



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Publications

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1993). Publications. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 6 No 2*, 20 - 21.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1901>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

Disposed bird specimens are wanted by Simon Moore, Hampshire Museums, Chilcomb House, Chilcomb Lane, Winchester, Hants SO10 8RD. Simon needs feathers from any disposed birds to use in the conservation of other specimens. He also has available a small stock of such feathers for others to try their hand with.

The Mammal Society is organising a National Owl Pellet Survey to provide ecological data on the small mammal population. Volunteers are required to collect and analyse pellets on a monthly basis and further details are obtainable from the project coordinator, R.A.Love, 4 Laurel Way, Totteridge, London N20 8HP. Tel 081 445 8989.

Publications

UKIC Natural Sciences Section *Conservation News 51 (July 1993)* carries the first detailed reports from the new section including a note from our own Steve Garland on precautions relating to radioactive minerals at Bolton Museum, information on ongoing studies of resistance to freeze drying and problems in maintaining fluid preserved specimens. This two page section is going to be interesting reading.

Free Books!

Yorkshire Museum is making available free of charge two new publications containing details of important aspects of their entomological collections and two of their collectors. "*Ground Beetles in the Yorkshire Museum*" is prefaced by a life of H.W. Ellis while "*Flies in the Yorkshire Museum*" contains information on Percy Grimshaw. Both works also contain detailed accounts of the relevant collection and can be obtained free from the Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR upon receipt of an A4 stamped addressed envelope (postage 70p within the British Isles or 300 gram International Prepaid Coupon if abroad). This laudable gesture deserves recognition and may yet set a trend.

A Catalogue of the Herbarium of the British Flora collected by Margaret Stovin (1756-1846) is the title of a catalogue of the 1900 specimens held at the Dorman Museum, Middlesborough as 20 bound volumes. The publication is intended as an introduction to Margaret Stovin who started her

collection in 1796 and who soon built up a wide circle of botanical correspondents, including Sir James Edward Smith, Nathaniel Winch, Sir William Hooker and the Rev John Stevens Henslow with whom she exchanged specimens. The compilation of the catalogue was undertaken by Mark Simmons the then Peripatetic Biology Curator at the North of England Museums Service, made possible by a grant from the Pilgrim Trust and the support of MGC and the Leisure Services Dept of Middlesborough Borough Council. The publication is bound to raise the profile of this poorly known collection and is available from the Dorman Museum, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS5 6LA, price £9.95 plus p&p.

Discovering Green Treasure: The findings of and work of the NEMS Peripatetic Biology Curator is also by Mark Simmons and summarises his three years work in north east England. 66pp. Available from NEMS, House of Recovery, Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5SQ. This fascinating report is available free but please send £2.95 to cover p&p.

Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, Vol 5(3), Adults and larvae of Hide, Larder and Carpet Beetles and their relatives (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) and of Derodontid Beetles (Coleoptera: Derodontidae) by E.R. Peacock. Price £20.

Storkia - is the title of a new journal dealing with all aspects of systematic, biogeographical and evolutionary biology and produced by the Museum, Stadhouderslan 41, 2517 HV Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Larger Moths of the London Area by Colin Plant. A4 hardback, 300pp, published by the London Natural History Society. Special introductory offer £14.95 incl p&p until 31 Dec 1993 then £19.95.

Catalogue of the Palearctic Heteroptera. Edited by Berend Aukma and Christian Rieger will be published between 1993 and 1998 in five separate volumes, each containing a bibliography and index. More than 7000 species are included in about 2000 pages. The subscription is Hfl 500 to be paid in parts upon receipt of the separate

volumes. Details from Plant Protection Service, PO Box 9102, NL-6700 HC Wageningen, Netherlands.

Newcastle Course commences

The new Museum Studies course at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne takes its first students in October for either a Diploma or MA qualification. Peter Davis has been joined by Andrew Newman to provide a course which should have a strong natural sciences bias and which is expected to appeal to graduates wanting to enter the museum profession and to those who are already working in it who can choose to take individual course modules or pursue a 'fast track' option to the MA. Contact Andrew Newman on 091 222 7419 or Tony Rylance on 091 222 6067 for further information.

MUSEUM PEST CONTROL SUBSTANCES APPROVED

Some substances normally used as pesticides by museums have been approved for use. The approval - given by Ministers following recommendations by the Independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides - is made under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986.

The approval includes the following substances:

- white spirit
- tetrachloroethylene
- formaldehyde * (for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- ethanol (includes IMS) * (for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- ethyl acetate *(for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- isopropanol (propan-2-ol) *(for the control of fungi on specimens)
- thymol
- 4-chloro-m-cresol *(for the control of fungi on insect specimens)
- camphor *(for the control of fungi on insect specimens)

* = nominated by BCG

These substances can be used for the treatment of specimens in museums and related buildings.

Full details of the conditions of use and authorised areas of use of the newly approved substances were published in the March issue of the Pesticides Register published jointly by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Ministry of

Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF), and available from HMSO and booksellers.

The use for fumigation of Carbon Dioxide has also received approval in respect of public hygiene and wood preservation use.

Mark Simmons

NEWS FROM BOLTON MUSEUM - a brief summary

What has been happening at Bolton? 1992 was a busy year. We are currently entering the final year of a three year old Urban Programme funded project to produce a gallery display on local wildlife. New displays are underway with a significant part of the budget devoted to educational materials and an activity centre for use by our visitors. Construction work has all been in-house (we have an excellent museum joiner) and it should be open in the summer of 1994! We have attempted to maintain the highest affordable standards throughout. After much deliberation we decided to use fibre-optic lighting. This is relatively expensive but has several advantages. One 150 watt power unit costs about £400, one 9-tail bundle of fibres about 2 metres long costs about £200 and replacement bulbs cost £45! This set-up will light two or three cases (depending on their size). The power units sit on top of the case and the cooling fan is very quiet. Bulbs can be changed without entering cases (oh bliss!) and if a unit breaks down it is replaced with a spare and sent away for repair. The only breakdown we have had was due to a thermal cut-out fuse blowing because the fan's dust filter became clogged - cost negligible. The light is cold, virtually UV-free and by moving the tails it can be positioned anywhere at any time! You can even fit colour filters, diffusers and mini spot-light lenses if necessary. By varying the number of tails used you can easily achieve 50 lux, 100 lux or whatever. We are very pleased with the system. It is also environmentally friendly because we now use less Watts of power for the gallery than before!

We have also used a 'Touch and Tell' touch-sensitive tape loop with a blackbird song recording on it. This was an experiment but is always the first thing that children run to use in the gallery! When we have installed the videos,