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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Financial Year and the A.G.M.

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1978). Financial Year and the A.G.M.. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 1 No 10*, 4 - 5.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1598>

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issues of this nature on the grounds that museums and their collections were not under direct government control.

4. The issue, however, affects national, local authority, university and independent museums in this country. Further, whatever the political considerations, there are profound professional matters involved in these proposals which have never been debated in any detail by museum colleagues in this country. These include:

- (a) the accessibility of the world heritage to scholar and general public alike;
- (b) the implications of split systematic scholarly collections;
- (c) the extent to which a country receiving any returned material can maintain the necessary standards to ensure its preservation and security;
- (d) the impact that the availability of any international monetary fund to assist in the purchase of material might have on world art prices;
- (e) the legal implications of the removal of items from public collections

GDL
18.5.78

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FINANCIAL YEAR AND THE A. G. M.

At the September meeting of BCG Committee the problem of subscriptions was raised by the Treasurer, with a suggestion that the financial year be changed to run from January to December to encourage prompt payment. This was agreed by the Committee. This in turn influences the date of the AGM, originally planned for December with Manchester Museum as the venue. It is now proposed that the AGM will be held following the International Conference on Natural History Collections in April 1979 at the British Museum (Natural History). Provisional date for the AGM is Friday 6th April. See next Newsletter for confirmation.

Manchester Meeting - all day Seminar - Friday 1st December *Given form to IMG.
6.11.78*

This meeting has been planned to enable members to discuss BCG policy matters and propose motions for the AGM in April 1979. A number of issues were raised at the last AGM which never received the attention they deserved, and further matters have arisen since then. The current computing work being undertaken at Manchester is also of obvious interest, and Charles Pettit will provide an introduction to the system being used and its compatibility with other computer packages.

Members are asked to meet at the Manchester Museum at 11.00 a.m. Morning and afternoon sessions are envisaged, with a break for tea and biscuits in the afternoon. The meeting should end about 5 p.m. Anyone requiring advice on overnight accommodation are asked to telephone Mike Hounsome (061 273 3333 ext. 3129).

Committee 1979

Nominations are invited for members of BCG Committee for next year. All positions are open for election and there is no actual limit on the numbers on the committee (names of current officers and members can be seen inside the back cover of the Newsletter).

To date only Peter Morgan has expressed a wish to resign from his post as secretary, although he may be persuaded to stay on the committee. Until March the Chairman will be dealing with correspondence etc., so please send nominations to St. Albans, duly seconded and with the consent of the nominee.

Membership News

Belated congratulations to Jim Bateman on his move to Oxfordshire in July and to Peter Morgan, his successor at Cardiff (from September).

The Editor will be pleased to pass on news of members activities - movements, publications, expeditions etc.

Read any good papers lately ?

If so, why not inform other BCG members via the Newsletter ? The Editor would be delighted to receive short abstracts from other publications which may be of interest to the membership.

