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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Saturday 0930 Natural History Museum publications  
1100 Coffee  
1130 The literature relating to natural history  
museums  
1300 Lunch  
1400 Discussion  
1500 Mock practical for Diploma Students

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#### COLLECTIONS AS BEQUESTS

Occasionally over the years I have been told by keen amateur naturalists, "I don't know where my insect collection should go when I am no longer here. I suppose it ought to go to the Natural History Museum".

Now I know well enough that the BM(NH) has far more British macrolepidoptera than it needs and will not receive another collection with great enthusiasm. I was recently sounded out about a collection of British butterflies built up over many years, with many named varieties, in immaculate condition. As they are mostly from the south of England they are not of primary interest for our Zoology Museum here which already has about 150 drawers of Lepidoptera. I was not able to offer any suggestion as to the best home for these insects.

Recently I was reading in the current 'National Trust' publication an article on the National Art-Collections Fund. I was most interested to read the following:

"So often a collector is not sure where to leave his precious possessions, and the museum he knows may only be interested in some of his works of art. The NACF through its contacts with museums throughout the country and the Trust can advise where the objects would best be placed and appreciated".

This suggests the possibility that the BCG could set up an informal system which would not only help collectors find a final resting place for their treasured collections, but also give museum natural history departments the chance to publicise desiderata and draw attention to under-represented sections in their own collections. As a start, could anyone suggest a good home for the Lepidoptera referred to above?

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