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STROMBUS LISTERI GRAY, 1852 (MOLLUSCA; GASTROPODA); MORALS TO BE LEARNT FROM DAMAGE TO ONE OF THE OLDEST KNOWN DOCUMENTED SPECIMENS - A RETROSPECTIVE VALUATION.

E. Geoffery Hancock

[See full paper below].

COLLECTIONS AS BIOGEOGRAPHICAL ARCHIVES.

Paul Harding, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE12 2LS

[Abstract awaited]

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH IN MOROCCO

Dr Oumnia Himmi, Scientific Institute, P.B. 703, Rabat-Agdal (Morocco)

The National Museum of Natural History has developed since 1920 a unique and irreplaceable collection of specimen lots in Botany, Zoology and Geology. These have been safely housed, safeguarded, documented and kept accessible.

These collections are an integral part of Morocco's natural heritage and will be preserved in trust for research and posterity. Hence the scientific staff is pursuing a variety of research subjects, encompassing a wide range of disciplines in the natural sciences.

Because of its richness, diversity and its natural types, our collections respond to all scientific demands both nationally and internationally. Cooperation is established with many universities in Morocco. Its purpose is to use collections and to share research knowledge for the resolution of environmental issues to enhance their productivity. Colleagues from abroad visit our collections or request information also.

The aim of the National Museum of Natural History is to provide creative scientific and economically viable solutions to environmental problems. The museum's data bank of treasures will be available to future generations.

Velson Horie see Dr Gary Cleland

THE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM OF FLORENCE AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC VALUE.

Chiara Nepi, Botanical Museum, Via La Pira 4, 50121 Florence, Italy.

One of the chief tools for the improvement in systematic information about plants continues to lie with the herbarium whose origin, as a "hortus siccus", dates from the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Apart from the importance of all these more or less recent collections of dried plant specimens for floristic, phytogeographic and more strictly systematic studies, many pre-eighteenth century herbaria, as well as those that are the result of the first expeditions to some regions (or even continents) hold particular importance either from a historical point of view or for scientific reasons, where they contain "type" material.

The Botanical Museum of Florence has, as well as the Herbarium Centrale Italicum (about 3.6 million specimens), numerous important historical collections. Of these, three herbaria can serve to illustrate in different ways the value of older collections.

The first is the Herbarium of Andrea Cesalpino (dated 1563). It is one of the most ancient herbaria in the world and, undoubtedly, the first to be organized according to a systematic principle.

The second is the Herbarium of Pier Antonio Micheli (1679-1737), comprising about 19,000 specimens (including those of Micheli and some of his pupil, G. Targioni Tozzetti), which is an important pre-Linnaean herbarium containing a large number of types. Linnaeus himself used Micheli's illustrations and descriptions extensively, and other botanists of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries referred to the specimens of this herbarium in the description of new species.

The third is the Herbarium of Philip Barker Webb (1793-1854), containing about 300,000 specimens and including, besides Webb's own important collections (from the Canaries, Madeira, etc.), numerous other collections such as those of Desfontaines (from Northern Africa), Labillardiere (from Australia, Syria, etc.), Ruiz and Pavon (from Peru, Chile, etc.) and Gardner (from Brazil, Ceylon), etc.

In this study the present scientific value of these historical collections is illustrated by some examples.

Vera Lucia I. Pittoni see Dr Maria Helena M. Galileo

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS

Ms Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

[See full paper below]

Dr Ian Wallace see Dr Gary Cleland

THE SOCIAL HISTORY VALUE OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS.

Graham Walley, Nottingham Natural History Museum, Wollaton Hall, Wollaton Park, Nottingham NG8 2AE and Chair of the Federation for Natural Science Collections Research - FENSCORE.

Collections of natural history specimens and information are the work of individual people - the collectors. It is suggested that collections have much to offer in the study of the social history as well as the natural history of the area, whether that be a county, region or country.