

currently in a museum in Berlin, are forgeries. They play down, for example, the significance of the latest experiments that the museum claims are conclusive.

"We have looked into the whole question of the behavior of material under ultraviolet light and have found that although most organic substances do indeed glow under such light, not all of them do," says Wickramasinghe. "We therefore feel that it could have been possible to devise organic glues that do not fluoresce, so the weakness of the fluorescence effect does not prove very much, and the new evidence is therefore not as decisive as the museum is claiming."

Wickramasinghe rejects the claim that he and Hoyle are keen to show that the *Archaeopteryx* is a fake partly because it would provide support for their own broader—and equally controversial—ideas that life originated in space and subsequently arrived on the earth in a meteorite shower about 65 million years ago. "We have absolutely no vested interest in showing the fossil to be a forgery, since our own theory of life from space would not fall if the fossil was shown to be genuine," he says.

He is also strongly critical of the museum's refusal to provide its critics with a small sample for analysis of the limestone from immediately beneath the fossil (an earlier sample, whose analysis has recently been completed by Spetner in Israel, came from a different part of the rock slab in which the fossil was found). "The whole authenticity issue could be resolved with a mere pinhead of the material," Wickramasinghe says.

Cocks at the Natural History Museum maintains that the astronomers have yet to produce sufficient "proof" of their hypothesis that would justify providing them with the new sample they are now requesting. "If you were in charge of the crown jewels, would you start prizing out emeralds and handing them to anyone who claimed that they were fake?" he says.

Feelings among the museum's scientific staff continue to run high about the charges that have been made because of both their nature and the time spent trying to refute them. Many are also upset about the personal language in which what they describe as the "outrageous allegations" have been expressed.

"We feel a little sad that two scientists as eminent as Fred Hoyle and Wickramasinghe have to back up their arguments by accusing other scientists of being dishonest," says Angela Milner, curator of fossil birds.

Indeed, some members of the scientific staff are uneasy about the evenhandedness of the public exhibition, where the evidence for and against the physicists' charges is given equal space, leaving the conclusion open for

visitors to decide. "If we had been doing the exhibition, it would have been more open and shut," says Cocks.

But the museum authorities have been able to have the last word. The exhibition organizers had produced for sale two sets of buttons, one declaring "*Archaeopteryx* is a fake" and the other that "*Archaeopteryx* is genuine." In the end, however, only one of

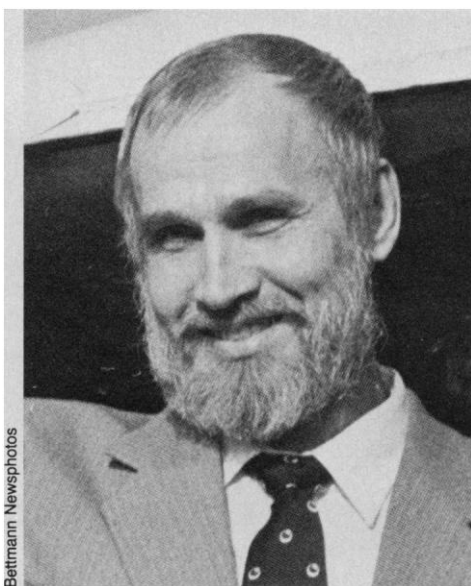
the buttons, however, is available at the museum shop; the prospect of thousands of school children circulating London with official-looking badges declaring one of the museum's prize possessions to be a forgery seems to have been something that even the most open-minded of museum administrators found difficult to accept. ■

DAVID DICKSON

Koryagin Skeptical on *Glasnost*

Like other Soviet dissidents now living in the West, psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin, speaking recently at the AAAS, warned Americans not to be taken in by the promises of *glasnost* unless Soviet leadership makes a lot more changes than have so far occurred.

Koryagin, who is now living in Zurich, was released after 6 years in prison and allowed to emigrate early this year. He said that although more than 100 political prisoners have been released from psychiatric hospitals and camps, more than 100 remain in the hospitals and far more in prison camps. Speaking through an interpreter, Koryagin said that if the government were serious, those remaining would be released immediately and would be "rehabilitated" as happened under Khrushchev after Stalin's death. As things now stand, he said, people released from hospitals and camps still suffer from radical diminishment of their human rights because they have not been publicly exonerated. "The government continues to look on us as particularly pernicious criminals," he said.



Anatoly Koryagin. Psychiatrist imprisoned 6 years for protesting abuses.

Asked what determines whether a person is sent to a mental hospital or a camp, Koryagin said that depends on a variety of factors, including an individual's prior psychiatric history and the degree to which he is well known. He said that doctors may try to aggravate existing symptoms for the purpose of making a diagnosis. Also, there is a special Soviet classification of schizophrenia that will fit just about anyone.

Koryagin said there is no group of psychiatrists in the Soviet Union to protect the ethical practice of psychiatry. He said the KGB knows how to select those who will play along with their aims, and it will avoid assigning the "good" ones. Those who protest the misuse of psychiatry, like himself, get "repressed."

He said Soviet treatment of political prisoners compares unfavorably with South Africa, noting that when Nelson Mandela was sick in prison his wife was allowed to visit him. He said that, although families have visitation rights by law in the Soviet Union, this is never allowed. "Only the U.S.S.R. is capable of such a thing." He said international organizations concerned about Soviet abuse of psychiatry should make a priority of demanding permission to visit those in mental hospitals.

Koryagin takes a dim view of efforts by private American groups to establish ties with Soviet organizations, since the latter are always government-sponsored. He was particularly contemptuous of the American Bar Association's efforts to link up with Soviet lawyers, since the latter are "criminals."

Like other dissidents, Koryagin stressed that persistent, unrelenting badgering by foreigners is the only way to get the Soviets to change their ways. He said that little is gained by trying to pursue human rights concerns in the context of formal exchanges because they will be ignored. The best tactic for scientists, he said, is to develop networks of contacts through relationships with individual Soviet scientists. ■

CONSTANCE HOLDEN