

Mid-conference Field trips: Field Trip 5



Field Trip 5

(Sept. 9, 2010)

The famous Eocene Messel Quarry, A UNESCO World Heritage Site Field Trip Leader: NN

Messel has been the source for a number of spectacularly preserved vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. Literally tens of thousands of specimens have been found there during its history, including fish, insects, plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The deposit has been dated at approximately 47 million years, placing it in the middle of the Eocene epoch. The Messel Quarry is located approximately 30 km from Frankfurt, Germany. It was originally worked for coal, iron ore, and extracts from the oil shales. Fossils were found during these excavations, with many of them going to regional museums. After mining operations ceased in the late 1960's and early 1970's, plans were made to turn the pit into a large landfill. The spectacular fossils dropped due to political and scientific pressure and the high costs involved. In 1995, the Messel Pit was made an UNESCO World Heritage site. This designation recognizes Messel as a unique and important site of high value, and provides for its protection and preservation. Under the UNESCO auspices, scientific excavations are still going on at the site and important specimens continue to be recovered.

Costs:

30 Euros

Programme: Travel to Messel from Bonn by bus (the bus will leave Bonn at 7:30am and will return to Bonn by 15:30).

