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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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opportunity to develop different themes, and raise the quality of our publication. So I hope to see more submissions on a variety of topics in the coming year. Advertising in the Newsletter as a source of revenue for BCG should also be actively pursued. I feel that the Newsletter is now of sufficient quality to warrant support from more institutions - the institutional membership of the group is noticeably low. Enrol your authority now! My message then is a simple one - become involved in your Newsletter - write for it, advertise it, encourage others to read it. In this way we might achieve a healthier bank balance and increased membership.

Finally I would like to thank again BCG Committee members in the regions for their support, all the authors and contributors, my assistant Editor, Geoff Hancock, and Tyne and Wear County Council for allowing me the time to perform duties of the Editor, and providing typing and help in design and production.

Peter Davis
Sunderland Museum

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
BIOLOGY CURATORS GROUP HELD AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY), 2 MARCH 1979.

Present: P. Lambley, G. Stansfield, S. Flood, P. Morgan,
A. Ritchie, G. Hancock, M. Brendell, P. Davis,
K. Boot, E. Greenwood.

B. Logan, R. Hale (Guild of Taxidermists)

Apologies: J. Matthias, D. Erwin, J. Bateman

1. Taxidermy

Following publication of notes of the Manchester Meeting in BCG Newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 1), the Chairman had received a letter from Bari Logan of the Guild of Taxidermists, in which attention was drawn to a) the involvement of BCG in the Carnegie scheme for training in taxidermy b) discussion of Guild affairs without representation and c) formation of a technical group within BCG. The Secretary explained the impromptu nature of the discussion, which had arisen out of his comments about the location of the studentships at the Area Services, divorced from a museum situation,

and consequent fears about the preparation of research material. The open discussion which had followed had included a suggestion of the formation of a wide ranging technical group within BCG - but not a firm proposal.

Mr. Logan described the formation of the Guild of Taxidermists and its attempts to raise standards of work and to make provision for training in taxidermy. The Carnegie scheme, a two year studentship in which the second year would be spent on secondment to a museum would provide a much needed training scheme for the taxidermist. Mr. Logan argued that a trained taxidermist, having manual dexterity, could deal competently with research material given a little training - but that a technician could not necessarily become a taxidermist. It was evident that there was a need for both taxidermist and natural sciences technician, to cope adequately with display and research needs respectively, but at the present moment the 'taxidermist' was dealing with both of these.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a joint meeting of the BCG/Guild Committees be arranged for the near future to discuss matters of common interest (including an examination of the syllabus for the Museums Association Technical Certificate) and to arrange a joint BCG/Guild Seminar.

2. Collections Survey Report

Concern was expressed by the Committee about the long delayed appearance of the Collections survey report, and of the necessity of its production in some form in time for the April BCG/GCG/SBNH Symposium. The Secretary explained reasons for the delay and explained the present situation regarding publication. The text and maps now being complete, it was agreed that the Secretary produce 1000 copies via the NMW, but that all attempts to obtain grants or loans be actively pursued. If for any reason the report could not be produced in this way then it should be made available in cyclostyled form.

3. Committee

Two nominations (MH & PL) had been received. After prolonged discussion, in which the need for a continued regional representation on the Committee was recognised, the following Committee structure was proposed:-

Officers:	Chairman:	Eric Greenwood
	Secretary:	Stephen Flood
	Treasurer/Membership	
	Secretary:	Kelvin Boot
	Editor:	Peter Davis
	Asst. Editor:	Geoff Hancock

Members of Committee: Geoff Stansfield
Peter Morgan
Mike Hounsome
Martin Brendell
Peter Lambley
John Matthias

Co-opted members: Dave Erwin
Ray Ingle
Representatives for Scotland,
Guild of Taxidermists, South East
(for M. A. Conference).
James Bateman

4. Annual General Meeting

This has now been arranged for Tuesday 3rd April, 11 a.m., at the British Museum (Natural History).

5. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the income and expenditure budget were circulated by the Treasurer and approved. It was agreed that additional revenue should be sought from advertising in the Newsletter. Geoff Stansfield offered to follow this up, and seek a commitment from relevant manufacturers.

6. Editor's Report

The Editor indicated that provided copy is received on time, an issue should be produced in time for the April Symposium.

7. Museums Association Conference

Discussion took place on the arrangements for the specialist session day. It was agreed that the morning session involve a visit to Cumberland House and site visit, and the afternoon session centre around 'natural history collections and leisure'. Speakers from varied institutions, including the B. M. (N. H.), would be approached by the Chairman.

P. Davis

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THE HERBARIUM - LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS SERVICE

Before 1895 the Leicester Town Museum had a miscellaneous