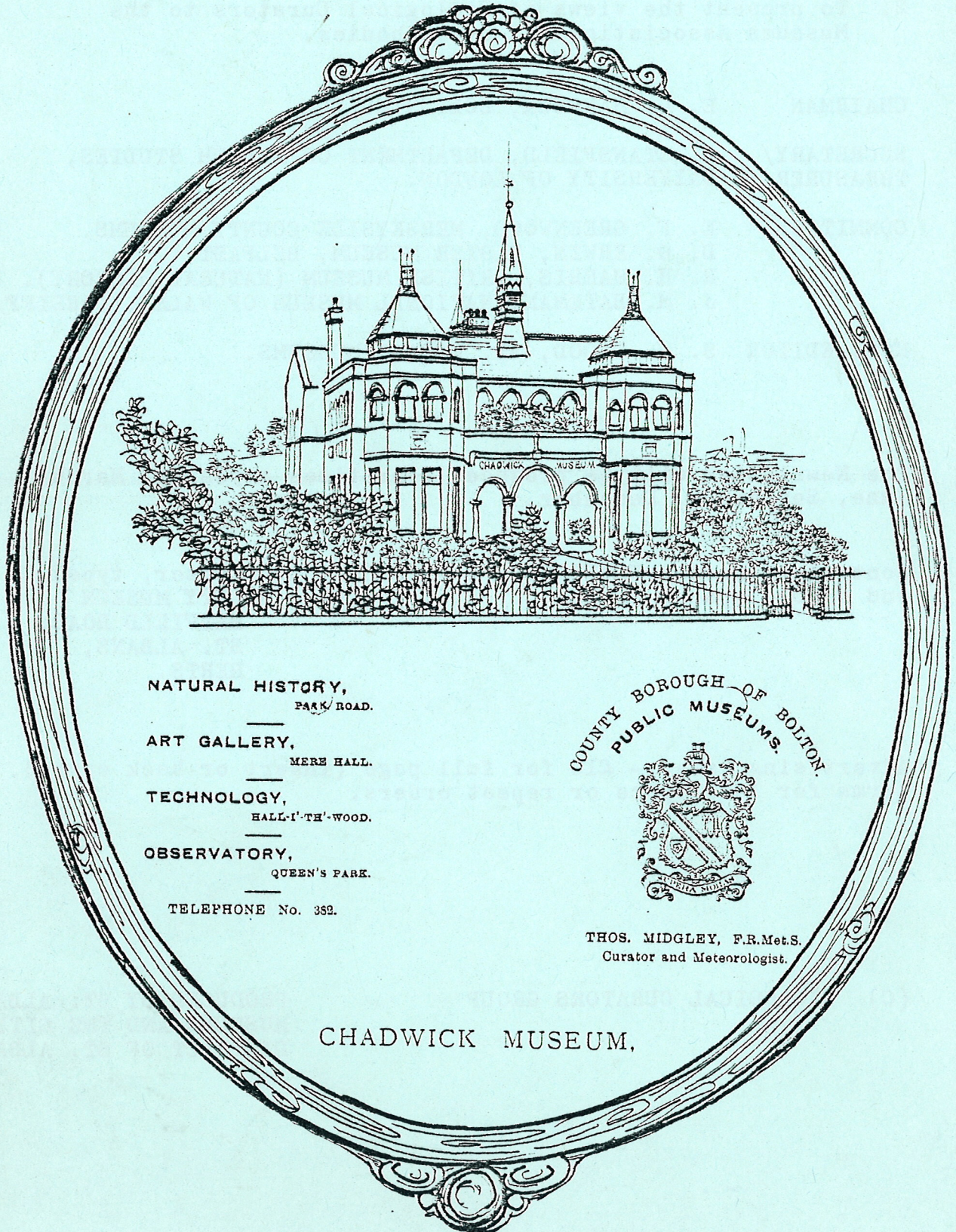


Duplicate

# Biological Curators Group

Newsletter  
Number 3  
June 1976



NATURAL HISTORY,  
PARK ROAD.

ART GALLERY,  
MERE HALL.

TECHNOLOGY,  
HALL-I'-TH'-WOOD.

OBSERVATORY,  
QUEEN'S PARK.

TELEPHONE No. 352.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOLTON  
PUBLIC MUSEUMS.



THOS. MIDGLEY, F.R.Met.S.  
Curator and Meteorologist.

CHADWICK MUSEUM.



BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

THE GROUP HAS THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To facilitate the exchange of information between individuals concerned with collections of specimens and records, their conservation and interpretation.
2. To present the views of Biological Curators to the Museums Association and other bodies.

CHAIRMAN E. G. HANCOCK, BOLTON MUSEUM.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

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J. M. BATEMAN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, CARDIFF.

HON. EDITOR S. W. FLOOD, ST. ALBANS MUSEUMS.

The Newsletter will be produced four times a year in March, June, September, December.

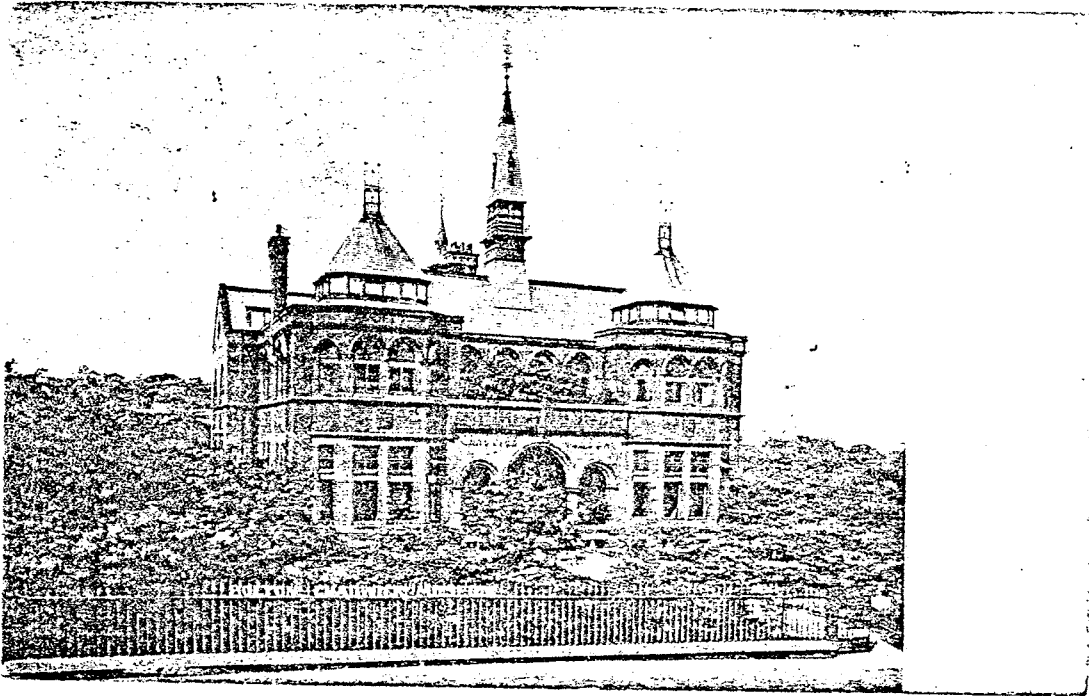
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(C) BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

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MUSEUMS AND THE CITY AND  
DISTRICT OF ST. ALBANS.





First Chadwick Museum in Bolton (card postmarked 1903).

BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 4 JUNE 1976

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A LIST OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF NOTE IN BOLTON MUSEUM

E. G. HANCOCK  
BOLTON MUSEUM

The first public museum in Bolton, (Greater Bolton, Bolton-le-Moors) Lancashire was fairly late, being opened to visitors in 1884. It was atypical of local authority museums in that no Literary and Philosophical Society collections preceded it, but typical in that it was originally founded as a natural history museum. It rapidly branched out, fortunately, realising that relics of the early history of cotton spinning were even then disappearing fast. Called the Chadwick Museum, after its philanthropic benefactor, who left a sum of money to be used for a museum building to be constructed, it had a curator from the start. The collections which had accumulated in the Library since 1852 were handed over, including two of some natural history importance. Dawes' fossils and Carpenter's shells, but the main fillip at this time to the development of the reference collections were the entire contents of the Castleton Museum, Derbyshire, negotiated by its curator, Rooke Pennington, who retired to Bolton. Pleistocene fossil vertebrates formed the bulk of this and it was not until the early 1900's that the curator of Bolton decided to build up more natural history reference material.

The private collections of Philip Brookes Mason of Burton-on-Trent acquired between 1904-1911 formed the basis of this intention. Mason is well known as a private collector of the 1850-1900 period. His various obituaries and biographical references all pay tribute to his private museum which was built as an extension to his house. He employed a curator, John Sang, an illustrator of insects to manage the material. When he died, his widow held on to the collection for a long time, trying to obtain the highest possible prices. Some parts of the collection were picked over by the British Museum (Natural History) and the birds, macrolepidoptera, molluscs and library were auctioned. Bolton obtained a small number of fossils, the complete herbarium and the majority of the insect collections.

By the 1920's, the reference collections were virtually complete as they are found today, except for the bird and mammal skins. These were built up by the staff themselves, mainly post World War II. Hazelwood, the post-war curator, was responsible for initiating this development and this work has continued under the auspices of Eric Gorton from 1950 to the present day. These collections now number 500 mammal skins and over 8,000 bird skins. Although some small collections of skins have been purchased or donated, this number requires skins to have been made up at an average rate of one per working day over the last 26 years. It relies on contacts sending material from all over the British Isles which gives coverage nationwide.

Immediately after the war, the museum was moved in its entirety to new premises built around the Town Hall to form a Civic Centre. The magnificent building in Queen's Park was demolished in the 1950's.

Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any, gives acquisition period).
Protozoa	Models	P. B. Mason	Made by Chaffer of Manchester (1908).
Crustacea	14 drawers and microscope slides	P. B. Mason	Includes more rare material, many specimens from J. Sinel of Jersey (1908).
Polyzoa	c. 600 sheets	P. B. Mason	Mounted herbarium style (1907). Lived in Heaton, Bolton. Author of British Zoophytes, Reeve & Co., London 1885. (1894 and 1898).
	c. 100 glass topped boxes	A. S. Pennington	
Other marine groups			Poor.
Mollusca	80 drawers	J. W. Baldwin	Lived in Bromley Cross, Bolton. Includes the types of the varieties he described. It is a good general collection, a fair portion of local material (1912).
Mollusca	358 items	Carl Bulow	Bought at auction, Stevens Sale Rooms, 27th February, 1931.
Mollusca	799 specimens from Mazatlan, N. America	Philip Pearsall Carpenter	The history of this collection is quite interesting. The original collection was made by a Belgian, Frederick Reigen, between 1848-50. They were shipped to England (Liverpool) and eventually P. P. Carpenter bought the whole lot (c. 9,000 spms.). He presented the majority of them to the B.M. (N.H.), and then produced the 'Catalogue of the Collection of Mazatlan Shells' London 1857, which was printed in Warrington, his home town. Warrington Museum obtained the non-molluscan residue and some duplicates and this collection is another duplicate series. It is highly likely that many of them will prove to be type material as over 222 new 'species' were described by Carpenter (c. 1860).

Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any, gives acquisition period).
Mollusca	2 lots	Rev. C. Cradshaw	Purchased from Stevens Sale, 11th March 1919 of the genera Mitra and Cypraea.
Mollusca	several lots	Robert F. Damon	Purchased Helicidae and Clausiliidae from one of this dealer's sales (?1910).
Mollusca	?	Colonel Gordon	'A fine collection of rare Mollusca' states the accession book. Presented by a relative in 1888.
Mollusca	50 species	Grindrod, W.W.	North American freshwater bivalves.
Mollusca	?	J. Frederick Neck	Foreign Mollusca, purchased Stevens Sale (1910). Nothing is known of the above 3 collectors.
Mollusca	100 spms	J. F. Ogle-Skan	British material purchased from his executors. He was a well-known northern conchologist (1975).
Mollusca	c.160 drawers	John Ray Hardy (1884-1921)	This is the largest collection of molluscs forming the basis of the referential series. The collection includes material from Lewis J. Shackelford, R. Standen, J.W. Jackson, C.F. Adams, etc. Worldwide in coverage, and a lot without data. Contains type material (1922).
Insecta Minor Orders		See Beaumont Diptera	
Hemiptera	1600 spms	W.C. Chancy	Purchased from the dealer A. Ford, of various addresses from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (1904).
Hemiptera	648 spms	Rev. T.A. Marshall	British Homoptera (via Mason 1911).

Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any, gives acquisition period).
Hemiptera	4 boxes	C. H. Schill	From Didsbury in Manchester, this small collection is only part of his material. Manchester Museum have large collections of Coleoptera of his. Purchased at Stevens Sale, 15 May 1909.
Hemiptera	24 drawer cabinet	John Scott	A complete collection of all British Hemiptera although the B.M.(N.H.) picked out some of the types. Scott was well known for his work in Hemiptera in conjunction with J. W. Douglas (via Mason 1911).
Hemiptera	281 micro-scope slides	Francis Walker	This is the infamous Walker in taxonomic terms. This collection includes 17 species of his which now count as paralectotype material with some paratypes. The nomenclature has been clarified since Doncaster, 1961 (via Mason, 1911).
Minor Orders (various)	Several thousand	Benjamin Cooke	A Lancashire entomologist who lived in Southport for a long time. A very active collector although poor in the use of data labels. His brother, Nicholas Cooke, had a well known collection of Lepidoptera, which was destroyed during 2nd World War, at Liverpool Museum.
Coleoptera	484 spms	Dr. Richard Brauer	Collection of <i>exotica Rhynchophora</i> (Weevils) purchased 1905. Brauer was reported living at Knutsford, Cheshire.
Coleoptera	5,753 spms	A. Ford	British Coleoptera, purchased 1897. These do not now appear to exist.





Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any, gives acquisition period).
Hymenoptera	20 drawer cabinet	John Gray	<p>species being represented by types needs to be investigated. We would naturally welcome enquiries concerning it, and also any biographical or other information on the collectors named above, many of whom remain as nonentities at the present time. The Mason Collection has been quite misrepresented in the past, on one occasion going under Matthew's name, according to old correspondence files.</p> <p>Already mentioned under Coleoptera. Incorporated with this material are the following two names.</p>
Hymenoptera	?	Dr. Hamlyn-Harris	<p>Principally european hymenoptera from Tubingen, Blankenberg, Germany although some from Britain (e.g. Hunstanton, Norfolk) (1903).</p>
Hymenoptera	?	Dr. Otto Schmeiderknechte	<p>Same european localities as Hamlyn-Harris. Mainly Ichneumonidae.</p>
Hymenoptera	45 drawer cabinet. 30 Store boxes.	P. B. Mason	<p>Incorporated material from the following well-known collectors -</p>
			<p>Edward Saunders Dr. Capron Rev. F. D. Morice Francis Walker P. Cameron Frederick Smith</p>

Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any gives acquisition period).
Lepidoptera	15 drawers	? J. W. Douglas	This collection needs researching by a specialist. Smith's are mainly in the Tenthredinidae. We know that Mason bought a 12 drawer cabinet of Smith's in 1879 but not sure whether all are incorporated here. It was supposed to contain the types of his various publications. Similarly with a collection of Chalcids of Francis Walker.
Lepidoptera	7,500	A. Ford	Mason had a collection of microlepidoptera containing Douglas' types. Not sure whether the collection without data we obtained from Mason is the same.
Lepidoptera	1,200 spms	George E. Hyde	Purchased from this dealer 1894. Reputed to be Ford's own personal collection.
Diptera	Six store boxes	F. C. Adams	Macrolepidoptera. A representative selection to form a basic series. Mainly from South Yorkshire, Doncaster area. (1936).
Diptera	25 drawers	Alfred Beaumont	New Forest Diptera purchased Stevens Sale, 1919.
Diptera	3,500 spms Mainly British some Dutch	E. Brunetti	2,000 Diptera and 100 Orthoptera and Neuroptera. Bought at Stevens Sale, 1906. Includes several rare species. Worked near York but retired to Essex where the bulk of the collection was made. Brunetti is most known for his entomological work in India. This collection was obtained from a 'man who joined up for the 1st World War and could not store them, but obtained them from Brunetti, who was living abroad at the time' according to the dealer Janson from whom they were purchased (1919).



Phylum or Order	Content	Name of Collector or Source of Material	Comments (date in brackets, if any, gives acquisition period).
Diptera	Several thousand	B. Cooke	As referred to in minor orders and Coleoptera (via Mason 1909).
Diptera	Several hundred	A. L. Montandon	Mainly from Hungary and Roumania. The B.M. (N.H.) have Hemiptera of his.
Diptera	138 spms	G. G. Verrall	Obtained via Mason. Verrall was a famous entomologist. Several of the specimens of his Tipulidae appear to be syntypes.
Vertebrates			
Aves	Mounted		The bird gallery is the work of Birmingham taxidermist, W. Bettridge.
Aves	8,000 skins	A. Hazelwood and E. Gorton	British Collection. Very comprehensive and used for several articles on subspecific variation by Hazelwood and Gorton, Bannerman, etc., (1950 - present day).
Aves	Eggs c.4,000 clutches	F. W. Peaples F. Murton J. P. Thomason	Incorporated into a single series. Also about 400 nests from Peaples. All Lancashire collectors, but eggs palaeoarchticholarctic in distribution.
Mammalia	c500 skins	Hazelwood & Gorton	British reference series.
	Skeletal material is poor.		

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(edited by P. B. Mason) Corylophidae and Sphaeridae. Janson, London. 220pp. 9 plates.
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Full references to all aspects of the collectors, collections and specimens would be too unwieldy. It is intended to publish full accounts of the collections group by group. The Collection of Walker's Aphids, for example, has been prepared for publication already.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH LICHENS

DR. D. L. HAWKSWORTH  
COMMONWEALTH MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

(A preliminary Bibliography of British Lichens has been produced by the Commonwealth Mycological Institute. The following extracts trace the history of the project and give some idea of the style of entries.)

AIM

The aim is to provide a comprehensive bibliography of titles including references to British lichens (excluding Ireland) and to provide an index to these on a vice-county basis.

Books, articles in journals, higher-degree theses and manuscripts are all treated as 'titles' for the purpose of this work.

No adequate compilation of the literature on British lichens existed yet such a work is essential in the production of detailed regional surveys and in considering the past and present distribution of species. At a time when changes in the distribution and frequency of species are receiving considerable attention, particularly with respect to changes brought about as a result of the activities of man, the need for an authoritative list of works which should be consulted in order to provide the historical background information is clear.

HISTORY

Work on this project was initiated in about 1968 by Drs D. L. Hawksworth and M.R.D. Seaward. In view of the scope of the work full-time assistance was required to cover the large numbers of books and journals needing examination and to check the bibliographical citations of references quoted in the lichenological literature. Through a contract from the Nature Conservancy Council, Mr D. G. Reid was appointed as a Research Assistant to help in this project. At the start of Mr Reid's work, on 1 December 1975, only some 1,000 titles had been checked in the original and indexed by vice-county. That 2,347 are listed here testifies to the enormous amount of careful work he carried out between that date and 31 March 1976. In addition to these titles included here, approximately 80 other items are omitted as their citations require verification. Without Mr Reid's invaluable assistance this project would not have reached the present stage for very many years.

The data distributed in this document is termed 'preliminary' because this has been compiled now primarily for circulation to interested persons with a view to them drawing to the compiler's attention any omissions and errors. This document does, however, have a further role as an interim bibliography for those currently engaged in research on distribution patterns and regional surveys.

In the Preliminary Bibliography



It is planned to prepare a more definitive version of this bibliography for publication as a book in 1977. In addition to bibliographic information, this book will also include an historical account of the development of lichenology in the British Isles and notes on the locations of pertinent herbarium material.

It is intended that the book will be as comprehensive as possible up to the end of 1975 but will include such titles as become available during 1976.

Users are respectfully requested to inform Dr. D. L. Hawksworth (Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey TW9 3AF) of any omissions and errors by the end of September 1976. Earlier replies and comments would, however, be very much appreciated. The main gaps are probably in the area of manuscripts preserved in museums and locally published general eighteenth and nineteenth century 'histories' (those in the Natural History Museum, London, and the British Library Reading Room, Bloomsbury, have, however, been examined).

Ireland was not considered in this project because of the existence of Dr M. E. Michell's 'A Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets and Articles relating to Irish Lichenology, 1727-1970' (Galway, 1971, privately printed; remaining stock with the Richmond Publishing Company Limited, Orchard Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4PD; price £2.50).

A limited number of copies of the preliminary Bibliography, by Hawksworth, Reid and Seaward, are available for circulation. Enquiries, please, to Dr. Hawksworth.

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SHORT NOTES

A Taxonomy Course by the Open University

Following recent investigations by the Natural Sciences Board of Studies of the Museums Association of possible ways in which Open University courses might be harnessed to the needs of Diploma students, an idea was advanced for seeking help from the University in establishing a course on Biological Taxonomy.

Some members of the Board of Studies explored the availability of any courses dealing with Taxonomy, since it has long been apparent that this is an area of training now almost totally excluded from the first degree courses of biological faculties in British Universities. At postgraduate level there is only one course providing taxonomic training and this is at the University of Reading and is heavily weighted on the botanical side.

Anxiety concerning this lack of training for an area of science, which is still an essential component in research, has been expressed in an enquiry to museums from the Advisory Board of the Natural Environmental Research Council. The Museums Association and some individual museums, sent reports to the Board.

Meanwhile, it is hoped to discuss with the Open University the principle of their developing such a course. To meet the Open University's requirement of justifying a course in terms of numbers of students opting to incorporate it in their studies, it will be suggested that the same course might be used not only at undergraduate level, but also as a post-experience refresher or training course for staff in museums and universities, where taxonomic studies are being taken.

J. A. Bateman  
National Museum of Wales.

Techniques - The following note has been received from Reg Harris concerning the stockists of 'Dowicil' mentioned on page 5 of his article in Newsletter 2:

I have contacted the Dow Chemical Company and they tell me of a recent move by Greef to a new address as follows -

K & K Greef Chemical Group Limited,  
Suffolk House, George Street, Croydon.

Another point is that 'Seraquin' may be re-produced in the 8-hydroxy quinoline sulphate base if the firm can be sure that the possible corrosion problems can be overcome by suitable buffering. All this is simple and represents the usual changes made in the production of new reagents and I can help if anyone has any snags or points to iron out.

Reg Harris  
British Museum (Natural  
History).

FAUNAL REMAINS PROJECT

The Faunal Remains Project consists of two archaeozoologists; Jennie Coy (Research Fellow) and Niall Griffith (Junior Research Fellow). The project is financed by the Department of the Environment and is based at the Department of Archaeology in the University of Southampton. We started work here in January 1975 and collections and facilities are now housed opposite the University Bookshop at 63 University Road.

The aim is to study archaeological animal remains - mostly bones - from D.o.E.-aided excavations in Wessex. We are working with Jennifer Bourdillon who is studying the bones from Saxon Southampton (Hamwih) at the Southampton Archaeological Research Committee; and advising Gina Adams and Pauline Sheppard who are working on animal bones for the Winchester Research Unit (in addition studying all the Winchester Bird bones). We have also started work on a number of smaller sites (all M3 rescue material, Iron Age material from Barksbury, Owslesbury, Andover; Saxon material from Ramsbury).

We think that we have sent details of our project to all museums, archaeological societies and field officers in the area but if you have not received information and feel that you should be involved, please contact us at once.

In addition to our study of bones and shells, and in order to achieve this and provide some impetus to faunal studies in Wessex, we are also:

1. Building comparative collections of modern vertebrate skeletons, (British Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Marine Fishes, Amphibians). We have now adequate facilities for preparation and shall continue with this. (We use a knackers yard for big animals as this would need a purpose-built laboratory). We are also making a collection of marine mollusc shells, initially in connection with an examination of the Saxon oysters from Southampton.
2. Gathering a comparative collection of identified archaeological material.
3. Maintaining edge-punched indices of
  - i. Methods and general archaeozoological literature.
  - ii. Archaeozoological information relevant to Wessex with copies of the most important papers to hand so that they are available for study by interested bone workers and archaeologists.
4. Building up a reference collection of 35mm transparencies of bones.

J. Coy  
Southampton  
University.

GROUP NEWS

A.G.M. - Preliminary Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C.G. will be held in BOLTON ON DECEMBER 3rd.

It has been suggested that half a day be devoted to the subject of live specimens in museums. Further information will be given in the September Newsletter, in the meantime any enquiries should be referred to Geoff Hancock at Bolton Museum.

Newsletter No. 4 - Collecting Policies

At the meeting the B.C.G. held in Cardiff there was a lively discussion in the afternoon on Collecting Policies. In view of this it has been decided to devote the September Newsletter to this subject. Contributions will be invited from the Cardiff speakers, but any other member with views to express, or any published policies, would be welcome.

To whet the appetite, the following is an extract from the Written Statement of Acquisition Policy 1975-1980 produced by Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service:

Museums Art Galleries and Record Offices have a very distinctive role in collecting, preserving researching and communicating to the general public and to students and scholars, original evidence of the environment and culture, environmental history, cultural history and artistic history.

A County Museum Service or Record Office has a special, indeed over-riding, responsibility to preserve and deploy material evidence of the history and natural history of the County, and any collecting policy must recognise this as the primary responsibility.

Local Material. Subject to nature conservation interests, including any conservation laws and by-laws, the Service will continue to collect all kinds of evidence of local geology, flora and fauna for display, study, reference and educational purposes. It is expected that the primary source of such material will be controlled and properly documented field collecting by the Museum staff and voluntary supporters (e.g. the Leicestershire Flora Committee). However, the acquisition (by purchase if necessary) of important private or historic collection of Leicestershire natural sciences material of all kinds (including records) is of equal importance.

Non-local British Material. So far as the acquisition of individual specimens or groups of specimens for reference, special display or educational purposes are concerned, the biology and earth sciences collections should be regarded as national in scope. The only major difference between the 'local' and 'British' acquisition policy will be that in general large specialised collections of particular significance to other parts of Britain will not, as a general rule, be acquired unless (a) it is clear that more appropriate local museum

services are unwilling or unable to acquire the collection (see para. 8 of the Policy on Additions to the Collections : Ethical Considerations, May 1975) and (b) the Leicestershire Service is capable of providing the accommodation, staff, facilities or supporting services that may be required for the proper preservation and deployment of the collection.

International Collections. For specific display or educational purposes a wide range of geological, botanical or zoological specimens may be acquired, although in most cases only single specimens or small groups of specimens will be acquired. Exceptions in this general policy are those fields in which the Service already serves as a regional reference centre for European or world-wide collections as follows :- birds and butterflies (European), and bryophytes, lichens and minerals (world-wide). Within the limits of the accommodation, staff and financial resources available from time to time, and of the Policy on Additions to the Collections : Ethical Considerations, May, 1975, further additions to these reference collections will be made, normally by gift, collection or exchange.

New Members to June 1976

Ms F. Le Seur	The Museum, Societe Jersiaise, Jersey
Mr J. C. Metcalf	76 Broadway Road, Leicester
Mr A. B. Ritchie	Dundee Museum
Mr D. J. Clarke	Carlisle Museum
Mr R. J. Cleevely	Department of Palaeontology, British Museum
Mr J. R. Laundon	Department of Botany, British Museum
Dr. J. G. Dony	9 Stanton Road, Luton
Ms M. J. Morgan	Dept. of Applied Zoology, University College Bangor
Ms V. Field	Newbury Museum
Mr T. A. Hose	Chester Museum
Mr C. E. Palmar	Glasgow Museum
Dr. D. L. Burkel	Glasgow Museum
Ms G. L. Jones	Glasgow Museum
Mr S. J. Trodd	Area Museums Service for S.E. England
Dr. G. Legg	Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton
Mr I. G. Robertson	Passmore Edwards Museum, London
Mr R. C. Garner	Manchester Museum
Mr S. E. Okeke	Dept. of Botany, University of Reading.

Institutional Members

Department of Natural History, Glasgow Museum;  
The Library, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa;  
Natural History Department, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.



Membership Application Form - Biological Curators Group

I hereby apply to become a member of the Biological Curators Group

Full name .....

(Dr. Mr. Mrs. Miss.)

Address (to which you want communications sent).....

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.....

Name of Institution or place of employment .....

.....

Position held .....

Professional qualifications, membership of learned societies and professional  
bodies .....

.....

Signed..... Date.....

The completed form, together with the subscription of £1 should be sent to :-  
Mr G. Stansfield, Department of Museum Studies, 152 Upper New Walk,  
Leicester LE1 7QA.