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BIOLOGY CURATORS GROUP

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 1977

TOWARDS A NATIONAL PLAN FOR NATURAL HISTORY

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EDITORS NOTE

This may seem a rather extravagant way of circulating yet another questionnaire but the B.C.G. Committee felt that the importance of this survey was such that the expense was justified and that an explanation was needed.

Essentially this exercise stems from the discovery that the Working Party on the National Plan for Museums, set up by the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, was having some difficulty with Natural History because of the lack of published data in some fields, and was still able to accept further "evidence". Peter Morgan, B.C.G. Honorary Secretary, consulted with the Chairman and devised the idea of a survey of collections; extracts of the resulting letter to the Standing Commission are included below.

The B.C.G. Committee met on 5th April and agreed to the production of this special Newsletter to accompany the questionnaire. Some notes on the background to the National Plan are included, and notes on the questionnaire format. We have also taken this opportunity to include the full programme of the B.C.G. Conference in September - particularly appropriate in view of its theme.

A current list of members is also included, and I have been asked to point out that, in view of Conference expenses, it is "non-u" to be "U".

In spite of the unseemly rush to send out this Newsletter, and the need for a quick return of the completed Questionnaire, members should bear in mind that the body of data we should assemble, and the use we put it to, is very much at the root of what this Curators Group is all about.