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NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Those members who did not attend the Annual General Meeting will be receiving Newsletter number 7 (December) along with the current newsletter. In number seven you will read my report of 1977's activities and see the composition of the new committee. It will be obvious that this along with other correspondence should have been circulated earlier but my activities regarding both B.C.G and other groups has been virtually nil over the past three months. In this note I wish to put forward some mitigating circumstances and hopefully to explain my reasons for this lack of communication.

In June of 1977 plans were prepared for the complete restorage and reorganisation of the Vertebrate Zoology collections at Merseyside County Museums. Offices and filing systems were relocated in November but early in January 1978 the building of a new Taxidermy laboratory brought forward plans to move the Osteology, Bird and mammal collections. The physical moving of cabinets and the reordering in new systematic sequences of the collections occupied the academic staff fulltime and is only just being completed. This work has also linked in with the XVIIth International Ornithological Congress to be held in Berlin in June of this year and the publication of the bird type list at Liverpool. The collections are now organised in Peter's sequence so visiting researchers coming before and after the congress can use the collections without the constant supervision of myself. All time has been concentrated on this task the result being a three month backlog on all enquiries, letters and research. This is now being tackled and at last a large number of letters, accounts etc have been passed over to the new officers and members of the committee. This alone will ensure in the future no repetition of the inactivity of the last three months for which I am solely responsible. The collections should not be moved again for the next forty - fifty years. It is extremely unfortunate that the removal of collections and the allocation of work to the new committee came at one and the same time, but all defects should be rectified soon and I ask all members to write to the appropriate person concerning errors of membership, lack of newsletters etc known to them. It is also unfortunate that this period of inactivity and inefficiency on my part should also coincide with the raising of the personal membership fee to £3. The activities of B.C.G. continue apace, the survey of collections is due to be published by the B.C.G. this year, (hence part of the increase), the guidebook for record centres is being published jointly by the N.C.C. and B.C.G. and a new survey of holdings in Universities and other institutions is also being undertaken. The new committee with a representative in every region should improve communication overall and a detailed listing of B.C.G's aims and activities will be circulated to everybody. Membership is still rising and I can only hope that members continue to give their active and financial support although my activities have of late been curtailed and give the impression of a non-caring secretary. I can only promise a greater activity during the rest of the coming year.

Peter Morgan.