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BIOLOGY CURATORS' GROUP
Secretary's Report 1983-4

The committee of the Biology Curators' Group met four times during the year, on 26th April, 19th July and 18th October 1983 and on 12th January 1984. All the meetings were held at the British Museum (Natural History) and the Committee continue to be grateful for this hospitality.

Various BCG members attended the triennial ICOM Conference in London, as delegates and as speakers. Members also participated in the ICOM Natural History Committee excursion to the North of England and Scotland, and made overseas visitors welcome. BCG members attending the Museums Association Conference in Swansea were welcomed by Dr. Michael Isaac of Swansea Museum, and the conference programme included several Natural History options.

A BCG and GCG working party put forward proposals for a Natural Science Diploma Course, and a five day course format has now been agreed with the Museums Association (details later in this Newsletter).

The Group has commented through the Secretary on the review of the Area Museum Services. A working party set up with GCG has produced detailed submissions on the consequences to Natural History museums of abolishing the Metropolitan Counties and GLC. The Committee also discussed the future of Grants-in-Aid schemes, relationships with H.M. Customs and Excise and registration of Egg Collections, among other subjects.

The Committee has been represented at meetings of the Professional Groups Committee, the Geology Curators Group and the Working Party on Natural Sciences Resources. Charles Steel has continued to act as Museums Association Liaison Officer, and provided a useful link with developments in other disciplines.

Penny Wheatcroft
Hon. Secretary