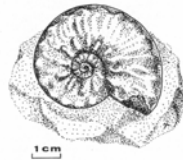




Universität Bremen



Geowissenschaftliche Sammlung
Fachbereich 5



**Presentations in the “Geosciences Working Group” (collectors group)
of the Geology Department for 2006**

12. Januar 2006

Lecturers: Ludwig Kopp & Jens Lehmann (Ritterhude, Bremen)

Topic: “Trip into the past – the excitement of fossil collecting”

Media: Power Point/Slides



The foundations for investigations of life in the ancient past of our planet are fossils that are stored not only in museums and research collections, but also in many private collections. Exhibits will be used to clearly illustrate what kinds of information can be obtained from fossils. A lifeless round “stone” is revealed as a fossilized sea urchin, and a multitude of questions about its past habitat arise on this trip into the ancient past. How warm was it 50 million years ago? How deep was the sea? What predators were living at that time?

9. February 2006

Lecturer: Jörg Pöhl (Verden)

Topic: “Lanzarote –geology of a vacation island with fiery mountains”

Media: Slides



The island of Lanzarote has a volcanic origin. Like all of the Canary Islands, with an age of around 35 million years it is, geologically speaking, relatively young. Undersea volcanic eruptions related to the separation of the African and American plates provided the basis for the formation of the islands. The presentation discusses the theory of continental drift proposed by Alfred Wegener in 1912 as the oldest model for explaining the formation of the Canaries, as well as the possibility of being a product of an active magma chamber, also known as a “hot spot”.

9 March 2006

Lecturer: Jens Lehmann (Bremen)

Topic: "What are the pyramids made of? The fossils of Egypt"

Media: Power Point



During the past history of the earth many of today's desert regions were covered by seas or by dense forests; present-day Egypt serves as an example. On a trip through time, the speaker transports the guests back to various time planes between 150 and 50 million years ago, and describes the fascinating world of life long before the time of the Pharaohs. Original shells of extinct one-celled animals will be shown that in ancient times grew to be several cm in size, as well as the remains of past forests that have been turned to stone by time.

6. April 2006

Lecturer: Herbert Menzel (Bremen)

Topic: "A fascinating view of street gravel – gabbro quarries in the Harz"

Media: Power Point



We come into contact with plutonic rocks in every day life, literally walking around on them. Gabbroic bedrock from the quarries in the Harz is a good example of a natural product that is unattractive at first glance, but presents a fascinating image under the microscope. In addition to the intriguing history of their formation, Herbert Menzel also presents aesthetic photos of rocks that have been ground and polished to sub-millimeter thickness.

11. May 2006

Lecturer: Martin Krogmann (Bremen)

Topic: "Preparation of 'rocks' and fossils – from formless 'clumps' to sensational exhibits"

Media: Beamer



Many Bremen citizens collect rocks and fossils during their vacations, for example, on the beaches of the Baltic Sea. They are then faced with the question of how to clean these "treasures of stone". Martin Krogmann is the preparator of the geosciences collection at Bremen University. In this presentation he explains what materials the professionals use and provides tips about how to use simple substances to work on your own finds. Just bring your own specimens to the meeting.

08. June 2006

Lecturers: Alan Marsh (Sandhausen) & Jürgen Reinhardt (Bremen)

Topic: "Fossil-collecting adventure – report on an excursion"

Media: Beamer/Video



This presentation focuses on an exciting trip through ancient history. The speakers travel throughout Europe in search of fossils that are millions of years old. On this evening they will bring their own latest finds from 2006 with them, and some of these will be distributed among the audience. Examination of the exhibits brings up tantalizing questions: What kinds of life forms do the fossils represent? What were the life habits of the animals and plants? From what kinds of organisms did they originate? Why have many species become extinct?

13 July 2006

Lecturer: Ludwig Kopp (Ritterhude)

Topic: "Proto-horses and crocodiles – fossils from the Messel Pit"

Media: Beamer



The Messel Pit near Darmstadt is world famous for Eocene fossil discoveries, from around 50 million years ago. The major finds attracting attention are the proto-horses, birds, snakes, crocodiles and bats. This diverse animal world lived on a lake created by volcanic eruptions, and their remains were preserved in an organic sludge that today is an oil shale. During this presentation original fossils from an excavation by the

geosciences collection group of Bremen University will be presented, and some of these will be passed around for hands-on observation.

14 September 2006

Lecturers: Alan Marsh, Martin Krogmann & Jens Lehmann

Topic: "Minerals and fossils from northern Germany"

Media: Beamer



Northern Germany is truly a "paradise" for amateur geologists. In gravel and clay pits, quarries, and even in the open fields we can find abundant evidence from the past. Sparkling crystals have always stirred our imagination and fantasy, as have the questions of how rocks and fossils form and how the animals and plants revealed by the fossils actually looked. Finds from northern Germany will be shown on this evening, evoking stimulating discussions with the public about their age and formation. Of course you can bring your own specimens with you to this meeting.

12 October 2006

Lecturer: Werner Liebenberg (Bremen)

Topic: "Fossil treasures from southern France – up close"

Media: Slides



On hiking trips through southern France, Werner Liebenberg and his wife have been investigating the geology and fossils of this region for years. In addition to fossils of million-year-old marine animals, the pair has also discovered the fossilized footprints of dinosaurs that once ruled the land. On this evening, several of the fossil treasures of southern France will be available for observing and handling. Those who wish can bring their own finds for professional evaluation.

09 November 2006

Lecturers: Jens Lehmann & Jürgen Reinhardt

Topic: "Giant ammonites – behemoths of the ancient seas"

Media: Beamer



Ammonites are the spirally coiled calcareous shells of ancient relatives of today's squids, and they are of greater interest than most other fossils. This is because they are abundant in rock formations, a wide diversity of forms can be found, and most have a diameter of a few centimeters. On this evening, however, especially large ammonite shells will be shown, from animals that mainly lived in the Cretaceous and Jurassic seas. Why did the gigantism develop? Why did they die out at the end of the Cretaceous? These are only two of the questions that will be addressed during this presentation.

14 December 2006

Lecturer: all

Topic: Christmas celebration



Many Bremen citizens have collected rocks, fossils and minerals during 2006. Therefore, to add to the general warmth of the Christmas celebration, a prize will be given for the find of the year. The most interesting specimen will be voted as the "Weser Geo-highlight of 2006", and will be honored with a book prize. In addition, the geo-collection will present its best new acquisitions of the year. The program for 2007 will also be discussed and every participant will have the chance to suggest a talk or similar presentation.