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Author(s): Davis, P.

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BOOK REVIEW

MAMMALS OF THE SHEFFIELD AREA by Valerie Clinging and Derek Whiteley

This booklet, published by the Sorby Natural History Society and Sheffield City Museums, is the result of six years intensive survey of mammals in the Sheffield area by the authors and others, and draws together a vast amount of information collected in the field, and extracted from published literature, records, notebooks, manuscript material and museum specimens. The geographical area covered comprises some 1500 km. squares centred on Sheffield and includes examples of most inland British habitats, ranging from the high peat moorlands of Kinder Scout to the lowland fen of Potteric Carr.

For each species there is a synopsis of past and present status, and a distribution map. It is pleasing to see an overlay provided for use with the latter, indicating major towns and river system, solid geology and altitude. A very comprehensive bibliography is provided, and the quality of the publication is enhanced by pen and ink drawings by members of the Museums Natural Sciences Staff.

Altogether an excellent booklet, informative, and attractively and thoughtfully produced. The Society and the Museum deserve our congratulations on setting such high standards in these publications, and the present work will serve as a model for any other Museum preparing a publication relating to distribution studies. The price makes the Mammals of the Sheffield Area even more desirable - a mere 75p (+ 18p postage) from The City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield.

Peter Davis November 1980

University of Wales, Cardiff - Zoological Collections

As an addition to the previous issue of the Newsletter (B.C.G.1980 2(8)), it is perhaps worth noting that the Department of Zoology, University of Wales, Cardiff possesses a small spirit teaching collection which at one time contained specimens from important collections e.g. H.M.S. Challenger (1872-76). The British Museum (Natural History) presented, in 1899, 23 Challenger specimens including probable paratypes of Cucumaria insolens Théel, C. serrata Théel, Leuconia multiformis Poléjaeff, Ophiolebes scorteus Lyman, and Polyeunoa laevis McIntosh. These were apparently returned with other material in the late 1960's. A rapid visit in 1978 confirmed that no Challenger material remained.

Peter Lingwood.