



***61<sup>st</sup> Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and  
Comparative Anatomy***  
***22<sup>nd</sup> Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and  
Conservation***

**Edinburgh 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013**

**First Circular**

**Venue**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC) will be held in combination with the annual meeting of the Geological Curators Group (GCG) on August 27<sup>th</sup>, followed by the 61<sup>st</sup> Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy (SVPCA) between August 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Both meetings will be hosted jointly by National Museums Scotland and the University of Edinburgh.

This year SVPCA will include a subsidiary symposium honouring the palaeontological contributions of field palaeontologist Stan Wood, who died last year. The meeting will be followed by the traditional annual field trip, which this year will visit a number of important Palaeozoic vertebrate-bearing localities in the Scottish Borders.

National Museums Scotland holds an internationally important collection of Palaeozoic fishes and tetrapods that is now housed in a new storage facility. Visits to our collections are welcomed, but access is dependent of the availability of curatorial staff. Delegates are strongly encouraged to indicate an interest in using the collections to Stig Walsh ([s.walsh@nms.ac.uk](mailto:s.walsh@nms.ac.uk)) well in advance of the meeting. Please also note that the collections are no longer housed at the museum, and are now at the National Museums Collections Centre in Granton, some four miles north of the Museum and conference venues.

## Accommodation

An early start to the academic year at the University of Edinburgh meant that it was necessary to bring SPPC/SVPCA forward from its more normal slot in early September in order to secure reasonably priced accommodation in the student halls. This earlier slot does, however, coincide with the Edinburgh Fringe, which will increase competition for hotel rooms and similar accommodation. We have secured a limited number of single rooms at the halls (£41 per night single, £54 per night single en suite), only 10 of which have en-suite facilities. We strongly advise delegates requiring such facilities to book early, and for those of you who require double rooms to book your private hotel accommodation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

## Presentations

Platform and poster presentations are invited on all aspects of vertebrate palaeontology (SVPCA) and all aspects of palaeontological preparation, conservation and geological curation (SPPC/GCG). Abstract submission will be via the SVPCA website (<http://www.svpca.org/>), where it will be possible to indicate whether a platform or poster presentation is preferred. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length. Guidelines on presentation formats will be given in the Second Circular, which will be available in June. The deadline for abstract submission is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

## Provisional Timetable

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	SPPC/GCG registration at Pollock Halls.
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	SPPC/GCG presentations & SVPCA registration at National Museums Scotland and Pollock Halls. Icebreaker (evening).
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	SVPCA presentations at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Reception (evening).
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	SVPCA presentations at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Jones-Fenleigh Auction (evening).
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	SVPCA presentations and Stan Wood special symposium at National Museums Scotland. Symposium Dinner (evening).
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Field Trip to Scottish Borders.

## Host committee

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