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BCG Activities 1979

In preparation for the AGM the Committee are considering a number of activities for next year. These are almost certain to include a follow-up to the 1977 collection survey and a membership drive, but other suggestions from members would be most welcome, addressed to the Chairman please.

International Conference on the history of museums and collections in natural history

London April 4-6 1979

There has been a most encouraging response, following the circulation of the leaflet on this conference, sponsored and organised by BCG, GCG and the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History. Already 170 replies asking for further details have been received, and as it will probably be necessary to restrict attendance to 200, anyone who has not replied is encouraged to do so as soon as possible (to Mrs. Judith Diment at the Palaeontology Library in the BM (Nat. Hist.), the organising secretary).

Even more pleasing has been the arrival of some 60 abstracts of papers for the Conference. They have a truly international coverage, with over 20 papers from the United States alone. A summary of titles is given below to give some idea of the scope of the conference but, as the organising committee has not yet undertaken the difficult task of selecting a programme, this is no guarantee that a particular paper will be read at the Conference, although we do hope to publish all suitable papers.

Summary of synopses submitted:

Species covered include Woodlice, the Large White, 18th and 19th century ornithological collections, Brazilian grasses and South African snakes.

Collectors dealt with are Lyell, Bright, Bradford Meek, the Sowerbys, Sloane, Banks, Buckland, Hooker, and Darwin's plant collections from the Beagle voyage.

Among museums surveyed in this country, The British Museum (Natural History) York, Liverpool and Edinburgh are prominent, with foreign contributions from Poland, Egypt, Canada, Spain, Germany, Vienna and many American museums.

Request for Information

W. Harcourt Bath, W. H. Nunney and J. Mearns collections

Any information on the whereabouts of the insect and other collections of these Naturalists would be welcome. Also any information on the men