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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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However these were not the only institutions to receive "Challenger" material as some items were obtained from experts identifying the specimens, members of the expedition crew or through subsequent re-dispersal from the original recipient institutions.

It is difficult to trace the movements of these specimens because of the number of individuals and institutions involved but I would be most grateful for any information on the present or past location of "Challenger" material if possible detailing the amount and type of material and how it was acquired.

Dr. P. F. Lingwood,
c/o Merseyside County Museums,
William Brown Street,
Liverpool.

Stauromedusae specimens

I would much appreciate the loan of any specimens for examination of any species of Stauromedusae (Haliclystus, Lucernaria etc) from U.K. or any other area, in connection with a revision of the world species of the Order and their distributions. I will of course return all specimens after examination and identification.

P. G. Corbin,
Marine Biological Association,
The Laboratory,
Citadel Hill,
Plymouth, PL1 2PB.

GOLDEN EAGLES AT BOLTON MUSEUM

The following extracts are from correspondence between the Museum and Betteridge, taxidermists of Birmingham, and show the unfortunate situation in which museums found themselves when wishing to acquire such specimens before bird protection legislation.

Betteridge to Museum, Feb 14 1924

I am pleased to tell you I have just received from a keeper at Aultbea one of the finest Golden Eagles I have seen, it is a shot specimen, perfect in every way, with a fine golden head, its throat is nearly black, chest is deep chestnut, and has not a white rump which indicates a good old specimen, and I am going to set it up for you in a manner which I feel sure you will be more than proud of. I have also heard by the same post from that keeper at Strathglass that he has killed a female Golden Eagle. He has written to me asking what price I am prepared to pay for same.....I feel sure this man from Aultbea will be of some use to us.

Museum to Betteridge, Feb 15 1924

.....I am pleased to hear of the Golden Eagles. They should make a fine group, but we shall be hard put to find suitable space for them.

Betteridge to Museum, Feb 23 1924

.....at last have been successful in getting that female Golden Eagle. I have had a lot of trouble with the man as he wants the money first. I have set them up and to my mind they are about the best pair of birds I have done. I am going to get Mr. Chase to come in next week as he is a very good judge, to get his opinion about them.

March 1 1924

I had Mr. Chase in yesterday and he congratulated me on the way I have set them up. He considers they are a grand pair of birds and would take a lot of beating.

Betteridge to Museum, March 21 1925

In reference to that Golden Eagle's job, I am sorry I omitted to give you the locality of the nest and female. It was taken at Achnevie, Dundonnell (by Garve) and as I promised the man who secured it for me that I would never mention his name in conjunction with it, I am duty bound to keep that promise. Mr. Chase has tried to tempt me for the benefit of a friend, but I have had to refrain from doing so, and as previously explained, to get these nests is a risky job, and I should not like to get this man in trouble.

Bill to Museum, Feb 10 1925

Setting up two Golden Eagles, supplying eggs and nest £38.10.0.

G. Hancock
Bolton Museum

ENTOMOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT

Members may be interested to know the address of a French entomological equipment supplier:-

Sciences Nat,
2 rue Andre Mellenne,
Venette,
60200 Compiègne,
France.

They offer a range of items not available in this county, for example die stamped mounting cards of standard sizes, continental height setting boards and spherical glass anti-spill fumigant cups on pins for store boxes etc.

Hildegard Winkler,
A-1180 WIEN,
Dittesgasse 11,
Vienna,

Also offer many items not available in Britain including die stamped cards and the full range of continental length pins (apparently the sole maker of these without forged heads).

J. Cooter
Natural History Dept.
Glasgow.

THE INSIDE STORY

This exhibition opened at Sunderland Museum at the end of April 1978, and provided an insight into the techniques used by taxidermists and featured some of the best examples of the art of taxidermy. The