among other things, to finance the newsletter, the costs of which until now have been born by the BPI. Prof. Raath has produced 2 issues of the Newsletter. He intends producing it bi-annually and appealed to members to contribute articles towards it.

It is hoped that the proposed commemorative volume of papers for Dr. Haughton will be published in *Palaeontologia africana* towards the end of 1982.

A volume of the proceedings of the last P.S.S.A. congress is about to appear.

4. Society Emblem Competition:

After discussion Dr. Keyser proposed the postponement of the choice of a logo to the end of November (seconded Prof. Raath, motion carried).

It was suggested Professor Raath & Dr. Brink circularise the Society in this connection.

5. Honorary Membership:

Dr. Keyser proposed that Mr. P.J. Rossouw be accorded this honour and in support of the nomination he gave an account of "Oom Solly's" contributions to geology and palaeontology over many years. The nomination was seconded by Prof. Raath and carried with acclaim.

6. Election of Office Bearers:

Dr. Keyser proposed that Dr. Cluver remain in the Chair (seconded, Prof. Raath, motion carried).

It was agreed that the society be circularised with regard to the election of office bearers.

Mr. D. Panagos proposed that an interim committee be formed (seconded, Dr. Kitching, motion carried). Accordingly the following elections took place:

Acting Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Kitching was nominated by Mr. Panagos (seconded : Dr. Oelofsen, unanimously elected).

Acting Editor: Prof. Raath was nominated by Dr. J. Maguire, (seconded : Mr. Panagos, unanimously elected).

Dr. Kitching proposed that the Society be informed as to this arrangement in the minutes (seconded : Dr. Oelofsen motion carried). The position of Vice President was declared irrelevant at this stage.

7. General:

A discussion took place as to what could be done about the plundering of fossil sites. Members were of the opinion that students were among the offenders in this respect, but that it was impossible to police sites effectively.

Dr. Oelofsen proposed that members compile list of critical sites (seconded: Dr. Kitching, motion carried).

8. Venue for next Conference:

Dr. Oelofsen invited the society to hold its 1984 Conference at Stellenbosch University. The invitation was accepted, with thanks.

9. Closure:

Dr. Cluver thanked members for attending the conference, and expressed, on behalf of the members, appreciation to the organisers for their work, venue and hospitality. Particular thanks were extended to the Director of the Geological Survey for agreeing to sponsor and host the Conference.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBER

Mr. P.J. ("Oom Solly") Rossouw

During the General Meeting held at the end of the Conference in Pretoria on July 8th 1982, a motion was unanimously adopted by those members present that Mr. Pieter Jozua Rossouw be accorded the honour of election to Honorary Membership of the Society.

The President, Dr. Mike Cluver, made the formal announcement at the Society dinner later that evening, when we were very pleased to have Mr. & Mrs. Rossouw present as guests of the Society.

The editor is indebted to Dr. Andre Keyser for providing some biographical notes on Oom Solly from which the following is taken:

He was born in the Karoo town of Prince Albert (on Dwyka tillite!) in October 1910, and his early life in this area reinforced his deep love of the spectacular scenery of the Cape Fold Belt and the Nuweveld Escarpment - a love that has never left him.

After matriculating from the Prince Albert High School he studied Zoology and Geography at the University of Stellenbosch, and completed his masters degree with a dissertation on the Robberg Peninsula in 1933.

His first love was palaeontology, but he was to wait some years before he could practise it because there were so few palaeontological posts available then, as now. Initially he worked for the New Consolidated Goldfields on the Rand, in gold exploration. He was the first to identify gold in the famous Carbon Leader Reef.

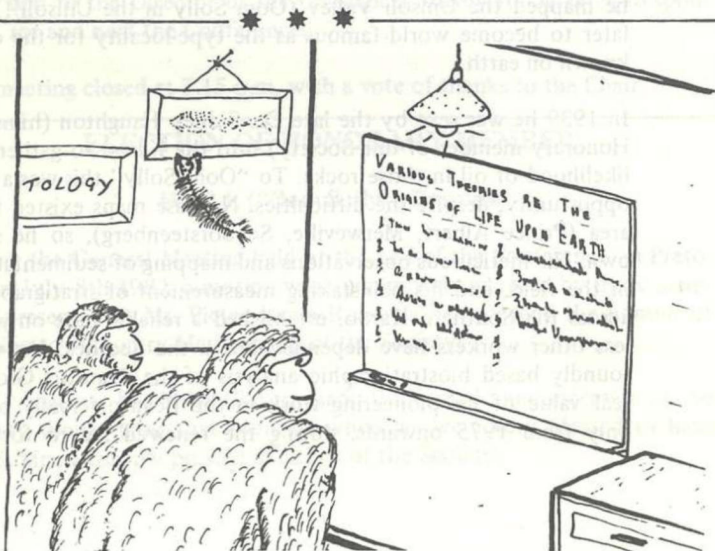
In 1936 he joined the Geological Survey, which he has served with distinction ever since. To begin with he was involved with mapping in the Omaruru and Karibib area, and then in the Barbeton Mountainland. Here he mapped the Umsoli Valley (Oom Solly in the Umsoli!!), which was later to become world famous as the type-locality for the oldest fossils known on earth.

In 1939 he was sent by the late Dr. Sidney Haughton (himself a former Honorary member of our Society) into the Karoo to gather data on the likelihood of oil in those rocks. To "Oom Solly" this was a Heaven-sent opportunity, despite the difficulties. No base maps existed for his study area (Prince Albert, Merweville, Schoorsteenbergrivier), so he surveyed his own. His meticulous observations and mapping of sedimentary structures in the field, and his painstaking measurement of stratigraphic sections, across the Southern Karoo, established a reliable base on which countless other workers have depended down the decades. His was the first soundly based biostratigraphic analysis of the Beaufort Group, and the real value of his pioneering work in the Beaufort really became clear only from 1975 onwards, during the renewed search for exploitable

uranium deposits in the Karoo.

It was mainly through his efforts that the Palaeontological Section of the Geological Survey was established in 1959, and he has also been responsible for the painstaking cataloguing of all palaeontological literature coming into the Survey library — a task that he took upon himself in 1953 and that has been his labour-of-love ever since. In 1951 he published his English-Afrikaans Palaeontological Dictionary, which has become a classic, and he is now deeply immersed in the compilation of a new Afrikaans-English Dictionary. His work on the original dictionary earned him election to the Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns as an Assessor Member.

He retired in 1974 as Assistant Director of the Geological Survey in charge of Regional Geology. His life has been one of tireless devotion to his profession and the advancement of palaeontology. A modest and unassuming man, he has had less of the limelight than his work merits. The Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa is proud to count him "one of us", and to accord him the highest honour it is able to bestow — Honorary Membership — in grateful recognition of his many contributions to palaeontology during a lifetime of dedicated service.



"No, fear of censorship is not sufficient reason to exclude the 'Big Bang' Theory".

LIST OF CRITICAL FOSSIL SITES

At the Conference last year it was suggested that a list of critical palaeontological sites should be compiled, in the hope that we can focus on those in desperate need of protection from plundering or other abuse (even municipal — such as at Harrismith).

It certainly is high time that we as a Society played an active part in protecting not only our *heritage*, but our very *livelihood*. Without these sites our science diminishes, and South Africa becomes culturally impoverished.

Please submit your proposals to begin compiling a list of threatened sites. It would also be useful to hear what information you think should go into such a register, and also how the information should be used.

Until the Society decides what to do with the information it collects, this information will remain confidential to the Committee of the Society.

Please send your suggestions to:

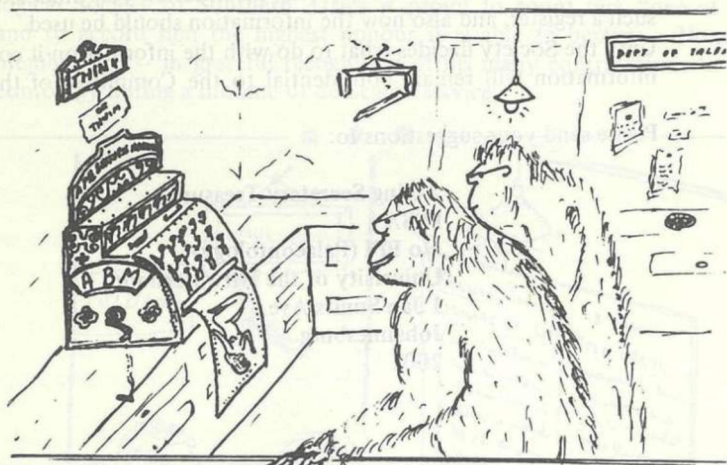
Acting Secretary-Treasurer
PSSA
c/o BPI (Palaeontology)
University of the Witwatersrand
1 Jan Smuts Ave
Johannesburg
2001

THE EMBLEM COMPETITION

You will have noted from the minutes of the General Meeting of the PSSA that it was decided to defer a decision on the Society's emblem.

All entries received to date are in safekeeping. Two further entries have been received since the last batch published in the June 1982 issue of *Pal News/Nuus* (Vol. 3(1)). They will be held with the others until it is decided how to proceed.

Dr. Ian Brink will be drawing up a document setting out heraldic and other guidelines for the interest of potential designers.



"..... WELL, I DON'T KNOW. I ASKED IT TO
STRUCTURE AN AUSTRALOPITHECINE!"

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

It would be a pity simply to discard the news snippets that were submitted by a few members when last I called for news — so I am including them here. Although some are rather out-of-date now, I think it is still worth knowing what is going on. (It is so long since any of us heard from Arthur Cruickshank that I couldn't *possibly* omit that one!).

The next issue of *Pal News/Nuus* will go out in December. Please let me have your news items by the middle of November:

From Art Busbey (University of Texas at Austin).

CURRENT RESEARCH:

Last touches on a paper on the Protosuchian otic notch and on xiphodont crocodile remains from the Eocene of Trans-Pecos, Texas. I am working on computer models of archosaur skulls and trying to finish up a manuscript on my Ph.D. thesis (electromyography of *Alligator* jaw musculature) and another on the paeobiogeography of crocodilians.

RECENT FIELD TRIPS:

Just a short one to Big Bend National Park with Drs. Wann Langston, Jr. and John A. Wilson. Met Dr. B. McFadden from U. Florida there to show him good terrestrial sections to take K-T paleomag samples. Did find some more pterosaur material.

MISCELLANEOUS:

I have finished my Ph.D. with Jim Hopson and I am now teaching for a year at the University of Texas. I am teaching such wonderful courses as Historical Geology, Geomorphology and Structural Geology, Field Geology and Geology for Engineers. Texas has the largest number of geology undergraduates in the U.S.A. (850+) and graduate students (250+) and it certainly makes for a busy time. My regards to my friends in South Africa, I hope that 1) I find a job, and 2) I can get back to look at the Triassic more in South Africa in the next few years.

From the South African Museum, Cape Town.

After a hectic period of moving collections during the middle part of 1982 the entire palaeontology section of the museum is now installed at 47 Keerom Street as part of the S.A. Museum Research Centre. (It should be noted that the Museum postal address has not changed but that the new telephone numbers at the Research Centre are: Cape Town — 229586, 229587, 229588, and 229589). It is expected that we will be housed in these quarters for at least 3 years while the new building is being erected on the old site. The palaeontological collections are at present largely still boxed and we are entering a phase of re-curation of the entire holdings. Visitors are as always, most welcome, but they are requested to patiently bear with us at this difficult time.

Mike Cluver has had a busy time co-ordinating the move but seems to be no worse for wear. His paper with Gillian King on dicynodont classification has appeared in *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* vol. 91(3) (March 1983).

Brett Hendey and Fred Grine have been rendered incapable of communication by the move but Fred and Juri van den Heever intend to further their collaboration on the dinocephalia during 1983.

Juri van den Heever returned to the Museum at the beginning of October 1982 after spending the summer at the University of Chicago with Jim Hopson. They are collaborating on a review of the Therocephalia for the *Handbuch der Palaeohierpetologie*. A short paper, with Jim as co-author, on the problematical 'Therocephalian B' of Olson is to appear in the *South African Journal of Science*.

HOW TO TELL CYNODONTS FROM SCALOPOSAURS —



(Jim Hopson's view of Juri van den Heever at work!)

Robert Reisz, well known pelycosaur specialist and epicure from the University of Toronto, spent his sabbatical at the S.A. Museum. Bob has been looking at Karoo reptiles, therapsids and the pelycosaur-therapsid transition as well as enjoying the Cape summer. (He also spent a brief time at the BPI on his way home in June).

We wish Fred and Beth Grine well in their new surroundings in New York State. Fred has taken up an appointment at Stony Brook — their gain is distinctly our loss.

From Dr. H.C. Klinger (S.A. Museum, Cape Town).

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

At the end of May 1982 I attended the second symposium on the aspects of "Cretaceous Geology of Europe", held at the Institute and Museum for Palaeontology and historical Geology of the University of Munich. There were well over a hundred participants; mainly from Germany, but also a strong contingent from Great Britain. The whole Russian contingent withdrew at the last moment, and the whole programme had to be reorganized and reprinted. This was done with teutonic efficiency and some bavarian words I had never heard before!

The symposium was run in parallel sessions; mainly divided into Upper and Lower Cretaceous topics. I delivered a paper on the palaeobiogeographic affinities of the German Cretaceous ammonites; this being essentially a summary of the research I had done during my stay in Tübingen in 1980/81 on an Alexander von Humboldt research fellowship. The quality of the papers presented varied considerably; from extremely specialized topics to broad outlines of Cretaceous research.

Following the symposium in Munich, a field excursion to the Austrian exposures of the Gosau Beds was organized by Drs Summesberger and Kollman of the Vienna Museum of Natural History. This excursion was restricted to members of the Working Group of the Coniacian to Maastrichtian stages. This was a most pleasant excursion in the scenic Salzkammergut area. The fauna of the Gosau Beds is very similar to that of southern Africa; being typically Tethyan rather than Boreal. The faunal lists given in the excursion guide are very impressive, but if you take a closer look, you realize that this represents the result of more than a century of collecting. The activities of private collectors was rather disturbing. No longer satisfied with demolishing outcrops with sledge hammers, they now use sophisticated portable core drills and explosives. Thank goodness for our NMC!

CURRENT RESEARCH

After a few years of indecision, Jim Kennedy and I have finally agreed on the final draft of the paper on the ammonite subfamily Peroniceratinae. The help of Dr. C.W. Wright in this respect is gratefully acknowledged. We have added a lengthy discussion on the Coniacian stratigraphy, as this seemed to be the major point of dissent.

At present I am working on the Placenticeratidae. This is a very variable group, but once the sexual dimorphism, accompanied by intraspecific variation and ontogeny is recognized, systematics become rather simple.

ANECDOTES

As usual the palaeo exam papers had some howlers. For some reason brachiopods always get picked on. One gentleman stated "..... the indigestive system of brachiopods the pedicle passes through the foramen magnum".

RECENT VISITORS

Dr. R. Hauff recently visited the South African Museum. He is the third generation member of the Hauff family actively participating in the commercial exploitation of the Lias fossils of Holzmaden, Germany. Any visitor to the Holzmaden Museum or the Palaeontological Museum in Tübingen can testify to the quality of the fossils and preparation. The prices, however, are far beyond the means of any normal museum. Ammonites vary between R20–250; Crinoids R3000–17 000; Ichthyosaurs R10 000 – 20 000 and Steneosauria R17 000–27 000. Any takers?

Department of Palaeontology, Transvaal Museum

1982 was a busy year for members of the Department. Elisabeth Vrba attended an international meeting on evolution in Dijon, France, in May, at which she gave a paper. This trip included visits to various colleagues in Britain. Both she and Bob Brain gave papers at a second international conference, this time in Nice, in September. (Elisabeth has since spent a period at Yale as Visiting Professor, too).

The Museum hosted a symposium on *Species and Speciation*, at which Niles Eldredge was guest speaker, and Elisabeth Vrba and Bob Brain both gave contributions. In July 1982 the **Palaeontological Society of South Africa** met in Pretoria, hosted by the Geological Survey, and Alan Turner gave a paper.

Our hominid fossil casting programme is beginning to get fully under way, thanks to the efforts of David Panagos. Requests for casts are flowing in, so order now to avoid delay.

Acid preparation of fossil specimens from the site of Broederstroom is continuing, and the large sample should soon be ready for analysis. The material is in excellent condition and should be very suitable for detailed taphonomic investigation.

In the New Year we hope to undertake further excavations at Kromdraai.

CURRENT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT.

Bob Brain continues with his excavations at Swartkrans. Good material is being recovered from decalcified deposits, including some impressive-looking items of bone which look very much as though they have been used as tools by hominids. Gill Turner is cataloguing this material and hoping to do some further work on the taphonomy of the site.

Bob is also continuing to investigate the parallels between Cenozoic climatic changes and hominoid evolutionary patterns, the subject on which he spoke at the March conference.

Elisabeth Vrba is working on several projects which include the establishment of links between palaeontological evidence and the insight to be gained from immuno-genetic distances in antelopes, chronological interpretations based on bovid fossils, taphonomy and palaeoecological investigations, and evolutionary hierarchies. Much of this work involves collaboration with overseas colleagues.

Alan Turner is working on further problems of bone-assemblage quantification, a reassessment of some of the early hyaenid specimens from the Sterkfontein Valley caves, and some problems concerned with the interpretation of size variation in Pleistocene lions.

From Prof. R.V. Dingle (Dept. of Marine Geoscience, University of Cape Town).

CURRENT PALAEOONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN MARINE GEO-SCIENCE AT UCT:

1. R.V.DINGLE. Continuing with Gondwana Mesozoic ostracod studies. Has recently completed a manuscript entitled "Mid-Cretaceous Ostracods from SE Africa and the Falkland Plateau" which will be submitted for publication shortly. Work is continuing on South African Coniacian - Santonian ostracods, as well as New Zealand Cretaceous faunas. A recent publication is: "Some aspects of Cretaceous ostracod biostratigraphy of South Africa and relationships with other Gondwanide localities", *Cretaceous Research*, 3; 1-23.
2. JODY FREWIN. Continuing her studies on Lower Tertiary South African ostracods for her M.Sc.
3. S. ROBSON. As part of our marine sedimentology/stratigraphy programme is working on the distribution of Recent and sub-Recent radiolaria off SE Africa from piston cores and suspended sediment samples.
4. The Marine Geoscience Unit at UCT has recently appointed a SAN-COR-funded Post-Doctoral Fellow, who was due to join us in October this year. Work permit and visa problems have delayed his arrival, but by the time this Newsletter is in print, we hope AMOS WINTER (late of Stanford University) will be in residence and getting to work on calcareous nannofossils from our piston cores. Winter's contract is for 3 years. It is also hoped to shortly appoint a research assistant to this project, who will work towards his M.Sc.

From Dr. Arthur Cruickshank (Open University, Scotland).

Herewith commentary on my palaeontological activities over the four years since leaving South Africa - with notes on the Symposia of V.P. attended and status of papers read, etc.

1978. 26th Symposium. Reading University. "Hydrodynamics of Nectridea" with B.W. Skews. Paper appeared in the *Proc. Roy. Soc.* in 1980.

1979. 27th Symposium. Oxford University. "Review of South African Permo-Triassic stratigraphy". Produced as result of the poor state of understanding of recent developments in S.A.. Exists as a MS needing much work.....

1980. 28th Symposium. Kingston-on-Thames Poly. "Road to dicynodonty". An account of my understanding of the origins of the Dicynodontia. More or less complete MS.

1981. 29th Symposium. Cardiff University. "Scottish Permian dicynodonts". A revision of the cranial anatomy and function in *Geikia*, with comments on the stratigraphy of the deposits. MS in conjunction with Andre Keyser; needing final polishing for re-submission to the *Trans. geol. Soc. S. Afr.*

1982. 30th Symposium. Cambridge University. "Stratigraphy of the Permo-Triassic of the Ruhuhu Valley – an enigma solved". Abstract below.

In 1980 I spent two months working on the unprepared and uncurated material collected by Nowack in 1936, as well as sorting out the unprepared material from Parrington's original expedition, now in the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. During this period I prepared the skull and mandible of one 'large' dicynodont, which turned out to be very similar to *Kannemeyeria cristarhynchus*, and was able to confirm the presence of other dicynodont genera not apparently described and at the same time recognise the presence of more very good *Tetragonias* specimens, among other rhynchosaur, archosaur and cynodont species.

Professor Barry Cox and a visiting Chinese palaeontologist, Mrs. Li, have a paper in press in *Palaeontology* describing a specimen collected by the 1963 Ruhuhu BM(NH) expedition which will have interesting implications for the identification of the new *Kannemeyeria* I have prepared. They would like to return to Cox's classification of 1965, having pointed out in their paper some weaknesses of the criteria used by Andre and myself in 1979. This not the time or place to go into the implications of the controversy, but as *they* say, time will tell! I like to prefer 'our' classification, notwithstanding its imperfections.

ABSTRACT

"The stratigraphy of the Triassic horizons in the Ruhuhu Valley, Tanzania"

A new edentulous kannemeyeriid recently recovered from material long housed in the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge seems most closely related to *K. cristarhynchus* (Chowdhury). The latter is at present known from Middle Triassic horizons in India, Namibia and Zambia. The new species is from a horizon (K8; Manda Formation) which has hitherto yielded *Kannemeyeria* sp. and *Tetragonias n. jalilus* (Huene) among the dicynodonts, and a further rich fauna of archosaurs, rhynchosaurs, cynodonts and stereospondylus amphibia, all typical of a Middle Triassic (Anisian) age. A *Kannemeyeria sinocephala* (Weit) specimen (= *K. latifrons*) hitherto believed to be from another Manda Formation locality can now be confidently stated to be from a lower horizon of equivalent age to the South African Cynognathus-zone (= *Kannemeyeria* assemblage zone). This horizon is from K7 or the Kingori Sandstone Formation and yields a sparse fauna containing, in addition to the dicynodont, an archosaur of uncertain affinity and a cynodont represented by a string of vertebrae. The association of advanced kannemeyeriids and dinodontosaurines in the same beds in several regions of Gondwanaland may allow another Karoo biozone to be defined on the basis of their presence. However until this new form from the Manda is formally named, no more refined definition of the proposed new biozone is possible. Horizons containing both kannemeyeriid and dinodontosaurines occur in addition in Argentina, China and possibly North Africa. The status of their kannemeyeriid taxa needs reassessing as these horizons may also be of an age equivalent to the new biozone in the Manda Formation. There are implications for the timing of sedimentation in subsiding areas of Gondwanaland, and hence the timing of its break-up activity, in these discoveries.

Van: Mnr. F.J. du Plooy (Aliwal Noord)

In samewerking van Mnr. en Mev. Anderson van die Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde te Pretoria, is verskeie vindplekke weer besoek, o.a. 'n nuwe vindplek in die distrik van Aliwal Noord, waar 'n groot aantal fosielplante, asook twee nuwe plantspesies ontdek is. Verdere navorsing sal nog hier gedoen word.

Tydens 'n tweede besoek van Mnr. & Mev. Anderson gedurende September 1982, is aan die hand van die Dagboeke van Mnr. Gogga Brown, wat spesiaal vir die doel geleen is, 'n volledige opname gemaak van al die vindplekke en is dit op 'n kaart van die gebied aangebring.

Verskeie toergroepe en Wetenskaplikes, ook van oorsee, het Aliwal Noord die afgelope jaar besoek, en is op besigtigings toere geneem. O.a. Dr. Schrieber van die Universiteit van Regensburg Wes Duitsland, wat hier navorsing oor grondverdigting gedoen het en Dr. Reinhardt van Unisa, wat tans besig is met navorsing in verband met die geomorfologiese-siklusse van Suider Afrika, wat in die geweste duidelik blootgelê is.



OBITUARY

Professor Geoffrey Bond OLM, BSc (Hons), PhD (Lond), DIC, ARCS, C Eng, MIMM, FGS, FGS (Am), FZSA.

1912 – 1983

Geoff Bond, a Founder Member of our Society, died suddenly at his home in Harare, Zimbabwe, on June 19th, at the age of 71. This tragic loss deprived the southern part of Africa of one of its most able, and one of its most likeable, scientists.

Geoff's love affair with Africa began in 1941 when he was sent out temporarily to what was then Rhodesia during war-time service with the Royal Air Force. The war had interrupted his studies at Imperial College, and after it ended he returned to Imperial College to complete his studies. He graduated with First Class Honours in 1946; he received his PhD in 1949 and his DIC in 1953.

He had, upon first graduating, returned to Rhodesia in 1946 where he was appointed Keeper of Geology at the National Museum in Bulawayo. That began an association with the national museums organization of that country (and subsequently of Zimbabwe, when the new order took over) that was to last for the rest of his life. Although he left the employ of the museum when he was appointed inaugural Professor of Geology at the new University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1960, he never severed his close links with the museums. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Rhodesian National Museums in 1963 and became Chairman of the Board in 1970 – an office he was to hold for the next twelve years; he retired from the Board just a few months before his death.

Geoff's interest in fossils probably began even before University and palaeontology remained one of his first loves throughout his adult life. His PhD was concerned with the geology, palaeoclimates and archaeological cultures of the Pleistocene in Matabeleland, yet much of his subsequent palaeontological work was concerned with the Karoo deposits in Zimbabwe and beyond her borders. He more than any other person stimulated palaeontological work in Zimbabwe, and he was particularly successful in encouraging amateurs to find and report new fossil sites to the museums

so that they could be professionally followed up. In a very short time his friendly and warm contact with miners, farmers, tsetse fly control personnel, road builders, Uncle-Tom-Cobley-and-all had produced a crop of new productive fossil sites which suddenly put palaeontology in that part of the world on the map.

He belonged to a breed of geologist that is rare now-a-days, the 'complete earth scientist': equally at home with sediments, hard rocks, bones, invertebrates, archaeological artifacts, engineering geological problems — you name it. But beyond that he was a relaxed and friendly man who always took a personal interest in the people with whom he came into contact.

In his later years he took on an increasing administrative burden as Vice-Principal of the University of Rhodesia during the troubled years of the Rhodesian bush war, but he still found time to be active within his community as well — as Vice Chairman of the Natural Resources Board, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Monuments organization, and presenter of many radio and television programmes bringing science to the man in the street. Geoff was seldom happier than when he was talking to someone else far away by two-way radio — either as a radio "ham" (which he was, for many years right up to his death) or on board his beloved "Erica", the boat operated by the University on Lake Kariba, of which he was intensely proud and endearingly possessive.

Just a short while before his death Geoff came down from Harare to receive the award of the Draper Memorial Medal from the Geological Society of South Africa — the highest honour it can bestow. I know from my conversation with him afterwards how proud of that award he was.

Few people who knew Geoff Bond can have known a more humorous man. I personally feel much the richer for having known him. His loss is great. We mourn with his wife Marina, his son Ivan, and his daughter, Nina.

Mike Raath.

Brian Maguire (1922-1983)

At the time of going to press with this issue we heard the sad news of the death on August 17th of Mr. Brian Maguire, who had recently retired from the staff of the Bernard Price Institute in Johannesburg.

A fuller tribute will be prepared for the next issue of *Pal News/Nuus*. In the meantime the sympathies of his friends and colleagues go to his wife, Dr. Judy Maguire, herself a palaeontologist on the staff of the BPI, and to their two daughters.

Mike Raath.

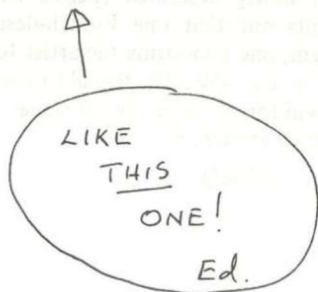
PLEASE! HELP ME WITH THE NEXT ISSUE

This issue is already later than I wanted it to be. I sometimes think that the days in the week have shrunk to only a couple of hours each!

Please take the arrival of this issue as a desperate call for help with the next one. You must have some news, and also some anecdotes, cartoons, etc. If you send me cartoons, please indicate the source. Unfortunately we can't yet handle photographs, but I hope it won't be too long before we can.

The address to send your reports, etc, is given on the contents page of this issue.

Any items for use as "fillers" would also be most welcome — short items, attractive drawings or silhouettes of fossils, etc, that can be patched in wherever there are big empty spaces in the newsletter.



BITS AND PIECES.....

Chris Gow contributed a few recent exam howlers from his second-year class:

CONVERGENCE:

"Evolutionary convergence occurs when two similar species are subjected to the same environmental stresses and respond in similar ways, thus converging to form a new single species."

PLATE TECTONICS:

"Continents like Gondwanaland can be rebuilt....."

(*NOT if you've ever tried to get hold of a bricklayer in Johannesburg!*).

Chris also shows how important it is to find out what the shiny new name for your newly described species will look like in another language. He points out that one French-described therocephalian has a double patronym, one honouring the artist Jeanne Crapart, and the other the preparator at the BM(NH), Ronald Croucher. This singularly unfortunate animal will forever bear the sobriquet:

Crapartinella croucheri!

(*Eina!*)