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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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The Management and Welfare of Invertebrates in Captivity

Edited by N M Collins

ISBN 09515804 OX. Available from The Secretary, Zoo Federation, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY. Price £6.00 including postage and packing (£9.00 to non-members of the Zoo Federation).

As biology curators, most of us will experience varying degrees of involvement with living specimens either through fieldwork, assimilation into reference collections or as the focal point of living displays. Those who study, interpret or display living invertebrates will find a useful source of information and further reading in the above report of the proceedings of the first conference of the Invertebrate Working Group, held in December 1988 and convened and sponsored by the National Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland - otherwise known as the Zoo Federation.

Ten papers which were presented by speakers from Universities, Research Institutes, Zoos, Public Aquaria and Butterfly Houses have been assembled into a series of articles giving brief insights into such diverse topics as captive invertebrates and the law, display management and interpretation, agricultural pests, disease control and the captive breeding of endangered species. There is also a summary of three workshops which were held on research, conservation and buying or breeding for exhibition. A useful list of the names and addresses of contributors rounds off an interesting and thought provoking booklet.

Denis Murphy

Horniman Appeals for Sponsors

London's Horniman Museum has launched a sponsorship appeal to raise £150,000 towards the development of the £300,000 Living Waters aquarium. The remainder will come out of core funding from the Museums and Galleries Commission.

Living Waters will open in the spring and has been designed to bring environmental issues to life. The habitats recreated behind glass at the museum will include an Asian river, a coral reef, a British pond and an East African lake.

The exhibits will be accessible to small children and people with disabilities. There will be a sound-commentary and the chance to watch Gordon Reid, keeper of natural history, working in the various exhibits.

Reid says: "There have been various propositions for the leisure use of the Horniman conservatory which has been restored by English Heritage. We are planning to develop a Living Rainforest display in it with a walkway link."

The museum hopes to raise an additional £5,000 to fund a feasibility study for the walk-through forest which will include butterflies and reptiles.

The rainforest will cost a further £200,000 and is scheduled for 1992.

Work on Living Waters, which has been designed by architect John Toovey, will begin in September. The opening of the aquarium coincides with the introduction of conservation to the National Curriculum.

This photograph was taken by the late Dr Burke from Cheshire and was found amongst a collection of books which was given to Ludlow Museum. Dr Burke was an analytical chemist and keen entomologist, also an authority on mosquitos. He seems to have been a keen biker as well. Is the instrument a pedal-powered microscope or an optical bike? Would the modern day equivalent be a scanning EM tied to a 750 cc Suzuki? I wonder what he called it? All suggestions to the editor for the next Newsletter.

