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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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# NEWSLETTER

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## Programme for 1990

### NATURAL HISTORY FOR NON-SPECIALISTS

Joint BCG and Museums Association Seminar to be held on 7 February 1990 at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove.

Programme for the day

Chairman: Steve Garland

**Peter Davis, Hancock Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

All collections have their uses (display, reference, history, science, environmental studies) as well as problems (ethics, defining collecting and disposal policies, etc). How do zoologists and botanists cope with collections often numbering hundreds of thousands of objects?

**Geoffrey Hancock, Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery**

Different collections have different storage requirements. Study facilities have to be carefully planned. How should birds' eggs, butterflies or fungi be handled for examination, display or transport?

**Eric Greenwood, Liverpool Museum**

Recent developments in using natural history collections depart from the use of traditional cased displays. What can we learn from the popularity of hands-on visitor facilities about the future use for collections and the way in which the visitors perceive curator's work?

**David Mellor, Paisley Museum**

The environmental aspects of museum work include species recording at local and national levels and site surveys. The services linked to ecological work by biologists in museums are increasingly in demand from the local community as well as planners and developers.

**Gordon Reid, Horniman Museum, London**

Enquiries, loans and research uses of natural history collections cover a wide range of customers. Who are they and how are they best served?

**Derek Whitely, Sheffield City Museum**

Apart from devising new ways to get the collections to the people, recent activities on the part of biology curators have been aimed at raising the profile of natural history in the museum world.

The cost is £30 for members of the MA, £50 for non-members. Booking form etc is available from: Museums Association Seminars, 852 Melton Road, Thurmaston, Leicester LE4 8BN. Some free places are available, contact: Rachel Bullock on 01 404 4767 for further details.

