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Author(s): Monsieur Le Rat

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2 Acquisition

Collecting policies in relation to different types of museums and different museum functions.

Collection parameters, including geographical boundaries, taxonomic limitations, implications of wildlife conservation laws, conventions and codes. Collecting methods (field collecting, purchase, purchase funds etc)

John Edmondson, Liverpool Museum.

3 Preparation and preservation

General intro to collection preservation with discussion on strengths and weaknesses of various methods. Dry preservation, wet preservation, freeze-drying, frozen collections, special techniques relating to study skins, osteology, insects, molluscs, plants.

Gordon Reid, Horniman Museum.

4 Documentation

Documentation in the field, documentation on entry to museum, documentation to meet requirements of conservation laws, habitat recording conventions, species recording, transferring data to computer, computer systems. MDA.

Peter Davis, Hancock Museum.

5 Housing and maintenance of collections

Housing and maintenance standards, security, storage design, storage fittings, climate and lighting control, safe handling, packing and transportation.

John Mathias, Leicestershire Museums.

6 Using the collections

Discussion on different ways in which collections are used. Taxonomic support specimens, voucher specimens, specimens as a resource for exhibition, education and interpretation. Collections research.

Charles Pettit, The Manchester Museum

7 Biological recording

Museum role in biological recording; advising on planning applications; standards; work of the NFBR; charging for services.

Bill Ely, Rotherham Museum

8 Live animals and plants in the museum

Laws affecting use of live animals and plants
Gordon Reid, Horniman Museum.

9 Exhibition and interpretation

Exhibition policies - long-term, short-term, temporary, travelling and site. Strengths and weaknesses of natural history exhibitions. Sources of funds, sources of exhibitions.

Paul Howard, The Yorkshire Museum.

10 Educational activities in Natural Science Museums

Educational services, work with schools (including new curriculum); clubs, holiday activities, work with adults, guided walks and excursions.

Elizabeth Goodhew, Horniman Museum.

Enquiry services, publication and sales policies, shops (still under discussion)

11 Health and safety

Guidelines to include precautions when handling live or fresh material; working with pesticides, COSH.

Paul Richards, Sheffield Museum

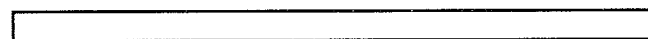
12 Working with other bodies

Short description of the aims and activities of organizations? To include associations of natural history curators; sources of grant aid and advice (national bodies, local bodies, grant-giving bodies, special interest bodies).

Steve Garland, Bolton Museum.

Bibliography; Appendices; Useful organizations; Index.

GS, JHM, GR



BCG SPORT

Ratty burrows sous la Manche

Mindful of the potential delay between penning this and publication I shudder to make any mention of the Gulf, not knowing what the future holds. However, I should like to pass on one item which was overheard during a sniff round the corridors of power; 'Of course, BCG does have its own SCUD missile - Sir Rat, the one they love to shoot down!' Still, that said, I don't seem to have had too many personal suggestions involving rotating cucumbers recently. Perhaps I'm getting too safe in my old age.

So where were you? I refer of course to the Paris tournament. Four days that shook the world. Grande temps indeed. Who can ever forget the Milne mud-wrestling parties? The 'Pick-axe wielding Mendel in exploding car' shock? Or even the 'Stoke Museum in giant crystal snatch' scandal? Certainly plenty to keep your roving rat reporter out of the sewers (but

never far from the gutter). Despite the concurrent Sun headlines describing the rest of UEFA as 'grenouilles' we were given a very warm welcome on the pitch on match day (after sneaking unnoticed past the official welcome committee). Ungrounded suspicions that we weren't so welcome were initially aroused when we realised that the changing rooms were located 50 feet below the pitch. Fortunately only three of the first team succumbed to the neat Dichlorvos spread liberally underfoot! An experience indeed, but this had nothing on our tour of the new stand. The architects 1:1 scale matchstick model was quite awesome. The stuffed skins of past players really added a touch of realism and made one reflect on the stories we've been hearing about Sheffield Not only were past players celebrated but also the directors who were represented by marble busts, each depicted wearing a shroud or constricting reptile. This presumably speaking of local government control to the classical mind. Thought provoking indeed.

My own lasting impression of the Paris trip through the alcohol and food haze is of the terrible damage caused to the pitch by the Venezuelan burrowing whale, now proudly displayed in the new central arena. Wielding a harpoon in those sub-terranean conditions must have been horrendously dangerous. Strange days indeed.

Back on the domestic front, the shuffling goes on. The still partially frozen pitch at Exeter sees Dave Bolton as acting skipper for the RAMs for the time being. This is not to be confused with Dave Bilton the new skipper for Reading Recorders, now playing out of Oxford. The only man in the league to have an Asian team named after him. Talking of Asia it also looks as though the ever mobile Simon Hayhow has been head-hunted by the Phillipinos. In a complicated transfer deal an admin slip seems to have sent him to Lancashire with one of their players by mistake. Where does this leave Oldham? Too close to Bury I should think.

It's all change up there with the Wanderers losing Mark Simmons to the North-East. Still claiming to be a sweeper capable of any position my scouts ask the pertinent question - 'when did you last see a Palanologist play for England?' Nice try, but isn't it time to come out of the fossil cabinet and own up? Whether F. A. Chairman (an eminently appropriate title) Steve Garland can fill the hole at the back remains to be seen.

There even seems to be movement in the green world of groundsmen suddenly. John Rose at Sheffield is

reported to have gone, seeds and all to the Midlands to abuse the land there. While Ian Evans' move at Leicester to deputy on the board of directors has left a niche to be filled there. I can't see it lasting myself, not with the lure of the highland games that I've been hearing about. Leicester's World Cup squad of '66 seems to be making all the news. Tim Riley, Owl and ex-Filbert has relinquished his captaincy for the promise of a life in the sun and the booty from his testimonials. He always was more interested in the pitches than the balls. What will Derek Whitehartlane make of that I wonder?

While on the subject did anyone catch the aforementioned on Radio 5 recently, plugging the 'B ... off' tournament on 'listen with mother'? Apparently his next move is to demonstrate his genitalia on 'Play Away'. Most peculiar Mama.

On a final note, take heart those of you whose financial position is as precarious as my hold on sanity. Take a leaf from the Burnley book of football accounting. Despite their plunge from the first division some time ago they still seem able to field a full team at international level - all expenses paid (management only!) Oops I promised not to mention that, still, it'll never pass the editing stage ...

à bientôt
Monsieur Le Rat

Biology Curators' Group

Chairman: Steve Garland. Bolton Museum,
Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE
Secretary: Derek Whiteley. Sheffield City Museum,
Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP
Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Kathie Way.
Mollusca Section, Natural History Museum,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD
Editor: John Mathias, Leicestershire Museums Service,
96 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TD

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