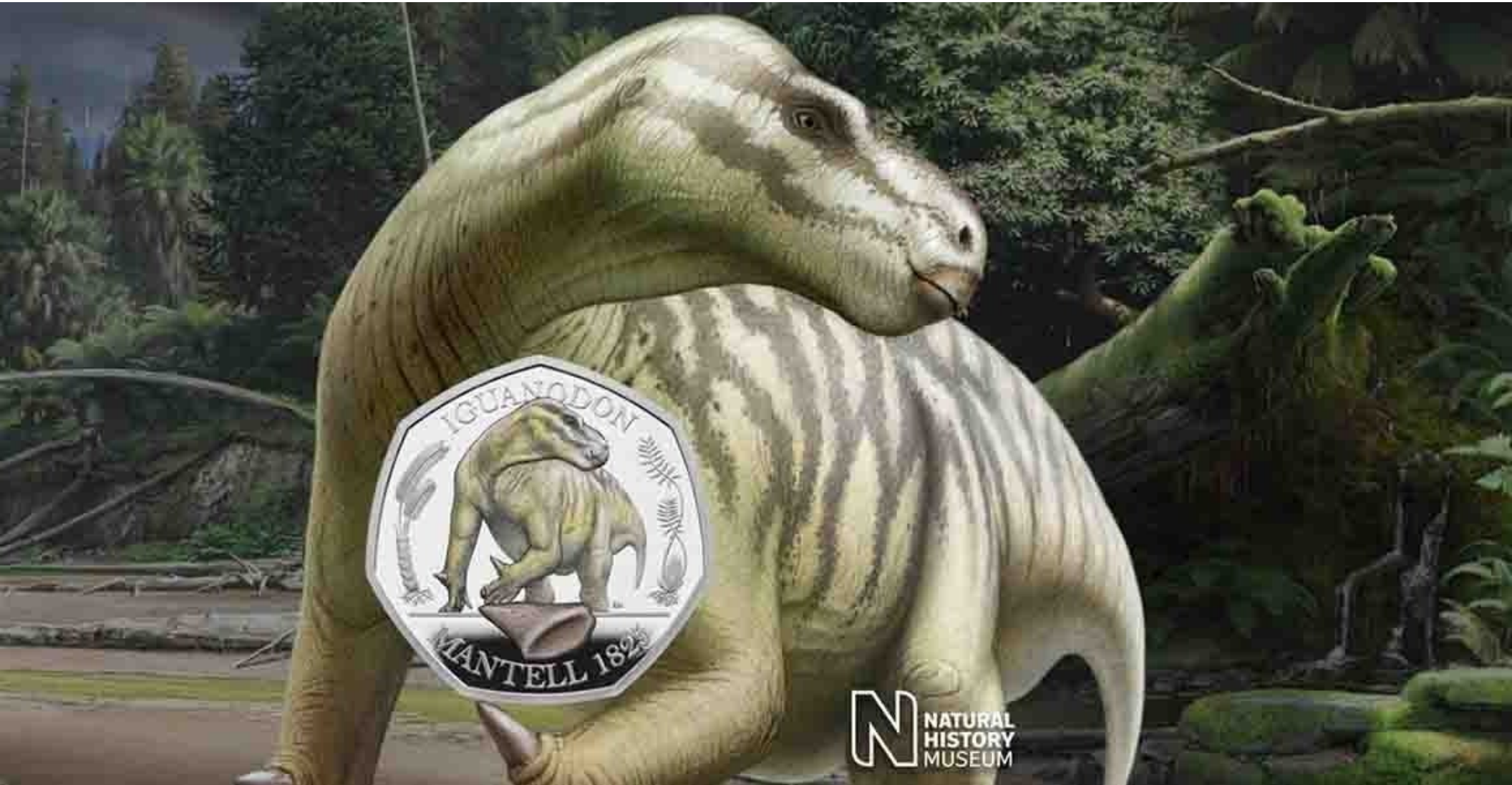


OSFS Statement

July 2020, Issue 496, Vol 45, Number 7



Iguanodon by palaeoartist Robert Nicholls

Event Coordinator – Hopefully there will be an OSFS dinner later in 2020. We have a monthly OSFS newsletter called The Statement. If you would like to be on the e-mail list contact the editor@ottawasfs.ca

Editor's Blather: It is becoming accepted that the dinosaurs disappeared with a bang -- wiped out by a great meteorite impact on the Earth and/or a coincident massive volcanic eruption 66 million years ago. (That the one may have triggered the other is still being debated.) But their origins have been less understood. In a new study, scientists show that the key expansion of dinosaurs was also triggered by a crisis -- a very similar impact/eruption triggered mass extinction that happened 232 million years ago which decimated 76 percent of marine and terrestrial species, marking the end of the Triassic period and the onset of the Jurassic. This devastating event cleared the way for dinosaurs to dominate Earth for the next 135 million years, taking over ecological niches formerly occupied by other marine and terrestrial species.

Just to frost the cake NASA researchers have said that volcanic activities on Mars ceased about 50 million years ago, around the time when large numbers of species including dinosaurs went extinct on Earth.

Mars Volcano, Earth's Dinosaurs Went Extinct About the Same Time

Tharsis Mons, the largest known volcanic structure, is thought to be several hundred million years in the making. Arsia Mons, the last active volcano of the Tharsis Mons group ceased about 50 million ago.

Coincidence?

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British dinosaurs to feature on UK money



The Royal Mint is releasing three new dinosaur-themed coins - the first ever in the UK.

The series of 50p coins is a collaboration with palaeoartist Bob Nicholls and experts at the Museum.

There will be five different sets of coins available: gold, silver, base metal, and then two coloured versions made from silver and base metal.

The coins will honour the first three dinosaurs found in modern-day Britain, and the first ever named - Megalosaurus, Iguanodon and Hylaeosaurus. Although at the time they were named, 'dinosaurs' as a group didn't exist. In fact, it was these three animals that made Sir Richard Owen realise that there was something different enough about them that they warranted being placed in a new group, which he named Dinosauria.

The three species will be featured on five series of collectors' coins. Although they will be legal tender, they won't go into circulation. Instead members of the public will be able to buy the coins, either individually or in sets.

These collectors' coins range in price from £10 to £945.

Prof Paul Barret is a dinosaur researcher at the Museum who has been advising on the designs' scientific accuracy.

He says, 'It is exciting to do a project like this. Helping to approve the designs, look at the overall aesthetic and witnessing the production process, from the original thoughts about what might be included to seeing the finished coins, has been very satisfying.'

Designed by palaeoartist Robert Nicholls, the Dinosauria collection features Megalosaurus, Iguanodon and Hylaeosaurus



Megalosaurus by palaeoartist Robert Nicholls

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Coming Events by Scott Snowden : CBS did confirm the 13-episode 'Star Trek: Discovery' Season 3 premiere date, which will be Oct. 15, on CBS All Access.

And, sci-fi fans, from October onwards, we can expect a lot of quality TV, as the second season of "The Mandalorian" also airs in October and while the exact date hasn't been confirmed by Disney Plus, one rumor suggests that it might be as soon as Oct. 7. It's not yet known how many episodes will be in Season 2.

Obituary Actor Chadwick Boseman, who played Black icons Jackie Robinson and James Brown before finding fame as the regal Black Panther in the Marvel cinematic universe, died Friday of cancer, his representative said. He was 43.

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COMING EVENTS by Lloyd Penney

CAUTION may be more cancellations or new dates - check first

September 11-13, 2020 - Ottawa Comiccon, EY Centre, Ottawa. www.ottawacomicon.com.

~~September 12, 2020 - Lindsay Comicon, Lindsay Square Mall, Lindsay. www.popculturecanada.com.~~

September 13, 2020 - Barrie Comicon, East Bayfield Community Centre, Barrie. Admission: \$5.

www.popculturecanada.ca.

~~September 19, 2020 - POSTPONED TO 2021 Royal Medieval Faire, Waterloo Park West, Waterloo.~~

~~www.royalmedievalfaire.org.~~

September 25-27, 2020 - Oxford Renaissance Festival, Dorchester Fairgrounds, Dorchester. www.renfest.ca.

September 26, 2020 - Brockville Comicon, Brockville Memorial Civic Centre, Brockville. Admission: \$5.

www.popculturecanada.com.

September 27, 2020 - Kingston Comicon, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #560, Kingston. Admission: \$5.

www.popculturecanada.com.

October 24-25, 2020 - Frightmare in the Falls, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON. **May or may not**

www.frightmareinthefalls.com.

November 1, 2020 - Napanee Comicon, Strathcona Paper Centre, Napanee. Admission: \$2. www.popculturecanada.ca.

Next Year

July 17, 2021 - Elmvale Sci-Fi Fantasy Street Party 201945, Springwater Library, Elmvale Branch and Elmvale Community Hall. www.scififestival.ca, or page on Facebook.

July 24-25, 2021 - Niagara Wizarding Festival, Lakeside Park, St. Catharines. www.niagarawizardingfestival.com.

September 10-12, 2021 - Comiccon, EY Centre, Ottawa. www.ottawacomicon.com.

October 30-31, 2021 - Frightmare in the Falls, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON.

www.frightmareinthefalls.com. October 29-31, 2021 - Astronomicon 13, RIT Inn & Conference Center, Rochester, NY.

Guest: David Brin, Chris Barkley, Wendy and Richard Pini, Sara Felix, Tom Smith, more. www.astronomicon.info, or see Facebook page.

November 4-7, 2021 - World Fantasy Convention 2021, Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal. www.worldfantasy.org.