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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Two Museums for the Price of One

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Source: Mathias, J. (1989). Two Museums for the Price of One. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 5 No 1, 4.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/863>

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TWO MUSEUMS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

When I first saw this title on a BM(NH) press release I thought the government was going to run the Natural History Museum and the Geological Museum on the same amount of money it normally provides for one of them. BUT NO. The slogan is promoting the opening of a new link between the two museums so now both can be visited on a single ticket. The joint ticket costs £2.00 full rate, £1.00 half rate and (I quote) 'just £5.00 for all the family (up to 2 adults and 4 children)'. The times when entry is FREE are also given: Monday to Friday 16.30 - 18.00; Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 17.00 - 18.00; children under 5 are free as are pre-booked school parties (UK only).

John Mathias
Editor



THE CONSERVATION UNIT

The following important information has been received from the Conservation Unit of the Museums and Galleries Commission

CONSERVATION UNIT GRANT PROGRAMME 1989-90

Applications are invited for grants from The Conservation Unit for the financial year 1989-90. The main grant headings are:

UK Conferences

Grants are available to assist with the costs of attending conservation conferences within the UK. Normally only a partial contribution can be made. The closing date for applications, which must be made on a form available from The Unit, is one month prior to the date of the conference.

Overseas Travel

Grants are available to assist with the costs of attending conferences overseas; and with the costs of study tours to laboratories, studios and workshops. Normally only a partial contribution can be made. The closing date for applications will normally be two months prior to the conference or the tour. Application forms are available from The Unit for overseas conferences, but application for study tour assistance should be made by letter, with full documentation, including a CV and two references.

Equipment

The Unit is able to assist with the purchase of conservation equipment. This may include equipment for inspection, and for measures to improve health and safety. Area Museum Councils are empowered to help with the

purchase of equipment for conservation laboratories in museums and galleries. Therefore, in order to make the most effective use of the limited sums available, and other than in exceptional circumstances, grants from The Unit will only be available to applicants from the private sector. Applications on forms available from The Unit must be submitted by 1 February 1989.

Publications

The Unit may be able to contribute to the costs of publication of conservation literature. Intending applicants are advised to send a letter of enquiry in the first place. Final proposals will be required by 1 February 1989.

Exhibitions

A small sum is available to assist with the preparation of exhibitions which promote conservation to a wider audience. Intending applicants should send a letter of enquiry in the first instance and final proposals will be required by 1 February 1989.

Conservation Research

Conservation scientists who successfully apply to SERC for a CASE studentship may be able to have their institution's contribution paid by The Conservation Unit. A sum has been set aside for this purpose and The Unit would welcome advance warning of any such CASE application, at which stage we should be able to indicate the likelihood of such assistance being available. The critical dates will be those for application to SERC.

Internships

The Unit will be offering post-primary internships for those who have recently completed formal conservation courses; and also advanced internships for those already having had some years of experience and who would benefit from a period of work alongside a senior conservator. Post-primary internships will be allocated with the assistance of training course directors who will be separately informed and applications should not be made to The Unit. Advanced internships, which will be in selected specialisms only, will be advertised at a later date. We are not currently inviting applications.

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Note: Biologists and biological conservators and technicians CAN APPLY, and it is important that they DO APPLY. We should accept our share of government monies made available through The Unit!