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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Edward and Hearle Rodd - Ornithologist

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Source: Hancock, E. G. (1979). Edward and Hearle Rodd - Ornithologist. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 2 No 2, 56 - 57.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1672>

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contact Tony Phelps at The Poole Aquarium, Blue Boar Mill, The Quay, Poole, Dorset.

Affluent BCG members may wish to partake of a reptile field study course in Zambia from October 25th - November 11th, the cost being a mere £700. Details from Tony Phelps.

FUMIGATION

The use of Lindane smoke generators for fumigation (as at Bradford Museums - see BCG Newsletter No. 10) has been questioned. Apparently Lindane will not kill all insects and mites and smoke generators are not the most effective form of insecticidal treatment. Other forms of control are suggested in the ADAS leaflet 'control of Insect Pests in Museums' available free from the Ministry of Agriculture.

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EDWARD HEARLE RODD - ORNITHOLOGIST

Bolton Museum has recently acquired, with the purchase of 15 cases of mounted birds, a handful of reprints among which is the following:

Rodd, Edward Hearle (1864) A list of British Birds as a guide to the ornithology of Cornwall, especially the Land's End district with remarks on the capture, habits, etc., of some of the rarer species.

Octavo, 42 pages

Published by Simpkin, Marshall & Co., London and W. Cornish, The Library, 2 Market Place, Penzance and printed by the latter.

This is the first edition, a revised version was produced in 1880 considerably enlarged, edited with a memoir on the author by J. E. Hartig which I have not seen. However, the interest in this copy lies in some annotations which indicate it once belonged to the original author. For example, under the Great Grey Shrike with reference to the Scilly Isles record is the following note:

"Male with 2 spots on wing - I have this bird and I think it will prove to be the Loggerheaded Shrike of America - the subject is being investigated by Mr. Gould - see Zoologist for last month. EHR. "

My feeling concerning this catalogue is that if a curator can prove to possess this specimen or holds the Rodd Collection (if such exists) then they can have the booklet. Otherwise we shall hang on to it in Bolton as we have many specimens from the extreme southwest of

England, built up over a period of about 25 years contact with naturalists in the area (initiated by Alfred Hazelwood) and have very little in the way of published notes on the area.

How did Andrew Mayoh of Adlington, near Chorley, Lancashire, acquire this item before he gave it to us? He bought it from W. Dodd of 17 Oxford Street, Barrow-in-Furness who was selling off his library of bird books in 1946 and there the story ends. Incidentally, W. Dodd had a collection of 6,000 Birds' Eggs (of which 500 were destroyed in the Blitz on Barrow). Does anyone know where they are now?

E. G. Hancock
Bolton Museum.

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MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE -
SPECIALIST SESSION - WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

Provisional arrangements for the BCG Specialist session are as follows:

Meet at Cumberland House, Portsmouth by 10.30 a.m. A tour round the Museum will be followed by a local field trip. Lunch (will anyone not having the official lunch let Peter Sewell, Keeper of Natural History at Portsmouth, know) will be followed by an afternoon session devoted to 'The relevance of natural history collections in the leisure age'. Speakers will include Peter Sewell and Peter Morgan, and it is hoped that a representative from the British Museum (Natural History) will be present to speak about exhibition policy at that establishment.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1978/'79

In reviewing the last year of BCG activities, the first thing to notice is that it had lasted fifteen months. The only benefit the group appears to have gained from this is that the officers have had an extra three months to produce their reports, but in the case of the Chairman's remarks this has not been used to much advantage.

It is a temptation in annual reports to recite the year's activities, but most of these have been well reported in the Newsletter. Unfortunately the two meetings held since last year's AGM have only