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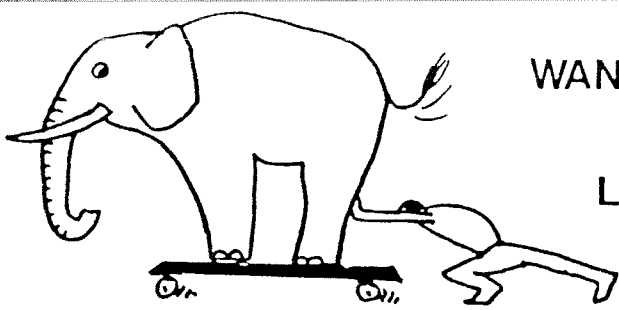
Title: Wants, Exchanges, Lost & Found

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WANTS, EXCHANGES,

LOST & FOUND



The Whitmore Collection of Molluscs
at Worcester City Museum

The Worcester City Museum Service possesses a very extensive collection of British and foreign terrestrial, freshwater and marine molluscs, possibly numbering in all several thousand specimens. Most are mounted on paper - covered wooden blocks upon which is written information concerning their genus, species, location (in general terms) and the name of the collector (but not the date of collection). At one time these specimens were carefully laid out in glass-topped cases and drawers in the public galleries, but at some stage in the now-distant past (presumably as a result of changing fashion) they were removed from display. Unfortunately, at this point they became completely muddled up and were dumped loose into a variety of different sized cardboard boxes (some indeed were left lying loose in the roof void of the museum where they accumulated the inevitable thick layer of dust) - fortunately the number of breakages seems to have been surprisingly small.

A very basic attempt is now being made to sort out this important collection and provide better storage conditions for it. In the process of this operation it has become apparent that by far the greatest proportion of specimens was collected by one "Sir G. Whitmore, K.C.H." A study of the Dictionary of National Biography suggests that this person must be General Sir George Whitmore, Knight Commander of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order, an Officer in the Royal Engineers, who was born at the Manor House, Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire in 1775 and who died at Charlton, Kent in May 1862. He was obviously an avid collector (judging by the number of specimens we have associated with his name), though perhaps rather by purchase and exchange since his service career took him only to the Mediterranean and Caribbean, whereas his collection is geographically much more widespread. Why his collection came to Worcester, and when, remains a mystery - though the fact (as revealed in the 1851 Census of Charlton) that one of Whitmore's daughters was born in Worcester points to the possibility of some local family connection.

Any further information on this prolific collector, especially in his capacity as a malacologist, would be welcomed by the writer.

Henry Middleton
Curator

Worcester City Museums Service
City Museum & Art Gallery
Foregate Street
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WANTED - BROWN BEAR SKELETON



Aillwee Cave is situated in the Burren area of County Clare in Ireland. It is open to the public and has an award-winning visitor centre at its entrance. Brown Bear remains were discovered in 1973 and this animal is now adopted as the logo for the cave. Unfortunately there were not sufficient remains to construct a full animal so Brown Bear skeletal material is required with a view to exhibiting a full skeleton at the site. A complete Skeleton would be ideal, but if sufficient bones can be found to reconstruct one then that too will be of use.

If anyone can help, please contact: Mr. Michael Mulqueeney,
Director, Aillwee Cave, Ballyvaughan, County Clare, Ireland.

AILLWEE CAVE

BALLYVAUGHAN, CO. CLARE, IRELAND.

Information Wanted : L.A.Reeve's Conchologia Iconica (1843-1878)

I have recently become interested in the publishing of Reeve's monumental work Conchologia Iconica . It would appear that there were both coloured and uncoloured copies and that these were issued as monthly parts, individual monographs, individual volumes (1-20) and as a complete set. Because of the differences introduced by binding and rebinding, it is frequently difficult to distinguish the different methods of issue. I would therefore be most interested to hear from anyone who knows of individual parts, to complete sets, that might be so identified and anyone who has any wrappers in which the monthly parts were issued.

Dr P.F.Lingwood.

8, Sorrento Way,
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NAPHTHALENE - Information please

Napthalene is still in widespread use in museums as a pest repellent and for some time I have been attempting to find out more about it, relating to both its effectiveness as a repellent and its dangers as a health hazard. I have seen various references to it including a maximum permitted level, notes that it can be absorbed through the lungs and the skin and one reference suggesting that it can cause mild anaemia. Several colleagues and I have attributed various symptoms to exposure to high napthalene levels. I would be interested if anyone could provide me with information or references to information concerning the chemical, or even if you have personal views or experiences with it.

A recent publication from America may contain useful information, although I have not yet seen a copy. It is titled "Pest control in museums: a status report (1980)" by S. R. Edwards, B. M. Bell and M. E. King and is reviewed in Curator Vol. 25 No. 3 pp. 228-9 by L. H. Herman. Judging by the review it seems that there is no pest control method which is both effective and safe. I would welcome any short articles for the Newsletter concerning the system in use at any museums, large or small, in the U.K. and problems which occur. Steve Garland, Assistant Keeper, Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP.

Species Record Cards - Still Required

Derek Whiteley has now received examples of completed cards from a number of biological records centres, and wishes to acknowledge assistance from the following museums (in addition to those listed in the last issue) North Herts., Oxfordshire, Rotherham, Bristol, Ipswich, Stoke, Buckinghamshire, Tyne & Wear, and Leicestershire. The general impression at the moment is that recording techniques differ from centre to centre, sometimes quite broadly. However it would be nice to receive even more completed cards from other centres, before the results of the survey are published, probably in the next newsletter.

Also many thanks for the notes, information sheets and newsletters relating to local B.R.C.'s, which will add a few meaty bits to the proposed article.

FREE LINNEAN SOCIETY SYNOPSES OF THE BRITISH FAUNA AGAIN!

Between 30 and 40 individuals, institutions and societies have so far requested copies of the Synopses advertised in the last BCG bulletin. However there are still LOTS of the Old series Nos. 6, 8, 9, 13 and 14 left. If anyone would like any (or any more!) copies, please contact the Horniman Museum (see BCG Bulletin, October 1982 for full details of postage charges etc.).

We propose to continue the BCG distribution until March 31st 1983. After that date we shall pass all remaining Synopses on to other interested groups, who will organise their own internal distribution systems. We can't keep the Synopses indefinitely, due to lack of space.

A few slight problems cropped up during the first batch of requests, so it might be worth clarifying these (rather belatedly):

1. We cannot cope with formal Council orders, nor can we produce official invoices. The reason is simply that the Synopses are not the property of the Horniman Museum, but are held on behalf of the BCG. The charges are for postage and packing, which can be handled via local funds.
2. It has been suggested that the Synopses could be re-sold by recipients, but personally I feel this is ethically dubious. As the Linnean Society decided to give their synopses away it seems logical to distribute them as gifts. If your local Natural History Society members would like copies, either give them some or tell them to contact the museum.
3. If you pass on news of the offer to non BCG members, please make sure they have all the details correct. (Ideally send them a photocopy of the relevant pages!). This saves lots of confused phone calls.
4. David Allen, our Librarian, is dealing with 'standard' requests for sets of synopses. He would prefer these to be made in writing, cash with order! Non-standard requests, for instance large numbers of a single title, should come to me.

Penny Wheatcroft
Keeper of Natural History
Horniman Museum
London Road
Forest Hill
London SE23 3PQ

BUTTERFLIES; EAST AFRICA

A collection of butterflies from Tanzania (then Tanganyika) is offered to any interested museum. They are from localities in the Southern Highlands region of the country and were collected some twenty years ago. The specimens are well preserved, but not well labelled and are available free to a 'good home'. For details contact: Dr. Donald Currie, 7, Abbey Hill Close, Winchester, Hants. Telephone: Winchester 65181.