



61st Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy

22nd Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation

Edinburgh 27th – 31st August 2013

Second Circular

Welcome to the Second Circular for the 2013 GCG/SPPC/SVPCA meeting, which will be hosted jointly by National Museums Scotland and the University of Edinburgh. In case you have not already read the First Circular, it is still available on the [SVPCA website](#). Thank you to everyone who has registered since registration opened.

Registration and Payment

Those of you who intend to come to the meetings must first register using the [online bookings form](#). This year we are only able to take payments in Pounds Sterling by cheque or BACS transfer (credit card payments and SWIFT and IBAN transfers are unfortunately **not** possible). Please contact Stig Walsh (s.walsh@nms.ac.uk) for instructions for making BACS payments. Cheques should be sent to Stig Walsh, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian, EH1 1JF, and made payable to National Museums Scotland. Please make sure you include your name and registration number on all payments. Payments should be cleared before July 31st, 2013.

Abstracts

The abstract [submission page](#) is open. When you have registered you will be sent a password that allows you to upload your abstract. Abstracts must be written in English and may be on any aspect of vertebrate palaeontology (SVPCA) or palaeontological preparation, conservation and curation (GCG/SPPC). All abstracts should include the name(s) of author(s) and their address(es), a succinct title and the main body of text, which should comprise no more than 250 words. We would like to remind you that the deadline for abstract submission is **July 19th**. After the deadline the abstracts will be reviewed by the organising committee, and successful abstracts will be included in an edited volume that will be available in print form at the meeting, and in as a PDF downloadable from the SVPCA website.

Presentation Guidelines

Platform presentations for GCG/SPPC will be made in the Hutton Lecture Theatre of the University of Edinburgh (Tuesday 27th August). For SVPCA the presentations will be made in the [Wolfson Lecture Theatre](#) of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (Wednesday and Thursday 28th-29th August) and [National Museums Scotland auditorium](#) (Friday 30th August). Audio visual equipment in all three venues uses the Windows 7 operating system. If your presentation will only run on another operating system (Mac OS, Linux etc.) you will need to bring your machine so that it can be connected to the projector. Please advise the organisers in well in advance if this is the case. Presentations may be given using PowerPoint (Office 2010 version) or Adobe Reader (version XI). As in previous years, the time slot for each platform presentation is 20 minutes (15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions).

Poster presentations will be made in the Grant Institute (University of Edinburgh) for GCG/SPPC, and in the rooms of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (28th-29th) and National Museum of Scotland (30th). The change in venue between the Thursday and Friday requires posters to be removed at the end of the Thursday sessions and, if desired, re-fixed at the National Museum of Scotland on the 30th. Poster board sizes conform to standard A0 dimensions in the landscape orientation. Posters must be fixed using Velcro tape, which will be supplied.

Field trip

The meeting will be followed on Saturday 31st by a visit to some important Palaeozoic sites in the Scottish Borders, including a visit to Hutton's famous unconformity at Siccar Point, and the recently excavated Chirnside and Burnmouth localities, which have yielded a wealth of rare vertebrates from the period known as 'Romer's Gap'. Those of you who have expressed an interest in joining the field trip on your booking will be able to purchase a place on the excursion (price to be announced). Note that this field trip will visit the Scottish Borders: wet weather gear will almost certainly be required!

Social events

Since SPPC/SVPCA coincides with the Fringe Festival, Edinburgh will be alive with unusual events during the conference week in the unlikely event you tire of talking about vertebrate fossils. However, as is traditional, our social events this year will include the customary 'icebreaker' welcome reception on the Tuesday night, the auction on the Thursday and the annual conference dinner on the Friday. For Wednesday, Mike Taylor has kindly offered to conduct an informal walk around the central Old Town for a few Hugh Miller enthusiasts to see places associated with Miller and, if possible, the famous Disruption Painting and New College Library. As an alternative Scottish cultural event we are hoping to offer a whisky tasting event at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, for which tickets will be available to purchase during the day on Wednesday. If you are potentially interested in either of these events please send a message to Stig Walsh (s.walsh@nms.ac.uk) by August 2nd so that we can gauge possible numbers.

Accommodation

At the present time fewer than 35 standard rooms (£41 per night with breakfast included) in the student halls remain. If you would like to secure one of these rooms we strongly advise you to book as soon as possible. Alternative accommodation in the city is likely to become much more expensive and scarcer as the Festival period approaches.

T-shirts

Those of you who have ordered a conference T-shirt will be contacted prior to the meeting so that you can order your size.

The Jones-Fenleigh Fund

The Jones-Fenleigh Fund is intended to help to support a small number of delegates who have no access to institutional financial support to attend SVPCA meetings. The Fund offers a bursary covering registration fees, accommodation costs and basic subsistence, but not travel expenses.

Full details of eligibility, selection criteria and application procedure can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is **August 2nd**, 2013.

Please remember that the Jones-Fenleigh Fund only exists thanks to your kind donations, so please bring along your items for auction and please be generous! Storage space will be available at the Royal Society of Edinburgh if you wish to drop items off early on the Wednesday.

Access to collections

If you wish to visit National Museums Scotland's collection of Palaeozoic fishes and tetrapods around the time of the meeting you will need to inform Stig Walsh (s.walsh@nms.ac.uk) **before July 31st**. Access is dependent on availability of curatorial staff, so arrangements need to be made well in advance. Please also note that the collections are housed at the National Museums Scotland Collections Centre in Granton, some four miles north of the Museum and conference venues. Please allow up to 40 minutes travel time between the Collections Centre and the Royal Society of Edinburgh/National Museum of Scotland.

Provisional conference summary

- Monday 26th SPPC/GCG registration at Pollock Halls (1600–1800).
- Tuesday 27th SPPC/GCG registration & presentations at the Grant Institute, University of Edinburgh (0800–1300). Visit to National Museums Scotland Collections Centre and laboratories (1400–1600). SVPCA registration and Icebreaker reception at the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1900 on).
- Wednesday 28th SVPCA registration and presentations at the Royal Society of Edinburgh (0900–1700). Whisky tasting (TBC) at Royal Society of Edinburgh and Hugh Miller tour (TBC) (1900 on).
- Thursday 29th SVPCA registration and presentations (0900–1700) and Jones-Fenleigh Fund Auction (1900 on) at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
- Friday 30th SVPCA registration and presentations and Stan Wood special symposium at National Museum of Scotland (0830–1700). Symposium Dinner at the Royal College of Physicians (1900 on).
- Saturday 31st Field Trip to Scottish Borders including visits to Siccar Point, Willie's Hole (Chirnside) and Burnmouth (0830–1700).

Host committee

- Nick Fraser (National Museums Scotland)
Stephen Brusatte (University of Edinburgh)
Stig Walsh (National Museums Scotland)
Jeff Liston (Yunnan Key Laboratory for Palaeobiology, Yunnan and National Museums Scotland)
Vicen Carrió (National Museums Scotland)