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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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BIRDS' EGG COLLECTIONS

This BCG one-day seminar will be held at **TRING MUSEUM** on Thursday 15 **FEBRUARY** 1990. Subjects to be covered include:

What is an egg collection?
Some brief case histories of egg thefts.
A summary of some laws relating to egg collections.
Curation of egg collections.
Uses of egg collections.

Representatives from the Department of the Environment and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have agreed to speak at the meeting.

Time has been allocated for a general discussion on all aspects of egg collections and the meeting will end with a tour of Tring's egg collections and the opportunity to see some rare volumes from the library.

Space is limited, so if you wish to attend an early booking will be required. For more details contact Kathie Way, Zoology Dept, British Museum (Natural History) (01-938-8892) or Richard Sutcliffe, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow (041-357-3929).

NATURAL SCIENCES CURATORIAL COURSE

Joint BCG and GCG course organised in conjunction with the University of Sheffield Division of Continuing Education, to be held at Earnshaw Hall, Sheffield from 18 to 23 March 1990.

Resident course tutor: Peter Davis (Hancock Museum); course director: Bob Toynton (University of Sheffield).

This is a residential course and the cost of £175 includes overnight accommodation (in single study bedrooms) with full board in Earnshaw Hall from evening meal on Sunday 18 March to lunch on Friday 23 March. Most morning sessions will be in the Hall with afternoons largely out of doors or in museums. The costs include tuition by tutors with curatorial experience and all transport during the course.

The course is aimed at anyone with an interest, professional or otherwise, in the preservation, storage,

documentation and uses of biological and geological specimens and records. There will be an emphasis on the practical side of curation with a chance to try out many techniques rather than just to be told about them.

Subjects covered on the course (although some only as options) will include: history, functions, organisation and current trends; collection and acquisition; documentation; enquiry services; information resources; field techniques; conservation; preparation techniques; identification; computerisation of records; MODES; education; outdoor interpretation; storage; display; historic collections and their problems.

The course should be of particular interest to:

- Museums Association Diploma (Natural Sciences) students
- new curators
- mid-term curators requiring a 'refresher' course
- non-specialist curators with responsibility for natural science collections
- staff from non-museum institutions with collections.

Booking forms from, and enquiries answered by: Bob Toynton, Division of Continuing Education, 85 Wilkinson Street, Sheffield S10 2GJ.
Tel 0742 768555 ext 4932

PETERBOROUGH MUSEUM

Joint BCG/GCG meeting, 22 March 1990

Programme

- 10.00-10.30 - Arrival and coffee
- 10.30-10.45 - Greeting by Leisure and Amenities Chairman/Officer
- 10.45-11.00 - Greeting by Martin Howe, Museum Services Curator
- 11.00-11.45 - 'From draft brief to opening ceremony: the Geology and Wildlife Gallery at Peterborough Museum'
- 11.45-12.00 - Discussion
- 12.00-2.00 - Lunch and chance to view gallery
- 2.00-2.45 - Our Decaying Natural Heritage. BCG Slide Pack
- 2.45-3.00 - Discussion
- 3.00-4.00 - either a) visit to AMSSEE taxidermy studio or b) chance to examine reserve natural science collections of Peterborough Museum
- 4.00 - Meeting closed

Local organiser is Gordon Chancellor. For further information contact Gordon on 0733 43329 or write to the museum.