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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Title: Autumn Meeting in Devon

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Source: Lee, J. (1989). Autumn Meeting in Devon. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 5 No 3, 35.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/908>

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THE LINNEAN, which is the Newsletter for the Linnean Society of London, carries some substantial articles as well as the news, reviews and coming attractions for Society members. These are often concerned with the history of the Society, biographical snippets on its past members and that kind of thing. In Volume 5 no 1 (January 1989) John Edmondson has written an informative piece on the Bullock family, whose most celebrated member was William Bullock, museological entrepreneur of Birmingham, Liverpool and London (the 'Eggyptian Hall') in the first half of the nineteenth century. As well as describing the flamboyance of Bullock's life the article brings together information on the origins of his specimens (some of which were from Cook's voyages, others early material from Australia) and their dispersal. Essential reading for anyone interested in the history of natural history museums, not least for the comparisons John makes between the entrepreneurial activities of Regency collectors and showmen and those of museum directors today.

John Mathias  
Editor

## Programme

### AUTUMN MEETING IN DEVON

October 26 to 29 at the Hallsannery Field Centre, Bideford, Devon.

Theme: MARINE COLLECTIONS - their care, conservation and importance.

This is the first seminar BCG has held on marine collections, and the first to be held in Devon. The purpose of the seminar is to highlight the importance and value to the scientific community of marine collections - as evidenced by recent water quality surveys, the fragile nature of estuarine ecosystems and the massive expansion in the marine leisure industry.

Materials, techniques and applications from the conservation repertoire will be examined for their value to the care of marine collections - some of these may be new to many natural scientists. The public interest in marine topics (eg whales) and the potential of marine collections for education will also be featured.

A number of excursions to places of interest in Devon have been organised both before and after the seminar.

### PROGRAMME

Thursday 26 October Arrive Hallsannery

6.30 Sherry  
7.00 Dinner

Friday 27 October

8.00-9.00 Breakfast  
9.00-9.15 Introduction  
9.15-10.15 Diversity in Marine Collections. Care and Curation of Microscopical Material.  
P Boyd, Museums Officer, North Devon Museums Service.  
10.15-10.45 Conservation and some useful applications for Biology.  
R and H Jaeschke, Conservators, North Devon.  
11.45-12.45 Marine Algae and the Collections of the Marine Biological Association.  
Dr G Boalch, Bursar, Marine Biological Association, Plymouth.  
12.45-2.00 Buffet Lunch and Bar  
2.00-3.00 Whales in Devon: the Museum Context.  
K Boot, Senior Curator, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.  
3.00-6.00 Estuary Cruise  
6.30-7.30 Dinner  
8.00 Guest Evening Speaker  
F Ching, Director, Taiwan Museum of Natural History.

Saturday 28 October

8.00-9.00 Breakfast  
9.00 Depart Hallsannery to visit the new Museum of North Devon, Branstaple.  
12.00 Visit to Braunton Burrows National Nature Reserve.  
Introduction by Reserve Warden, J. Breeds.  
6.00-7.30 Dinner  
8.00 Guest Evening Speaker  
Professor R Tait, Marine Biologist.

There is the possibility of a cruise to Lundy Island on MS Oldenburg. Two hour ship time each way, weather dependent. Cost about £10. Thursday 26th from Ilfracombe 10.30 to return about 6pm.

Excursions for Sunday 29 October

Visit and buffet at the Natural History Book Service, Totnes. Mr B Mercer has offered delegates a 10% discount and will arrange to have available for viewing books of special interest. Requests in advance please 0803 365913.

Whale exhibition private view, at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

Totnes and Exeter are on the 125 Intercity train route and linked to M5.

Jerry Lee  
North Devon Museum, Barnstaple