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Collection made by Rev. Fr. Damian Webb, OSB from Oxford (mainly field trips) and from North Yorks. 1942

Collection made by Rev. Fr. Aidan Gilman OSB from Oxford, Suffolk, North Yorks, and Scotland. 1952

The remainder of the main collection is either local to Ampleforth or the results of various field trips from the College. In addition some material collected by myself. There are also some specimens collected in the Hereford area about 1870. These may have been collected by the same as the 1836 specimens. If this is so it should be possible to trace him. At that time the English Benedictine Congregation had a common noviciate at Belmont, and some of the senior priests from Ampleforth spent time down there.

In addition to the main collection there is a collection of 384 Alpine plants, collector unknown; a few species of plants from Gulmarg, Kashmir collected by myself in 1944; and a collection of about 100 specimens of Bryophyta as yet very roughly sorted.

There are certainly some interesting specimens such as Cypripedium calceolus from Eden Dene 1884- and one Gramineae labelled Stipa pennata 1835 from Garrow Hill. The latter I believe recorded about that time in the North of England, although as yet it has not proved possible to trace Garrow Hill.

The collection is obviously worth retaining and curating to the best of my ability. (I am a zoologist and not a systemic botanist so cannot claim to be able to check much of the taxonomy). We are not a public museum, but I have the College authority to show the collection to anyone seriously interested and would be delighted to do so for anyone who made an appointment. Moreover in time we hope to be able to relate the localities more accurately and eventually duplicate the catalogue with this information so that some records could be more easily consulted.

J. B. Davies
Senior Biology Master.

JOB CREATION AND BIOLOGICAL RECORDS AT CLIFTON PARK
MUSEUM, ROTHERHAM

The collection of information concerning the wildlife of the

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough has been regarded as an important part of the work of the Keeper of Natural Sciences since the post was created at Clifton Park Museum at the beginning of 1975. This information has been collected in a variety of ways, including the extraction of published records, the collection of records from local naturalists and active fieldwork. The last of these has also resulted in many specimens being added to the Museum's collections.

During 1976 an application was submitted to the Manpower Services Commission for a team of survey technicians to assist with this work. The application was eventually accepted and three honours graduates were selected from a list of nearly 100 applicants and they began work in November 1976.

The survey consisted of a number of separate, though related, pieces of work. A far more intensive literature search was conducted, using references in the files of Sheffield City Museum as a starting point, with the result that the information for the period before 1975 is now much more comprehensive. The information already in the records of the Sheffield City Museum, the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery and the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union were assembled on to our site records, whereas in the other organisations they were filed under taxonomic group. These two aspects of the work were mainly conducted during the 1976/77 winter, so that the information was available in time for the summer collecting season.

Fieldwork was of two types. The Museum receives a weekly summary of planning applications in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough (averaging about 100 per week) a few of which involve some change of land use. These may be derelict urban sites or farmers' fields (euphemistically called 'green field sites') to be used for housing developments or factories, disused quarries required for tipping or larger areas needed for opencast coalmining. The survey technicians checked through each list and identified the ones which involved such a land use change, obtained more detailed information from the Rotherham Planning Department and went out to each site to survey it. In a small number of cases during the year the sites were considered to be of sufficient natural history value for us to submit an objection to the proposed development or to suggest modifications to it. In all cases our specimen collections and site records were improved by the additional information which was collected.

The second aspect of the survey developed largely as a result of the interests of the team, and became a systematic survey of the Borough's woodlands. Approximately 70% of the woodlands were surveyed and the resulting information is being examined and assessed.

The survey team consisted of one botanist (Jon Watson) and two

zoologists (Jane Addey and Pam Stenton). Jon was trained in phytosociology at Cambridge and assessed each woodland from that point of view, in addition to compiling a plant species list. He is also interested in bryophytes and birds, and so added to our collections of the former and our records of both groups. Jane took up the study of centipedes and woodlice while Pam concentrated on the spiders and harvestmen, in addition to them both collecting other groups such as earthworms, insects and molluscs. Approximately half the summer months were taken up with collecting and surveying, and the other half in identifying specimens and adding information to the records.

As a result of this 12 month project the amount of information in the Museums site records increased considerably, more than doubling the information collected in the previous two years. Species lists and local distribution maps (on 1 km squares) were started for a number of groups, and papers on the millipede and centipede fauna of South Yorkshire were prepared for publication in a local journal. There is still a great deal of unidentified material awaiting identification, but this backlog is slowly diminishing with help from a few outside experts. Adrian Norris of Leeds City Museum has kindly identified many of the molluscs which were collected, and local experts on lepidoptera and tachinid flies have helped willingly.

Following the success of this project a further application was made to the M. S. C. to survey disused and unused sites, and eventually this application was also approved. Two zoologists (Margaret Crittenden and David Twigg) and a geologist (Malcolm Wignell) have recently been appointed, and a botanist is being sought. Margaret is an expert in the identification of water mites, and has also taken on the spiders, harvestmen and pseudoscorpions while David is an angler and interested in freshwater life. He is now dealing with nymphs of insects such as the mayflies, caddisflies and dragon flies and the project is concentrating on those pieces of disused land which happen to be under water. The selection and checking of planning applications continues as before.

The Job Creation Projects have been a great benefit to this Museum. In return for a reasonable input of time on my part at the beginning of each one, in order to explain what is wanted and why, the survey teams have been collecting a large number of specimens and records. The members of the teams have contributed their ideas on the collection and storage of the information and the system has benefitted from these ideas. Their expertise in the identification of specimens has resulted in many additional records being added and this expertise has occasionally been made available to Doncaster and Sheffield Museums as well. A number of local and rare animals have been found and a few of them are new vice-county and county records and the important ones have been forwarded to the relevant recorders in the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. As a result,

the advantages of the project have been felt by the wider natural history movement as well as by this Museum.

Bill Ely,
Keeper of Natural Sciences
Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham.

THE WILLIAM BEAN SHELL COLLECTION - WOOD END MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, SCARBOROUGH

William Bean (1787-1866) inherited land known as Bean's Gardens (a mixture of market garden and pleasure garden situated between Huntriss Row and Pavilion Square, Scarborough) from his father but took little interest in their maintenance. By 1816 the gardens no longer existed, having been sold for building purposes, and Bean presumably became financially secure as a result of their sale. There is no evidence that he had any other occupation - in 1814 on joining the Old Globe Lodge he was described as 'Gardener' but shortly after that date he was described as 'Gentleman' or 'Naturalist' - and after 1816 he seems to have devoted himself to the study of natural history and public service as a long serving member of the Town Council, Alderman and leader of the local Liberal party for many years.

In his early years he seems to have been particularly interested in entomology and botany. No entomological collections seem to have survived but his botanical specimens were donated to the Yorkshire Museum, York by his son Eugene in 1923. In 1824 Bean started his geological collection which was sold to the British Museum in 1859 for £500. However his collection of shells remained in the family until Bean's last surviving son Eugene died in 1926 when they were bought by the Scarborough Philosophical and Archaeological Society. Because of lack of space in an already crowded museum, the contents of four of the seven cabinets purchased were merged into the others.

The collection is made up of Land, Freshwater and Marine species of mollusca collected on a world wide basis. It is again housed in seven cabinets as well as a large number of storage boxes and has at some time been amalgamated with the collections of J. Linton, Old Mill House, Normanby, Northallerton; William Gyngell of Scarborough and Mr. Laverack of Malton, North Yorkshire. There are also numbers of specimens presented by such collectors as Charles Oldham, John W. Tayler, Sir R. Nawson, Ferrussac, Dr. Turton and Captain and Mrs. Hartley.