greater part was sold by auction in 1828, on the 14th of July and the twenty-four following days, when the College was a purchaser to the amount of £800. A few specimens were also bought at a subsequent sale of the remaining portion of the collection in 1830. Most of the collections of the Royal College of Surgeons were destroyed during the Second World War. Subsequently, the remaining natural history material was donated to the British Museum (Natural History) (entry no. 6738, for 17th October 1946, in the palaeontology accessions list) but there is no mention of mammoth remains.

8. The problem of a meaningful type specimen for *Elephas primigenius* has remained unresolved until now but it is necessary that the species be typified clearly. During the past few decades scientists have many times attempted to clarify the species' intraspecific variation; these attempts have been made more difficult, however, as *E. primigenius* and its nominal subspecies have never been unambiguously defined. We propose to designate as the neotype the adult male skeleton discovered in 1948 in permafrost on the Taimir Peninsula, northern Siberia (Garutt, 1966, 1989). The specimen is exhibited in the museum of the Zoological Institute of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in Leningrad (cat. no. ZIN N 2710). The skeleton was found with remains of soft tissues, skin and hair in deposits of the second terrace above the flood plain of the Mamontovaya River, a tributary of the Shrenk in the basin of the Nizhnyaya Taimira River (Popov, 1950, 1959). Radiocarbon dating of the soft tissues (sample T-297) gave ages of 12 000 (Vinogradov, 1954) and 11 450 ± 250 yr BP (Heintz & Garutt, 1965, p. 76). The Taimir specimen, which is in an excellent state of preservation and is exceptionally well preserved, lacking only a few caudal vertebrae and third phalanges, has been described by Garutt & Dubinin (1951), Garutt (1954, 1964, 1965, 1972 and 1981), Dubrovo (1982), and Baigusheva & Garutt (1987). The last molars are in mid-wear and the tusks are well developed. Remains of plants from the same layers as the skeleton have been studied by Tikhomirov (1950, 1959), Zaklinskaya (1959) and Zhubz (1959). A description of the recovery of the specimen and a plate showing the mounted skeleton in the Zoological Institute in Leningrad are included in Augusta & Burian (1963, pp. 24–26, 34).

9. Both the stratigraphic position and the absolute age show that the Taimir mammoth existed towards the very end of the Late Pleistocene, during the last part of the Sartanian glaciation. The skeleton is of the late, advanced form of *M. primigenius* which inhabited Eurasia from the Last Interglacial to the end of the Last Cold Stage. This form is that which occurs most commonly as fossil material and is therefore considered by most specialists as the typical one (Garutt, 1964, and others).

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

   (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Mammuthus* Brookes, 1828, and to designate *Elephas primigenius* Blumenbach, 1799 as the type species;

   (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Mammuthus* Brookes, 1828 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above *Elephas primigenius* Blumenbach, 1799;

   (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *primigenius* Blumenbach, 1799, as published in the binomen *Elephas primigenius* (specific name of the type species of *Mammuthus* Brookes, 1828), and as defined by the neotype designated in para. 8 above.
nominate subgenus, Bott (1970) recognised 17 species of the species, he actually did not have access to it. The solution proposed by Tiirkay & Naiyanetr, called Potamiscus rangoonensis (Rathbun, 1904) as well as a genus Ranguna, which by chosen type species. Additional confusion might also arise as there will then be a species changed, it might lead to unnecessary confusion, especially if future studies show that characterise the genus (presence of a dorsal fold on the terminal segment of the male pointed out (Ng, 1985, 1987, 1988) that the character used by Bott (1966, 1970) to declared that he had examined, measured and figured the lectotype of the species, he actually did not have access to it. The solution proposed by Tiirkay & Naiyanetr, Larnaudia Bott, 1966
Burnett, G. T. 1830. Illustrations of the Quadrupeda, or Quadrupeds, being the arrangement of the true four-footed beasts indicated in outline. Quarterly Journal of Science, Literature and Arts, 1829 (2, October–December): 336–353.
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