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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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by security staff as he fled, bleeding dramatically.

Things have been quite peaceful of late (if you don't count the lead thieves on the roof but that's another story). Perhaps our unconventional nature lover is nursing his lacerations and biding his time. Meanwhile, we have removed the rest of the eggs to a safe place, and decided to use the external showcase for posters.

All the incidents may be quite unconnected; it could be that the publicity for the first theft triggered off the later attempts. But if an anaemic and somewhat scarred individual offers you a cheap carp or some cracked eggs - be warned, it could be our visitor. The local police have had no success in tracing the thief or thieves, and so I doubt we shall see the specimens again. As a consolation prize a local primary school gave us a very large, unidentified and UNBLOWN egg of uncertain age. If the thief calls again, I think we might have a suitable present for him.....

Penny Wheatcroft,
Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London, SE23 3PQ.

p.s. Needless to say that none of the stolen specimens bore distinguishing marks etc., so we would have difficulty proving ownership.

- * Editor's note: perhaps an important element concerning the valuation of items like birds' eggs is the question of insurance. Can a curator make an insurance claim following the loss or breakage of birds' eggs? If he does make a claim is he or she breaking the law?!

FREEZE-DRYING ARCHAEOLOGISTS

This meeting will be held on Thursday, 7 May 1981 at the Institute of Archaeology, London, and will cover various aspects of the theory and practice of freeze-drying. The provisional programme consists of contributions from suppliers of freeze-driers on the theory of the process and the technology involved, and also lectures by various conservators who regularly use or have adopted freeze-drying techniques and machines to suit their own particular problems.

Among the speakers who have been approached are Jacqui Watson, Jim Spriggs, Howard Murray, Edwards High Vacuum and, if the finances can be arranged, a speaker from Copenhagen.

A finalised programme should be available before Christmas and those interested in attending should contact Mark Norman, City Museum, Queen's Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL.

Half-price for members

The issue of the Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History (Vol. 9 part 4) mentioned in the last Newsletter can be obtained at half price (i.e. £10.00) by members of BCG. This concession, available also to Geological Curators' Group members, is allowed to us as joint sponsors of the Conference on the History of Museums and Collections in Natural History. It is the papers read at that conference which fill the 305 pages of this part.