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Finally, my thanks go to all members of a hard-working Committee. We are particularly sorry to be losing Phil Collins, Steve Moran and Howard Mendel; three important members of the team during the past three years.

The year ahead looks even more exciting, even more busy, and we thank you for your continuing support during the coming months.

Derek Whiteley
Secretary

EDITOR'S REPORT

As usual, this report is a mixture of progress and excuses as to why I have not managed to accomplish everything I said I would.

On the positive side, three newsletters were produced during the year, one with as bumper number of pages (the special on the Coventry Seminar). The second of these was fairly late, but that was because I was ill for several weeks during the summer. I have some material for the next issue, but as always, I would welcome more. The Index to Volume 4 is available and was produced by Kathy Way whom I forget to acknowledge on the Index itself. Progress has been made on the MANUAL OF BIOLOGICAL CURATION. Geoff Stansfield has taken over the general editor's role and the brief has been expanded substantially. The revised brief takes on board several suggestions from the Museums and Galleries Commission. Now,

with the backing of M&GC and their support we have approached HMSO to print and distribute the Manual - with every likelihood of acceptance.

Gordon Reid has been overseeing the editing and refereeing of Reg Harris' final work: ZOOLOGICAL PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES, which was received by BCG a few weeks before his death. The editing and typing is about two-thirds complete. The next step is to start applying for grant-aid towards publication.

Now come the excuses. The JOURNAL is making good progress but I regret I was not able to get any printed for the AGM. The last paper is not fully keyed into the word-processor. All the design and planning is complete and the artwork will be produced by DTP - but that isn't proving quite the godsend I expected. Disc preparation is now a major factor and takes considerable time, but this is still faster and much more flexible than conventional typesetting. The JOURNAL will be mailed with the Newsletter.

Copy for the Newsletter and papers for the Journal can now be submitted in machine readable form and details of this will be given in the Newsletter.

Two leaflets: 'ANIMAL WELFARE AND MUSEUMS' and 'DISPOSAL OF BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS' are in late stages of production and will be available shortly.

John Mathias
Editor

Collections

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A report published 1989 by the London Museum Service, compiled by Kate Arnold-Foster.

This report includes collections of all the usual disciplines: Agricultural History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Biology, Geology and History of Science. It reviews the holdings of each of the Colleges; in the case of biology these include Birkbeck, Imperial, King's, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway and Bedford, and University College. Following an assessment of the range of material held in each location is a note on the current use of the collections, their care, storage, staffing, accommodation and future.

The report makes impressive, if distressing reading. Despite a current lack of use and status, a great deal of biological material remains within the college network. The following quote sums up much of what the report has to say:

'In common with university biological collections throughout the country, those that belong to the colleges of the University of London play a diminishing part in the teaching and research of their departments. Recent reorganisation of colleges and schools of the University has already affected the majority of collections. The collections of Bedford and Westfield Colleges have been dispersed and material transferred to Queen Mary and Royal Holloway and Bedford New Colleges. The original museum accommodation at Imperial College has been taken over for other purposes and the collections have been distributed around a variety of stores and laboratories. Finally a large