

Biological **C**urators **G**roup

Newsletter
Number 4
Sept 1976



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.

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BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 4 SEPTEMBER 1976

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Note re Article on Bolton Museum Herbarium

This article concludes the summary of the contents of the collections in the Natural History Department of Bolton Museum. The palaeontological collections have been written up and were published in the most recent issue of the Geological Curators' Group Newsletter, No. 7, September 1976. During the course of the work, a great deal of help from other museums is gratefully acknowledged, and considerable light was thrown on some of the original sources of material by the publication of Natural History Auctions, 1700-1972 by Chalmers-Hunt. The catalogue of Walker's types in the Aphid collection has been accepted for publication by the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, and it is hoped to be able to do the same for other groups which contain appreciable numbers of type specimens.

Herbarium Contents of Bolton Museum

by Mary E. Lewis

Name of Collector	Period Collection formed or Biographical dates	Subject of Collection	Geographical Region	App. number of spms	Info on Collection	Method of Acquisition	Additional Information
<u>Carrington</u> , Benjamin	b. 1827 d. 1893	Hepatics	Britain	c. 500 specimens	Bolton Museum - part of Dr. P. B. Mason collection - accession no. 30:07 (part)	Purchased with rest of Mason Colln.	A number of co-collectors the most frequent being W.H.Pearson
Rev. W. H. Coleman (<u>William Higgins</u>)	b? 1816 - d. 1863	Flowering plants esp. Rubi.	East Midlands inc. Herts.	c. 500 specimens (c. 200 <u>Rubi</u>)	acc.no. 30:07 (part)	Purch. with rest of Mason plant colln.	Wrote many books on fungi & other plants e.g. <u>Rust</u> , <u>Smut</u> , <u>Mildew & Mould</u> (An Introduction to the <u>Study of Microscopic Fungi</u> London 1865.
Dr. M.C. <u>Cooke</u> .	2nd half 19th C.	Fungi	Britain	c. 3000 spms.	acc.no. 30:07 (part)	"	
Alfred <u>Déséglise</u> .	2nd half 19th C.	Vascular plants	France	c. 2100 spms.	Bolton Museum - acc. nos. 99:52 30:07 (part)	Purch. from E.C.Horrel (London) 1899. Few in P.B. Mason colln.	
Frederick Janson <u>Hanbury</u> .	b. 1851 d. 1938	Vascular plants	England esp. Kent & Surrey	c. 2500 spms.	acc.no. 30:07 (part)	Purch. with rest of Mason collection.	
Edward Morrell <u>Holmes</u>	b. 1843 d. 1930	Algae	Britain	c. 2600 spms.	acc.no. 30:07 (part)	" & 2 fascioles purch. 1910.	

Ernest Charles Horrell	b. 1899 d. 1939	Mosses	Britain	c. 300 specimens	Bolton Museum - acc. no. 44:01 00:60 1.03	In exchange for Duplicate British Coleoptera & from moss exchange club.	Colln. contains Sphagnaceae from W. Watson's colln. at the B.M., Horrell address given as 49 Danby St. Peckham London S.E.
A. Kerr (of Montrose)	2nd half of 19th C.	Vascular plants	Scotland, mainly Forfar	c. 2500 spms.	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	Purch. with rest of Mason's collection.	
Rev. W. A. Leighton (William Allport)	b. 1805 d. 1889.	Vascular plants (esp. <u>Rubus</u>) hepatics, & lichens.	Britain	c. 250 vas. plants (c. 100 <u>Rubus</u>) c. 100 hepatics c. 1500 lichens	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	"	
Rev. William R. Linton Rev. Edward Francis Linton	1850-1908 (W.R.L.) 1848-1928 (E.F.L.)	Flowering plants (<u>Rubi</u> , <u>Salices</u> , <u>Hieracia</u>)	British Isles	c. 250 <u>Rubi</u> c. 150 <u>Salices</u> + 80 leaves (sep) c. 200 <u>Hieracia</u>	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	"	<u>Salices</u> & <u>Hieracia</u> in sets. <u>Rubi</u> in W. Moyle Rogers Set of British <u>Rubi</u> 189-1895. Notes on other <u>salix</u> spms. in Mason colln. c. 25 <u>Salices</u> from Teesdale collected by E.F. Linton not in set. Some of <u>Salices</u> collected by R.F. Towndrow. Some of <u>Hieracia</u> coll. by Rev. A. Iley, Rev. E. S. Marshall, W.A. Shoolbred and others.
Rev. Herbert Mann Livens	coll. 1892-1913 b. 24/9/1860 - d? 1948	lichens, hepatics, mosses & few vas. plants.	Isle of Wight, New Forest, Exmoor, Scotland (few), Isle of Man, Lake District, Bolton area.	483 spc. lichens 47 spc. hepatics 475 spc. mosses c. 50 vas. plants	no. 109:1975 (few spc. under earlier nos).	Acc. Donated by Livens 1945.	Vas. plants mainly coll. by his sister in southern counties of England 2nd half 19th C. Mosses coll. by Livens & his wife Kate. Hep. & lichens coll. by Livens & H.H. Knight. Spec. from other coll. by exchange

Collectors whose specimens included in the collection of Rev. H. M. Livens.

J. Glover	J. W. Hartley	T. Hebden
E. M. Holmes	A. R. Horwood	J. Hunter
D. Lillie	R. G. Livens (son?)	F. Morey
H. F. Parsons	R. Paulson (lichens, hepatics & mosses)	H. P. Reader
P. G. M. Rhodes	R. V. Tellam	C. D. Waddell
W. West	F. E. Weiss	J. A. Wheldon
A. Wilson		

D. McA.....	2nd half 19th C.	Hepaticas.	Ireland.	c. 750	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	Purch. with rest of Mason collection.
<u>William Mudd</u>	b. 1830 d. 1879	Lichens	Britain	c. 1500 spms.	maj: acc. no. 30:07 (pt) others acc. no. 16:18	" & purchased Stevens Auction Rooms 8/11/1918
Rev. <u>William Moyle-Rogers</u>	b. 1835 d. 1920 coll. 1892 - 1895.	Genus <u>Rubus</u> (plants)	Mainly Midland and Home Counties of Eng.	c. 500 spms.	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	Purch. with rest of Mason coll. Each spm. has printed label with ref. to first pub. desc. of species. Most of other <u>Rubus</u> spec. in Mason coll. have notes on them by Rogers.
Dr. <u>Josef Schiller</u> .	Coll. early 20th C.	Algae	Germany	90 spms.	Bolton Museum acc. no. 105:10; 1:13; 22:14.	Purch. in 3 fascicles from Theodor Oswald Weizel, Munich
<u>A. Toepffer</u>	Coll. c. 1890-1920	<u>Salix</u>	Germany mostly Munich	500 spms.	Bolton Museum - various acc. numbers	Purch. fascicles I-XI 1906-1921. Address: Blumenstrasse, 14, Munich.
Rev. <u>J. E. Vize</u>	2nd half 19th C.	Fungi	Britain	c. 2000	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	With rest of Mason colln.
<u>Hewett Cottrell Watson</u>	b. 1804 d. 1881	Vascular plants	England, mainly Surrey	c. 2,500 spms.	acc. no. 30:07 (part)	"
<u>William Wilson</u>	b. 1799 d. 1871	Mosses, few hepaticas	Britain	c. 2500 spms.	most: acc. no. 30:07 (pt) some via E.C. Horrell acc. no. 44:01.	" Horrell's spms. exch. for dup. Brit. coleoptera
Dr. <u>Philip Brookes Mason</u> MRCB IRCD FWS FLS	Coll. 2nd half 19th C. C. b. 2/1/1842 d. 6/11/1903.	19th algalgae, fungi, lichens, hepaticas, mosses and vasc. plants.	Mainly Britain esp. S. England, Derbyshire & Burton-on-Trent area.	c. 20,000 vasc. plants, c. 5000 mosses, c. 2000 hepaticas, c. 3000 lichens, c. 8000 fungi, c. 5000 algalgae.	Bolton Museum - accession number 30:07.	Purchased from his widow for £100 1907. Coll. includes some types among non-vascular plants & may be among Rubi spms. coll. by others

The more major collectors, whose specimens included in the collections

of Dr. P. B. Mason

Vascular Plants

F. J. Hanbury

A. Kerr (Montrose)

Hewett C. Watson

Other collectors include: J. G. Baker; W. H. Beeby; John W. Beeston; Rev. A. Bloxham (c100 Rubi); Francis Brent; J. A. Brewer (Reigate); William Burton (Liverpool); James Cunnack (Helston, Cornwall); A. Deseglise; R. P. Drayton; H. S. Fisher; H. E. Fox; William Gourke (Jun) Glasgow; H. & J. Groves; J. T. Harris; J. Jacob; E. Lees (c.100 Rubi); Rev. W. A. Leighton (c.100 Rubi); William R. Linton; Edward Francis Linton (Rubus, Salix, Hieracium); George Nicholson; Alfred W. Pearson; W. Moyle Rogers (c.500 Rubi); J. B. Symes.

Mosses

W. Wilson

Other collectors include: William Gardiner (Dundee); I. J. Harris; G. A. Hubbard; W. Jackson; I. A. Lapham, (Milwaukee); Lawson; Dr. Nichol; W. E. Nicholson.

Hepatics

Dr. B. Carrington

D. McA.....(Ireland)

Other collectors include: F. Y. Brocus; A. Croall; William Gardiner (Jun) Dundee; G. A. Holt; Rev. Christ. Kaurin (Norway); Rev. W. A. Leighton; S. McVicar; W. H. Pearson; I. & T. Sim; M. B. Slater; George Stabler; John Whitehead; C. J. Wild; W. Wilson.

Lichens

Rev. W. A. Leighton

W. Mudd

Other collectors include: Rev. A. Bloxham; Dr. Dickenson; William Gardiner; A. C. Maingay; W. Reid; H. Salwey.

Charles
Ottley Groom
alias C.O.
Groom-Napier
alias Prince
of Mantua &
Montserrat.

Coll. late 19th C.
b. 14/5/1839 d.
early 1894.

Vascular plants

Mostly home
counties esp.
Walton-on-
the Naze area

c. 5000 sheets
(3 spms/sheet)

Bolton Museum - part
of ... P.B. Mason's
collection - acc.
no. 30:07 (part)

Purch. with
rest of
Mason's colln.

Whereabouts of
zoological spms.
from his museum not
known. 'Wife' men-
tioned in 'Where
is that
Collection was his
mother. Collection
includes spms.
collected by others
(see next sheet).
Prince's own spms.
mostly coll. at
Walton by F.Y.
Brocas.

See Chalmer - Hunt
(1976) Natural History
Auctions for details
of sales July 9th,
16th, 31st, 1895

Fungi

Dr. M. C. Cooke

Rev. J. E. Vize

Other collectors include: Barnet; Rev. M. J. Berkeley; Rev. A. Bloxham; C. E. Broome; Rev. W. Houghton; W. Phillipps;
C. B. Plowright; J. Renny; Rev. J. Stevenson.

Algae

E. M. Holmes

Other collectors include: E. A. L. Batters; G. Brebner; Rev. H. Davies; Mrs. M. Farquharson; E. George;
Mr. Gratton; Mrs. Griffith; K. Holmes; Miss Hutchins; Miss Jelly; Mrs. Minifield; E. O. Morquand; J. T. Neave;
Prof. R. W. Phillipps; J. Robbins; Mrs. D. Robertson; F. R. Smith; H. N. Sturch.

Collectors whose specimens included in the collection of the Prince of Mantua and Montserrat

(Groom, C. O.)

J. G. Baker	J. Ball	Prof. George Bentham
Bloxham	Borren	
J. A. Brewer	Cecil Buckler	Rev. W. R. Crotch
Prof. Edward Forbes	G. Francis	W. Froggitt
J. S. Gibson	Rev. J. S. Henslow	Rev. W. M. Hinde
J. H. Ibbotson	J. Jacob	C. A. Johns
Dr. Knapp	Rev. W. A. Leighton	J. Linnell
George Maw	Dr. A. G. Melville	W. W. Newbold
W. H. Purchas	D. Rowley	St. Aubyn
John S. Syme (- Sawdu)	Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart	W. C. Unwin
M. B. Warrn	H. C. Watson	John Whitaker

COLLECTING POLICIES

G. STANSFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM STUDIES
LEICESTER.

An Introduction to the subject

A casual look at almost any natural history collection will reveal anomalies and inconsistencies which reflect the haphazard way in which collections have been assembled. Some groups such as butterflies may be well represented - probably with drawers and boxes of a single common species like the small tortoiseshell. Other groups such as diptera may be entirely absent. The reason for this is obvious, a large proportion of the collections have been acquired from private collectors and very little initiative has been taken by the museum itself. Fashions in collecting linked to the availability of identification keys have meant that more attention has been given to some groups than to others.

For some time now it has been clear that more attention must be devoted to the question of what to acquire. On economic grounds alone the availability of resources in terms of specialist natural history curators demands that we do not waste these resources by collecting duplicate or unwanted material. The processing of one specimen (collecting, mounting and documenting) may well cost several pounds and the storage of one specimen in a drawer or on a shelf for the period of one year may also be in the region of several pounds.

There are however more important considerations. Until very recently there has not been a single museum in the U.K. which has set out in meaningful terms and made freely available a statement of objectives within which a collecting policy could be formulated. Most statements which do exist are couched in terms which are of little guidance to the curator. The increased attention which is being directed towards the cost of publicly supported institutions has encouraged museums to think more objectively although there is still a long way to go.

One point which must be borne in mind is that the function of the museum is not static. The natural history museum in particular needs to redefine its role taking into account the urgent need to document the natural and semi-natural environment and the changes taking place in order to be able to advise planning authorities and other bodies when decisions are being made about various kinds of development.

What can we expect to get from the policy statement for the museum? In the first place there should be some statement of the geographical area to be covered - whether this is a local government administrative boundary in the case of a local authority museum, or a more arbitrary boundary in the case of (say) a University museum. Ideally from the natural history point of view

it should be a natural boundary - life would be very much easier if we were all curators of island museums. It is common sense that the geographical boundary must reflect the presence of other museums with similar functions and one would hope that there would be some informal agreement with neighbouring museums to prevent duplication of effort.

The policy statement should also give some indication of subject coverage. Should museums accept material of a kind for which there are not specialist curators or facilities available in the museum? The rationalisation of museum collections between museums presents almost insuperable problems and a more practical solution might well be the appointment of peripatetic specialist curators.

One can look to the policy statement for guidance on the question of the public to be served by a museum. Local authority museums have in common their role of service to the whole community but National, University and private museums will in general have more specialised roles reflecting their particular research and teaching.

One point which has received very little attention is that the collecting policy to fulfil the documentation function and the policy for exhibition and education might be quite different. It might be perfectly logical to restrict the natural history collecting to a limited area surrounding the museum whilst at the same time having an exhibition policy which aims to show how the area related to the region and which in consequence must draw on a much wider range of material.

Some of our difficulties arise from museums trying to fulfil too many roles and one wonders whether a more specialised role may not be of some advantage. The United States National Park Service in its Handbook for Curators (1967) includes the following paragraph in the Chapter on 'What to Acquire' -

The Study Series consists of the specimens not on display in the exhibit room but needed for any of several other purposes. Some specimens need to be gathered and preserved for research into park resources or the park story. Some provide permanent documentation of the park's resources, or of data used in research. Some are for reference - to guide administrative decisions, to instruct seasonal interpreters and other park employees, to assist visiting specialists, and to answer questions from the public. Some form a reserve for future exhibition, for illustrating talks, and for other interpretive uses. You measure the value of such a study series by its utility and not by its size. To build a useful collection you must follow an active, planned acquisition programme based on the scope of collections definition. It requires selective, purposeful collecting to build up and round out the series, supplemented by the careful elimination or replacement of inappropriate specimens to refine it. A well-balanced collection, fitted to the park's needs, will not be achieved by passively acquiring only what happens to be offered or, on the other hand, by promiscuously gathering whatever can be obtained.

I have always though this a useful statement and one which could be the starting point for most museum policies by substituting 'museum' for 'park'.

Even when we have tackled the broader problems there are many factors which place restrictions on our collecting.

The Law and in particular the Protection of Birds Acts and the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act place legal restrictions on some aspects of collections. There are other less binding but just as important ethical considerations which must be considered. Natural history curators would now subscribe to the general principles of the conservation of fauna and flora and would in consequence wish to follow the Codes of Conduct set out by such organisations as the Royal Entomological Society and the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

Arising from our professional allegiances we should also wish not to accept material where the accompanying documentation is of doubtful accuracy or does not meet the standards which we now demand. We should not accept new material unless we have appropriate specialist staff, adequate conservation and storage facilities, adequate equipment and libraries to enable us to study the material adequately and finally adequate facilities to receive and supervise specialist visiting researchers or to pack and despatch material at the request of other researchers.

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'Censure would be his due who should be perpetually heaping up of natural collections, without design of building a structure of philosophy out of them, or advancing some propositions that might turn to the benefit and advantage of the world. This is in reality the true and only proper end of collections, of observations, and natural history.'

From the preface to John
Woodward's catalogue (1729).

BOOK REVIEW

NATURAL HISTORY AUCTIONS 1700-1972 A Register of Sales in the British Isles. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt. Sotheby Parke Bernet. £12.50.

This book is divided into two main sections; Introductory subject articles by specialists and the Register which is a date index of sales. The seven introductory articles are divided into Entomological, Zoological, Botanical, Ornithology and Oology, Fossil, Minerals and Shell sale accounts examining historical aspects of collecting and their later influence on material appearing for sale. The sections could have been longer and vary a good deal in their approach and depth of detail. As is to be expected within the broad sections comments reflect the authors main interest. They do show differences between the disciplines however and allow some analysis or thought to be given to present collecting policies and the future availability of material. Most of the sections are fairly comprehensive, given the available space, but comment must be made concerning the Ornithological and Oological section.

This section is far less comprehensive and objective than the others and although the oological side is well covered the ornithological side is patchy and subject to areas of disagreement. The rapid advance of ornithological knowledge in the 19 century is attributed to the great increase in (scientific) flat skin collecting by 'serious skin collectors'. It is true that fashions changed but many of the earlier mounted collections contained important material till very late in the 1800's. The point has been missed that the data for these was often kept in diaries and manuscripts and although separated from the specimen was not always missing. This has an important bearing upon the sale of material; previous ownership knowledge still allows this to be traced. Certain predudices are unfortunately all too apparrent, the oological collecting is strongly defended whilst the 'holocaust' of skin collecting is questioned. Although interesting as subject for debate these comments are not carefully linked with the Register of Sales, do not aid in interpretation and one feels should not have appeared within the context of such a book, especially given the approach in other sections. Too much emphasis is given to discussing individual specimens and a more general examination of a series of sales might have been more appropriate and informative. Curators in other disciplines may be critical of other sections but they appear far more objective and link comprehensively with the second part, the Register of Sales.

This section contains details of the sources of material, contents of sale, auctioneers, sale catalogues and reference

to their present whereabouts. Although looking comprehensive the net has not been spread very wide, few provincial sales being listed. Comments from fellow students on the Edinburgh Curatorial course reveals many gaps which could have been filled with reference to stock Books, accessions and archives in provincial museums. Most curators will find additions and amendments following consultation of their files and collections. Two examples illustrate this point; General Davies sale is recorded in the list of sales without indication of date or year, archives here show June 6th and 8th probably 1812. Tracing the 13th Earl of Derby collections and sale is difficult. For Earl of Derby see Smith E. which is not listed, it should refer to Stanley E. Smith which is listed both in the Index and Register. If one knows that the Early of Derby was Lord Stanley before acceding to the Earldom in 1834 this can be traced but otherwise not.

How widespread other mistakes are is difficult to say without reference but any errors should be corrected as soon as possible. Shortcomings and omissions are to be expected in the first edition of such a work and this is fully appreciated by the compiler who requests information. Note of this should be made by all museum workers and complied with. A later version combined with the Bibliographies of collections in preparation should also allow non-specialists to assess their collections. It is essential that provincial museum curators should co-operate in sending information, possibly publishing in the B.C.G. Newsletter at the same time ensuring rapid communication. If this is done the revised version may well be dedicated to the staff of provincial museums, the present register being dedicated to the staff of the B.M. (Nat. Hist).

Notwithstanding my comments this is a book desperately needed by all museums, filling an essential gap in our knowledge. One hopes it will be on every museum shelf with constant use and additions.

Peter Morgan
Merseyside County Museums.

SHORT NOTES

Local Biological Record Centres

I feel certain that I am not alone in the problems of having 'to sell' a newly started Biological Records Centre to local naturalists and natural history societies. A major problem is to quote definite examples, when describing the roles and successes of local B.R.Cs. please help by sending examples of the following types of roles to me. Geoff Stansfield has very kindly agreed to help collate the examples so that they can be made available to all involved in local B.R.Cs.

The three main areas for which we need examples are -

1. That Planning Departments do take biologically important sites seriously. An example would be the re-routing of the Bewdley by-pass to avoid the marsh at Wilden. The rather more general, co-operation, consultation, preparation of data for structure plans, appear to evoke a cynical reaction from many people. Hence the need for specific examples.
2. The failure of local naturalists to make information available to a B.R.C., County Trust, or N.C.C. officer, so that sites are destroyed or damaged, because no one knew they were there.
3. 'Spin offs' from local B.R.C.s, which could include the finding of new sites of importance, new species, etc.,

I hope that colleagues will contribute to the plea for help, and so help all of us with B.R.C.s put a more convincing case to the sceptics and lukewarm naturalists.

J. M. Campbell,
Department of Museum Services,
Oxfordshire County Museum,
Fletcher's House,
Woodstock,
Oxford OX7 1SN.

HAVE YOU ANY BIRDS FROM NEASDEN?

A small natural history display has recently been prepared for the Grange Museum, Neasden (London Borough of Brent) with the assistance of Eric Simms and Leo Batten who have both been working in the area for some years. The display consists almost entirely of two-dimensional material and looks in detail at four areas within the borough - a private garden in Dollis Hill, Gladstone Park, the Welsh Harp Reservoir and Birchen Grove Woodland (a schools' nature trail). When the display is completed there will also be an audio-visual unit using birdsong recorded in the borough by Eric Simms.

Although there is no professional member of the museum staff dealing specifically with natural history we hope to include information on the subject in our collections. The museum building includes a reading room where material from the local collection can be consulted - this collection, recently transferred from the Central Reference Library includes a small amount of natural history material.

One area which provided an enormous number of bird specimens for the Victorian taxidermist was the Welsh Harp Reservoir. This was constructed in the 1830s to supply water to the Grand Union Canal. James Edmund Harting's 'Birds of Middlesex' (1866) mentions 46 species of waders and 21 species of visiting wild fowl at the reservoir and includes the comment that a sketch of the reservoir has been included as the frontispiece 'from the fact that so many rare and beautiful birds have been at various time observed there'.

We would be very interested to track down specimens from the area which have found their way into museum collections and would be grateful for any information those working with such collections can offer. The reservoir has been known as the Kingsbury Reservoir, Brent Reservoir and the Welsh Harp Reservoir (after a nearby pub) and was constructed by the Regents Cnanal Co. Part of it lies in the parish of Hendon (now London Borough of Barnet). Specimens may be listed under any of these names.

Valerie Bott, Museum Keeper,
The Grange Museum,
Neasden Lane, London NW10.

International Crane Foundation (U.S.A.)

The Foundation requires details of all mounted and scientific skins of several Grus species held in provincial museums. Full details appear in the Museums' Bulletin, Vol 16, No. 5 August 1976, page 53.

Shropshire and North Wales Natural History and Antiquarian Society Collection

Specimens from the collection need to be traced. It was apparently given to Shrewsbury Borough Museum in 1885 but material has since been dispersed. The collection contained 40-50 Australian birds including types of Anas (Mareca) castanea (Eyton) which the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature are trying to trace. Can museums please check to see if they received any material, most likely mounted which could have come from this source. The specimens were donated by a Major Wakeman or as is now thought Major Wakefield.

Peter Morgan,
Keeper of Vertebrate Zoology,
Merseyside County Museums.

BTO Moulting Card

Dick Hendry of Glasgow Museum would be interested to hear from anyone using, or who wants to use, the BTO Moulting Card. If there is sufficient interest he would be willing to organise a short training session during the B.G.C. meeting at Bolton.

Peregrine Falcon eggs, post 1945

Dr. David B. Peakhall, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3 Canada ref. WLU 61 Raptors, is mapping the thinning of eggs of the larger falcons and requires information on post 1945 clutches of F. peregrinus biarmicus, jugger and cherrug. Details of length breadth and weight of each egg should be sent to him.

New Members to September 1976

Mr E. J. Redshaw	Spalding Gentlemen's Society Museum
Mr C. Pettitt	Manchester University Museum
Mr J. A. Keefe	Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society
Ms S.D. Chapman	Palaeontology Department, British Museum
Mr G. N. Swinney	Royal Scottish Museum
Mr T. M. Clegg	The Yorkshire Museum

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Details of Bolton Meeting (to date)

Friday December 3rd, 1976

10.30 a.m. Assemble, coffee, etc.,

11.00 a.m. A.G.M. Agenda to be arranged.

12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. Lunch. Make own arrangements, several places close to museum.

1.30 p.m. Specialist Session
Living Collections in Museums - including

Ant Colonies	- Alan Howell (Bolton)
Aquaria	- Denis Murphy (Liverpool)
Larger mammals & exhibiting rare breeds	- Alan Cheese (Shugborough)
Living Plant Exhibits	- Don Moore (Liverpool).

Tea, Discussion, questions etc.

BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the Biological Curators Group will be held at Bolton Museum on Friday December 3rd, 1976 at 11.00 a.m.

Agenda

1. To receive the Report of the Chairman
2. To received the Report of the Hon.Editor
3. To receive the Report of the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
4. To elect Honorary Officers for the coming year :-

Chairman
Hon.Editor
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

5. To elect members of committee for the coming year
6. To approve the programme for 1977

G.Stansfield
Hon Secretary/Treasurer
c/o Department of Museum Studies
152 Upper New Walk Leicester LE1 7QA

Note 1.

Nominations for Honorary Officers and members of committee should be made in writing and should be proposed and seconded by members of the Group. The nominee's willingness to stand should be ascertained. Nominations should reach the Hon.Secretary by Friday, 19th November.

Note 2.

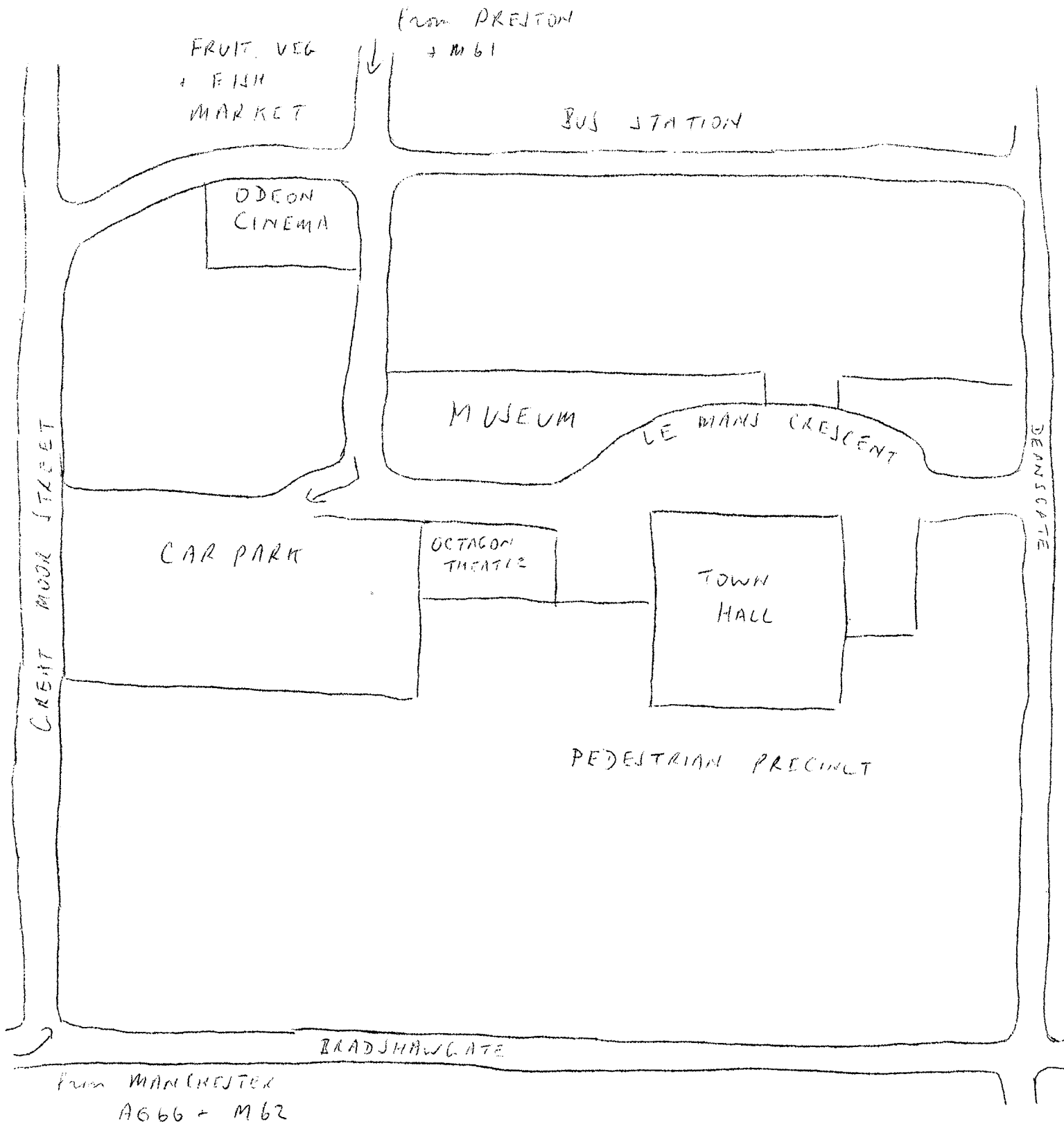
The Chairman and Hon.Editor are prepared to be considered for re-election. The Hon.Secretary/Treasurer does not wish to stand for re-election.

Note 3.

Existing Officers and members of committee :-

Chairman	E.G.Hancock, Bolton Museum
Editor	S.W.Flood, City Museum, St.Albans
Sec/Treasurer	G.Stansfield, Department of Museum Studies
Committee	E.F.Greenwood, Merseyside County Museums
	D.G.Erwin, Ulster Museum
	R.H.Harris, British Museum (Natural History)
	J.M.Bateman, National Museum of Wales

PLAN OF CIVIC CENTRE OF BOLTON



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).....

.....

.....

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.