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Book Reviews

DIRECTORY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:
ORGANISATIONS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND
1986-7

by Michael J.C. Barker

2nd Edition 1986. Published by Routledge and Kegan Paul. £15.95. ISBN 0-7102-0961-4. pp.227.

This directory contains addresses and details of 1,400 organisations "that are involved in activities that relate in some way to the natural, physical or human environment" ranging from those with an international function to those with 'city wide' concern. Though Michael Barker has brought together in one book Pagans against Nukes, The Association of Designer Leather Workers, MAFF, and the Swan Rescue Service, the number of wildlife, conservation and governmental organisations presented will make this a handy aid for curators.

I can see three potential uses for this book in museum natural history. Firstly I find a proportion of public enquiries fall outside my experience and the museum's facilities, and could well be referred to a more appropriate authority. The directory provides a wealth of handy looking organisations dealing with all aspects of pollution, animal welfare, animal rights, sick and injured animals, domestic stock and rare breeds.

Secondly, rather in the manner of the DICTIONARY OF NATURAL HISTORY the information provided for each organisation is sufficient to give an outline of its function. The Directory can be used to gain concise insights of 'new' organisations as they are encountered in the course of day to day work.

The entry for an organisation details address, phone number, contact name, aims, activities, status (voluntary, statutory, charitable), and publications. For example I found the Directory useful in pinpointing where in DoE, MAFF and the Scottish Office responsibility is taken for Wildlife and Conservation. A useful checklist for periodicals and their originators is given.

Finally if you haven't already got the NCC or RSPB headquarters phone number in your address book the Directory is as handy a place to keep such routine addresses as the card file with the missing cards

All County Trusts for Nature Conservation, Urban Wildlife Groups and even the odd Badger Group have found a place in the Directory; but not one museum or records centre. The author gives a means of rectifying omissions and I suggest BCG should seek inclusion.

Obviously keeping tabs on 1,400 addresses has led to come error but this seems minimal and with a possible new edition in 1988 I think £16 split over two years for several hundred useful addresses is good value and a bargain if your concern is natural history plus archaeology and geology.

Lawrence Way

BREEDING BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS -
A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR BRITISH AND
EUROPEAN SPECIES

by Ekkehard Friedrich. Translated into English by Steven Whitebread. English edition edited and enlarged by A Maitland Emmet.

25 x 20cm 176pp with 47 text figures. Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AH. Price: paperback £9.95, hardback £20.00.

The rearing of butterflies and moths is becoming an increasingly popular pastime. Once the preserve of the ardent collector in search of the perfect insect for his cabinet, it is now practised more widely by naturalists and conservationists as a means of learning more about the biology of species or purely for pleasure.

The vast amount of information available on the subject is widely scattered in the literature and so not readily available. This volume draws together a wealth of practical hints and useful information which will be of value to both the beginner and the experienced entomologist.

Originally written in German, the book reads well unlike many translations. Part 1 deals with the basic principles involved in breeding butterflies and moths, the various techniques most likely to result in success and the equipment that will be required. Part 2 treats each species or species group in turn under the headings, 'Mating, pairing', 'Oviposition', 'Rearing of larvae', 'Overwintering', 'Pupating' and 'Foodplants'. A more general but substantial chapter on the rearing of Microlepidoptera has been written by A Maitland Emmet and the section covering the Geometridae has been considerably expanded by J Reid. A useful account on artificial diets has been supplied by BOC Gardener.

This book should be used in conjunction with a standard text as information on foodplants is at best brief or else has a decidedly European flavour. This detracts little from the usefulness of the publication which should prove invaluable to curators so often presented with larvae of rare species, such as the Death's-head Hawk, and having little idea how to rear them.

Howard Mendel
Ipswich Museums and Galleries