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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Letters

Dear John

Perhaps you could include the following request for information in the next available BCG Newsletter.

Mr R G Ledlieu is trying to find the whereabouts of his wife's great great grandfather's insect collection: Charles Stuart Gregson. Gregson collected Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, the collection apparently consisting of some 28,000 specimens. He sold the collection to a Sydney Webb of Brighton in 1888. I have no details of this material in our area. Gregson was born in Lancaster on 29th May 1818 and died in Liverpool on 31st January 1899. Any information concerning this collection should be sent to Dr Gerald Legg, The Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AA.

Best wishes,

Gerald Legg

Here's a tasty little offer from Derby

Dear John,

Would you please insert this note in the next BCG Newsletter; it is an attempt to reduce our stocks of live Phasmids to a more manageable level.

We have the following species available, all of which could do with a good home:

Indian or Laboratory Stick Insect
Carausius morosus Food plant: Privet

Annam Stick Insect
Baculum extradentatum Food plant: Bramble

Pink-winged Stick Insect
Sipyloidea sipylus Food plant: Bramble

Macleay's Spectre
Extatosoma tiaratum Food plant: Bramble
or Eucalyptus

All species are easy to raise (as we have found to our cost) and, dipped in chocolate, could make interesting party snacks!!

We are offering specimens free, but would appreciate carriage costs if we have to send them by Red Star.

Nick Moyes
Assistant Keeper of Natural History
Derby Museum
The Strand
Derby DE1 1BS

More on the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, which was introduced briefly in Newsletter 4(5). This note is from Ingrid Birker of the Redpath Museum, McGill, Montreal who is attending the Certificate course in Museum Studies at Leicester University.

NEW Natural History Journal and Society!

COLLECTION FORUM, a new journal from the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) seeks short articles of scientific research pertinent to conservation, preparation, preservation, management, documentation and storage of natural history collections. Inter-disciplinary in scope, the journal stresses development and application of technologies concerning collection management and is published biannually.

COLLECTION FORUM, available in approximately thirty museum and university libraries worldwide, represents a 200 member strong Society formed in 1985. Although newly hatched and mainly North American, this volunteer, member-driven organization holds annual Meetings and Workshops and maintains ten Standing Committees and six Sessional Committees. A newsletter is published twice a year, intermittent with the issues of COLLECTION FORUM, to keep all members informed of the activities of each Committee. Annual Meetings are organized by host museums, alternately American and Canadian, and have featured two days of presentations and poster sessions followed by a third day of hands-on workshops. Though no Proceedings are published, the Abstracts of all poster and oral contributions are published in the Winter issue of COLLECTIONS FORUM so interested readers may correspond directly with the authors. This year's Annual Meeting at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, May 31 - June 3, will focus on Conservation of Natural History materials and tentative contributors include Carolyn Rose (Smithsonian), John Dawson (CCI-Canada), Chris Collins (Leicester) and Steve Williams (Carnegie Institute).

Currently, SPNHC is the only single organization addressing the needs of natural science collections on a worldwide and interdisciplinary level. Perhaps this mandate is too broad? However, natural science curators, collection managers and technicians need a united front in order to compete against the well-organized arts and social science museums community for public attention and funding. By developing a vehicle for internal dialogue among the natural sciences, common problems and information can be shared and beneficial solutions formulated.

The great majority of feature and research articles published to date have been submitted by American or Canadian authors. The time is ripe to exchange ideas and information with British and European colleagues in the field of natural history collection management.