



II Conservation Workshop

Finding Global Solutions for Natural History Collections
From the site to the storage

17-21 May 2011
Sabadell-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Institut Català de Paleontologia



A forum to learn and to discuss about the main problems in Conservation Preparation and Restoration of Natural History Collections

Program

In this second circular we specify the names of international speakers and the topics of their presentations. Also we have specified the theme of the workshops and roundtables, and the exact place of execution. The names and titles of communications and titles of posters, will not be made public until their complete reception.

The organizing committee reserves the right to modify the original program if it is logistically necessary.

Tuesday, May 17th 011 – (Afternoon)

18:00h-18:30h – Welcome reception

18:30h - Opening of the II Conservation Workshop

19:00h-20:00h – Visit to our new museum exhibition

20:00h-21:00h - Opening dinner

Wednesday , May 18th 2011

Attendees' and posters reception

9:00h -10:30h – **Linda Bullock** - Conservation consultant -The National Trust of England Wales and Northern Ireland

"Preventive Conservation of museums in historic buildings"

10:30h -11:00h **Coffee break**

11:00h-12:30h - **Ticca Ogilvie** - National Museums Collection Center-National Museums Scotland *"A broad view on preventive conservation systems- Freezing to control infestations in the Natural History collections and many other systems..."(tentative title)*

12:30h-14:00h - **Amy Davidson** - American Museum of Natural History

"Archival Materials and Techniques for Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History".

14.00h -15:30h **Lunch**

15:30h-17:00h - **Gregory Brown** - University of Nebraska

"Conservation approach to the preservation of fossil sites "in situ": The Case of Ashfall study Fossil Beds "insitu" in Nebraska, USA"

17:00h-18:30h - **Carlos Bernardo Padilla** - Fundación Colombiana de Geobiología

"A comparative review of classical and recent methods using acids in preparation"

18:30h-19:00h - Space open for discussion

Thursday, May 19th 2011

9:00h-10:30h - Attendees' presentations

10:30h-11:00h Coffee break

11:00h-12:20h - Attendees' presentations

40' break

13:00h-14:00h - Attendees' presentations

14:00h-15'30h Lunch

15:30h-16:30h – Roundtables:

1- *“Moving exhibition and collections”*: Direction of roundtable **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center - National Museums Scotland.

2- *“On-site movement and extraction systems”*: Direction of roundtable **Jordi Galindo – Sandra Val** Institut Català de Paleontologia.

16:30h-17:30h – Poster presentations

17:30h-18:30h – Roundtables:

3- *“Collection management Protocol”*: Direction of roundtable **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center-National Museums Scotland.

4- *“Conservation Fields sites”*: Direction of roundtable **Jordi Galindo – Sandra Val** Institut Català de Paleontologia.

Friday, May 20th 2011

9:00h-10:00h Breakfast coffee

10:00h-13:00h - Practical classes and experiences exchanges:

1- *“Archival Materials and Techniques”*. **Amy Davidson** - American Museum of Natural History.

Place: Museum ICP Sabadell

2- *“Classic and recent Methods using acid in preparation”*. **Carlos Bernardo Padilla** - Fundación Colombiana de Geobiología.

Place: Laboratories ICP Universitat Autònoma

3- *“Molding Methods and Techniques”*. **Eleuterio Baeza** - Museo Geominero de Madrid.

Place: Laboratories ICP Universitat Autònoma

4- *“Packing techniques for transportation and storage”*. **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center - National Museums Scotland.

Place: Museum ICP Sabadell

13:00h-14:00h Lunch

14:00h-17:00h - Practical classes and experiences exchanges:

1- *“Archival Materials and Techniques”*. **Amy Davidson** - American Museum of Natural History.

Place: Museum ICP Sabadell.

2- *“Classic and recent Methods using acid in preparation”*. **Carlos Bernardo Padilla** - Fundación Colombiana de Geobiología.

Place: Laboratories ICP Universitat Autònoma.

3- *“Molding Methods and Techniques”*. **Eleuterio Baeza** - Museo Geominero de Madrid.

Place: Laboratories ICP Universitat Autònoma.

4- *“Packing techniques for transportation and storage”*. **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center - National Museums Scotland.

Place: Museum ICP Sabadell.

Closing meal

Saturday, May 21st 2011

8:30h Meeting point, ICP Museum Sabadell

10:00h-12:00h Guided visit to the Mine Cerc's Museum and gallery Sant Romà

12:30h Guided field trip to the paleontological fossil site Fumanya.

14:30h Closing meal

19:00h Arrival to Sabadell



Places



Museum of the Institut Català de Paleontologia:

C/ Escola Industrial, 23. 08201 - SABADELL - Tel. 93 726 17 69

- *Opening dinner*
- *Visit our new exhibition*
- *Practical classes (workshop n^o1 and n^o4)(*)*



Building "Obra Social Caixa Sabadell":

C/ d' En Font, 1. 08201 – SABADELL - Behind to building museum

- *International conferences.*
- *Attendees' Presentations.*
- *Roundtables.*
- *Posters.*
- *Exhibition "Original or copy" - Eleuterio Baeza (to confirm)*

(*)Workshop n^o2 y n^o3 will be executed in the preparation laboratories-ICP (campus of Universitat Autònoma). The exact location of these spaces is indicated in the attached maps that are on the website.



Abstract submission

DATES HAVE CHANGED

We think it is important to understand that this Second Workshop arises as a place to share ideas, knowledge and skills with professional colleagues. For this reason, we consider important to involve the audience by submitting an oral or poster presentation. We think that sharing personal experience, problems, doubts, successes or failures of each one, is important to advance in the daily work of our professionals.

Attendees' presentations will be 20' time. (Time of exposition will be measured carefully, in order to respect the time of all attendees' presentations).

Dates:

We have extended the deadline for submission of abstracts by **January 30th 2011**. It is essential to indicate if the assistant will present a communication or a poster

The registration must be completed including the title of the abstract, specifying whether to an oral or poster presentation will be made.

Submission process:

All abstracts must be sent via e-mail, as an attachment, in pdf format. All of them must include all the following information:

- Name(s) of the author(s), degree, institution, address and contact information (phone number and e-mail address).
- **They must be sent in English and Spanish.**

All abstracts will be reviewed, and their acceptance will be notified by **February 28th 2011**.

All abstracts must be sent via e-mail to the organizing committee at the following e-mail address:

Carolina Cancelo carolina.cancelo@icp.cat

Publication:

In this II Workshop we would like to print paper books that will be handed at the beginning of the workshop. But at the end, it will be impossible, and we will do it after the II Conservation Workshop. All oral and poster communications have to be sent to the organizing committee in article format to be corrected and edited on time.

Deadline of papers **September 30th 2011.**



Description of workshops

1- *“Archival Materials and Techniques”*.

- **Amy Davidson** - American Museum of Natural History.
- **Place:** Museum ICP Sabadell

(Workshop materials kit, you can pre-purchase it with your registration or purchase it at the symposium registration table)*:

Participants who purchase the kit will work with the materials included during the workshop, including a broken mini-flowerpot to be used as a specimen, three B-72 mixtures, archival labeling and housing materials. By the end of the workshop the participants will take away the specimen which they have repaired, gap-filled, labeled and housed; all with proper archival techniques. The kit will also include a loaded “Koob Tube” of thick B-72 for use in making joins, a labeled applicator bottle of thin B-72 for archival labeling, samples of cellulose fill mixture, silicone-coated Mylar, Mylar sleeves, samples of archival paper, Bristol board and Japanese rice paper, recipes, instructions, supplier lists and other items to be announced.

Description: This workshop will cover three different high quality materials and techniques that fossil preparators can use to prolong the life of specimens and associated data. The workshop will make use of step-by-step demonstrations and hands-on exercises. In addition, reference papers will be distributed in advance and discussed during the workshop.

Outline and Content:

Part I: Paraloid B-72: What is Paraloid B-72 and why is it considered archival. An easy way to mix B-72 using the Koob method and how to decide between acetone and ethanol. Thick B-72 in acetone for joins: how to make Koob tubes. Easy ways to clean jars and keep lids from sticking. How to use or counteract B-72 solvent retention time as well as softening and re-dissolving B-72. Bulking up B-72 for gap filling. How to encourage penetration and reduce thick, shiny coatings. Techniques for very large and very small joins. Making very fast joins on some porous materials. Participants will make B-72 joins and fills on their mini-flowerpot specimen using materials in the kit.

Part II: Archival Labeling: In this section we will walk through Davidson et.al., 2006 “Assembling an Archival Marking Kit for Paleontological Specimens” [available on-line in pdf format](#).

A demonstration of techniques with participants labeling their repaired specimen using a B-72 sandwich method. Printed labels and pencil labels will be discussed. Participants will also label gelatin-capsules, plastic boxes, and plastic bags.

Part III. Archival Housings: There are many ways to make archival housings- built-up techniques using hot-glue will be briefly discussed, the references will be provided and examples of the materials used for those techniques will be showed. We will focus on cavity mounts made of cut-out ethafoam. These use no adhesives and allow liners, labels, photos and notes to be inserted into the ethafoam. Participants will create their own cavity mount using materials provided in the kit and will also learn how to include a small labeled plastic box in the mount and attach reference photos in Mylar sleeves and folded labels of archival Bristol board.

2- “Classic and Recent methods using acids in preparation”

- **Carlos Bernardo Padilla** - Fundación Colombiana de Geobiología.
- **Place:** Laboratories- ICP Universitat Autònoma

The objective of the workshop is to prepare working solutions using acetic acid and sulfamic (formic is optional). Tests were made to see their reactivity matrix and perform the practical implementation of a full course of removal:

- Preliminary wash
- Drying and protection
- Immersion in the acid
- Washing and drying
- Protection of new surface area

This workshop will be a practical performance, because of the management of chemical materials and precautions to be used.

3- “Molding Methods and Techniques”

- **Eleuterio Baeza** - Museo Geominero de Madrid.
- **Place:** laboratories ICP Universitat Autònoma

Practical test on molding and casting, using a variety of fast-curing elastomers or fast on different materials, with emphasis on problems with different types of release agents, possible hitches due to porosity, advantages and disadvantages of the rapid or slow crosslinking, etc.

In the same way as molding materials drain tests would be conducted with different mortars and plasters, as well as some finishes and techniques, related to the different materials used in the casts.

In all cases we try to implement any questions in relation of natural materials relating to earth sciences.

4- “Packing techniques for transportation and storage”

- **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center - National Museums Scotland.
- **Place:** Museum ICP Sabadell

This workshop will cover some of the considerations that have to be made before start packing (*chemical/physical properties of the specimens; shapes; who should be involved in packing and handling collections; future storage location and environmental conditions,...*).

We are going to talk about how, where and who can damage our collections. We are going to have the opportunity to touch and compare different archival materials that are used to packing and for storage. Examples of the different uses in others institutions of this kind of materials will be showed.

Once explained these concepts, a demonstration will be provided on how to:

- 1) prepare Tyvek & polystyrene beads cushions
- 2) make snowballs with tissue paper
- 3) prepare a cavity mount from cut-out ethafoam
- 4) build up a support using a hot-glue gun
- 5) make a plaster support

Participants will have the opportunity to create mounts/supports using an assortment of archival materials for specimens which will be supplied.



Description of roundtables

1- *“Moving exhibitions and collections”:*

- Direction of roundtable **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center - National Museums Scotland.

The idea of the round table is to compare knowledge and experience from moving and transporting collections to other locations temporal and permanent. The basic principles used are the same in all cases, furthermore, the materials used and the paperwork required will be dissimilar. The different methods used in packing will differ depending of the characteristics of the move (inside the institution, same country or even other continent).

What should we consider important when we have to plan a move? Is this necessary? Will it improve the conditions of our collections? Is it safe for us and for our collection? Which permit do we need (eg: CITES)? Who is responsible to do it? What materials should we use? These are some of the questions that we should ask before approaching any move.

At the round table we will try to discuss the general aspects of a move and finally we will concentrate on specific cases:

- Moving collections in same institution
- Moving collections to new stores
- Moving specimens for a temporary exhibition in the same country
- Moving specimens for a temporary exhibition in a different country/continent

2- *“Movement and extraction systems in the field”:*

- Direction of roundtable **Jordi Galindo – Sandra Val** - Institut Català de Paleontologia.

The conservation of the remains found in the field deposits depends on many factors: Its own nature, the environment where they are, and the geology of the land. All these factors must be taken into account when someone has to intervene in a field and, once started digging, we must try not to break the balance that has been preserving the specimens. The impact of exogenous factors must be mitigated as much as possible for not breaking this balance, because it may cause irrecoverable damage to the remains excavated.

In the preventive control interventions, the process of remains removal has to interfere as little as possible with the normal development of the works. The urgency in the extraction time is not given in delivering integrated research projects (scheduled). Discussion: The removal of remains with rock matrix may be better done with mummies or in blocks?, **or may be better removing the remains without the rock matrix?, What are best: plaster mummies or polyurethane mummies?, What happens with fossil plant remains?**

3- “Collections management protocols”:

- Direction of roundtable **Vicen Carrió** - National Museums Collection Center-National Museums Scotland.

“A Museum is an Institution which preserves the objects which illustrate the natural phenomena, the man-made objects as well as their use for the knowledge of future generations” (Goode, 1895).

Considering this comment, we will ask the following questions: *Which are the responsibilities of a museum? How do you manage a museum? How do you manage the collections in the museum? Which documentation is necessary?*

A comparison of the different museums/ organizations participating in this roundtable will help us to understand what we think it is important, and how we can be better.

Please bring the documentation from your organization to help compare issues.

- EG: NMS Program of acquisition
- NMS Acquisition and disposal policy
- NMS Object Handling Guidelines
- NMS Collections Management Handbook – Stores
- NMS Intergrated Pest Management Policy
- NMS Environmental Conditions Policy
- NMS COSHH

4- “Conservation Field Sites”:

- Direction of roundtable **Jordi Galindo – Sandra Val** - Institut Català de Paleontologia.

Conservation field sites have always been a challenge for professionals that are working in Restoration-Conservation. We may find the solution to preserve the field site until future interventions or we may find a good plan for the conservation insitu of the remains and their exhibition in the field.

The characteristics of the matrix, the disposition, in vertical or horizontal layers, weather conditions are the significative information that we must know for finding a good solution to preserve the field site. The conservation of the remains, as well as their study and exhibition is very important.

Discussion: **What can we do when we have an exhibition of the remains “insitu”?, ¿How can we protect the remains from the action of exogenous factors?, what kind of tools must we use to make these sites didactic and visited?, Originals or copies?, Are the Interpretation Centers a good alternative?, Do you think that the musealization of all the key sites is important? What is more important: the exhibition or the conservation of the remains, when a conflict between them exists?**



Language

The languages that will be used during the II Conservation Workshop will be Spanish and English.

There will be simultaneous translation in these two languages for to?: International conferences, attendee's presentations and roundtable sessions.



Meals

In this issue we have considered to include in the registration price the coffe-breaks and lunch. The Lunch will be in the garden next to the building hosting the event, if the weather is good, and it will be an informal meal without chairs. We want that this kind of meal invites all the people to make contact with the other colleges and makes them exchange information and experiences.



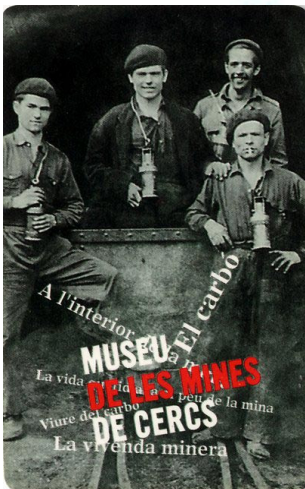
Visit to Paleontological field site - Fumanya

SATURDAY 21th MAY 2011

In this edition, we wanted to incorporate an optional visit to one of the most important sites of footprints (trace fossils) of dinosaurs in the world. This site is located on the Berguedà, particularly in Fumanya (Fígols and Vallcebre). The heritage significance of the Upper Cretaceous reservoir has meant the declaration of greater category of protection for all sites with dinosaur footprints as a Cultural Asset of National Interest. They were discovered by the naturalist Lluís Viladrich Berga, when he was visiting the lignite mines. Various localities have been recognized with the presence of footprints; Fumanya Sud, to 1,550 m. altitude, is the main reservoir composed by arround 2,000 dinosaur footprints in an area of about 19000m². All of them belong to a group of Sauropods named Titanosaurs. Plant remains have also been found in this site, with stems up to 4 meters long, as well as dinosaur eggs and crocodile bones. About 30 different tracks have been documented, some of which have been useful to determine the body proportions of these animals (15 to 20 meters). The studied tracks indicate that possibly these dinosaurs had a herd behavior. Mina Esquirol's footprints are a reservoir located in an area of 2,500 m². The most striking evidence is a trail composed of 15 footprints made by the hands of a sauropod dinosaur. This trail is the most modern of this type discovered worldwide, contributing significantly to the interpretation of this type of footprints. It is also important the presence of fossil plants and remains such as turtle shell and stingray stings .



Fumanya Nord is a reservoir composed of about 1,000 dinosaur footprints in an area around 15.000m². About 5-6 traces attributed to sauropods were located, as well as dinosaur eggs and leaves of fossil palms. Tumí is a mine field with a few outcrops of 1.500m² with the presence of about 80 footprints, among which two tracks have been attributed to titanosaurs. Opposite to the site of South Fumanya we will have the opportunity to visit the future interpretation center, now under construction.



In just 6 miles from the paleontological site Fumanya, there is the Cercs Mines Museum (Museu de les Mines de Cercs). This museum is interpretation center of the mining colony and the history of 150 years of coal mining in the region.

The Museum has four public open spaces: the permanent exhibition rooms, located in the building that was a convent of nuns, and then "Home of the miner", which shows the life style in the mine and different characteristics and uses of coal, a floor of the colony in the early forties, the audiovisual room, and finally the nearly 500 meters from the gallery Sant Romà where it is possible to see how was the work inside the galleries through a mine train.



In a privileged location, near the site of Fumanya we will enjoy with a lunch in the restaurant of the Jou Hotel, before returning to Sabadell.

<http://www.eljouhotel.com/es/restaurante.html>



More information

In our website -II Conservation Workshop- you will find more logistic information: how to arrive to different places, transportation, maps, possible accommodations, and other useful information.

For any problem contact: sandra.val@icp.cat

