

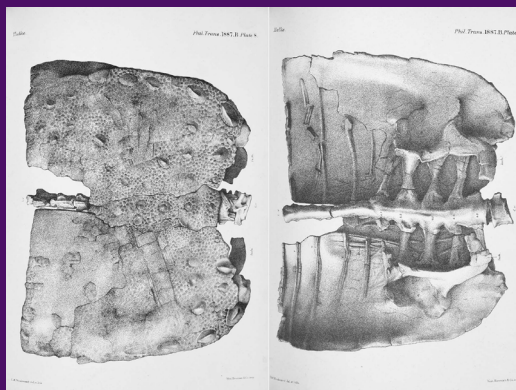
AN OVERLOOKED CONTRIBUTOR TO PALAEONTOLOGY – THE ANONYMOUS RICHARD HALL AND HIS WORK ON AN ARMoured DINOSAUR AND A GIANT SEA DRAGON

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Richard Hall worked at the BM(NH) as an Assistant Mason in 1885 and became a Mason (e.g. fossil preparator) from 1889. A fleeting reference to his work in a descriptive publication of 1887, some correspondence and photographs about the excavation and recovery of an ichthyosaur in 1889 and a single Geological Department staff photograph from 1900 are all that is known about his contributions. He worked for several years reconstructing the dermal shield of the armoured dinosaur *Polacanthus foxii* and recovered, prepared and mounted a large specimen of *Temnodontosaurus platyodon* – known as ‘The Stockton Ichthyosaur’. He has remained anonymous and his work largely unattributed until now.



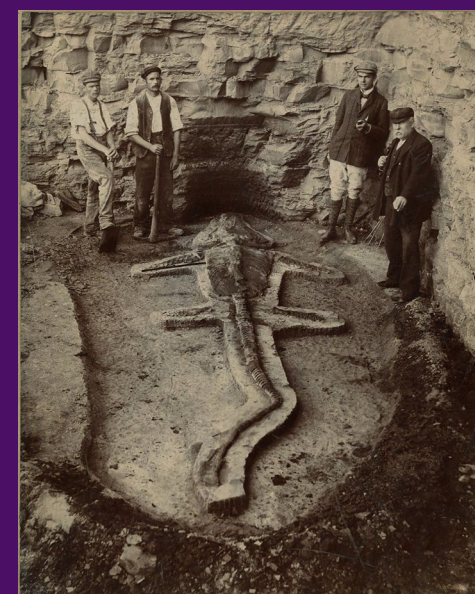
Richard Hall and colleagues photographed in 1900



The reconstruction of *Polacanthus foxii* took 7 years to complete 1881-1887



The ‘Stockton Ichthyosaur’ was found in 1898



Hall (right) leading the excavation and recovery



NHUK PV OR2918 (top)



Stockton road signage features an image based upon a different specimen - NHUK PV OR2013, *Ichthyosaurus somersetensis*