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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Title: Wants, Exchanges, Lost & Found

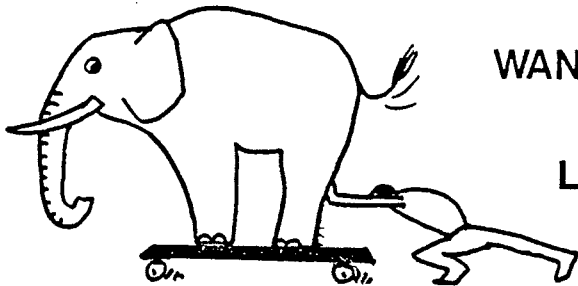
Author(s): James, T. J. & Legg, G.

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WANTS, EXCHANGES,

LOST & FOUND

Wardian Cases: a request for information

A recent enquiry about the precise form and appearance of these special glazed boxes for the cultivation of ferns prompts a plea for information. With the limited literature available on the subject here, evidently the Victorian fern craze developed a complex craft of cultivation techniques, one of the foremost of which was the development of these mini-greenhouses for ornamental as well as transport purposes. Most were probably quite straightforward structures of wood and glass, the glazed panels being partly removable. However, it appears that some of the decorative type at least were extremely ornamental, with metal glazing bars and finials etc.

Our enquirer is anxious to trace original drawings of these, as well as examples of the cases themselves, particularly the more ornamental ones designed for drawing rooms and window decorations. So far, he has only seen the rather prosaic ones which are retained by Kew, and which were used by them until the 1960's for the carriage of specimens from abroad. Any information would be gratefully received.

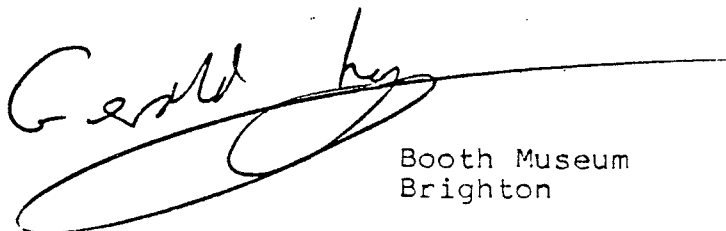
Trevor J. James, Keeper of Natural History  
North Herts Museums Service, Old Fire Station, High Street,  
Baldock Herts., SG7 6AR. (Baldock 894352)

COL. KERSHAW LEPIDOPTERA COLLECTION

I have recently been in touch with the daughter of the late Colonel S. H. Kershaw, Mrs. J. Wheeler, who lives in Brighton. Col. Kershaw apparently had an extensive and well set collection of British butterflies (and moths?) housed in top-quality cabinets. This collection was apparently given to a Mr. Sidney Humphrey of Pear Tree House, Roade, Northamptonshire. Does anyone know where this collection is now because Mrs. Wheeler has found the diaries associated with it which are now in my possession and should be re-united with the collection.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald Legg  
Keeper of Biology.



Booth Museum  
Brighton

### GREY WAGTAIL SPECIMEN WANTED

Grey Wagtail specimen wanted, preferably a frozen corpse, for new displays at Sheffield City Museum. Contact Steve Garland.

### COLEOPTERA COLLECTORS

Does anyone have any material collected by the following people. E.C.Bedwell (there are some of his specimens in the Kidson Taylor collection at Manchester)

J.T.Houghton

Stephen Pegler

W.E.Ryles

Rev.T.C.B.Chamberlain

All are mentioned in Carr's Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire (1916).

Details are required by our local Coleoptera recorder.

Contact Steve Garland, Sheffield Museum

### Notes for contributors....

I am very pleased with the quality of copy which I have received in recent years. These comments are supposed to be constructive, not criticisms, and may help to save time in producing the Newsletter (inherent laziness).

Firstly, I can get material typed but, due to our typists' normal duties, a large tome sent handwritten at the last moment may be impossible to include until the following issue. Also a typed copy, even if untidy and heavily corrected is, I am assured, far easier to type from than a handwritten one.

Secondly, a large proportion of the contributions are now produced on word processors using dot-matrix printers. These are usually very error-free because of the ease of editing them at your end. However I have had a few problems when the print is very pale. I have tried enhancing the tone on our photo-copier, but the enhanced white around each dot can render it almost illegible. In such cases print it all in heavier type if you have that facility.

Finally, with reference to word-processors again, if the lines are too long, or if the text is not in A4 page sized blocks then retyping may be necessary. If a one inch margin is left around the whole page there will be no problems. If your article is typed on a word-processor, why not store it on disc and let me know that when you send it. Then, if major alterations are needed, it can probably be performed at your end faster than here.

SG.