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Author(s): Norris, Adrian

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This fine publication is based on the collection of Lt. Col. C.T. Echaz who donated it to the people of Liverpool in 1907. In recent years, a great deal of interest has developed around the history of taxidermy and taxidermists and this volume introduces us to the work of four eminent taxidermists of the period, Cecil Bisshopp of Oban, William Rochford Hine, Thomas Pickin and Charles Thorp. The book also introduces us to the collector himself and his attachment to the Waterloo area of Liverpool as well as the history of the collection which became a central part of the displays at the newly established Waterloo Museum which opened in 1908. Bombing, vandalism, several moves and the vagaries of time have taken its toll on the collection and, unfortunately, it is now held in a basement store in Crosby. Why do all such collections end up in basements or attics?

Museums have long discussed the problems of the storage and display of Victorian cases of taxidermy and Adrian Sailor takes this opportunity to look at the acknowledged problems of such collections and puts forward some of the arguments for and against a long-term viable future for this interesting and important material. If this collection was truly acknowledged as the work of a series of important artist-craftsmen, (which it is), we would not need to discuss the collection's future, and funding would, undoubtedly, have been found to house and display this material in a proper manner. It would thus have taken its proper place as part of our collective and creative history. This book should be read by all who are in charge of important historic taxidermy.

Adrian Norris, Joint-chair, ICOM Nat. Hist. Working Group on the Art of Taxidermy and its Cultural Heritage Importance

NatSCA - Adhesives Seminar

Flett Training Room, Natural History Museum. October 8th 2008

The adhesives seminar will discuss which adhesives are best for certain jobs in natural sciences conservation work. We are planning to outline the various types available, new types on the market, old types that are either no longer suitable or which are still used.

We need to take into account longevity, discolouration, molecular cross-linking with substrates (good [for strength] or bad [alters composition of substrate]), molecular structure, physical strength and techniques that can ameliorate present adhesive-conservation technology.

This will involve lots of practical demonstrations.

For further information, please contact Simon Moore (simon.moor@hants.gov.uk)

For booking information, please contact Tony Irwin (tony.orwin@norfolk.gov.uk)