



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1990). Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 5 No 6, 73 - 74.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/971>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

Information

Sunflower Campaign

Shopping List

As the next stage in the **Sunflower Campaign** we are going to publish a shopping list of requirements for the storage, curation, conservation and study of biology collections. (Not including displays, exhibitions or biological records centres.) Simply jot down on a scrap of paper all your large scale urgent requirements, and all your small scale urgent requirements with an approximate cost. For example:

Large Scale

- Visitor study area with facilities
£40,000
- New biology store to replace leaky old building
£500,000
- Ten new insect units to accommodate new material
£8,000
- Conservator for one year to work on bird skins
£15,000

Small Scale

- Additional stereomicroscope for use by visitors
£1,200
- A set of essential reference books on insects
£450
- A microscope slide cabinet
£800
- A drawer unit for small skeletons
£80

The aim is to grasp some idea of current requirements to bring biology collections and study facilities up to scratch. We will then lobby hard for more 100% grants, and for local authorities and industry to find matching money for 50% and 70% grants.

This is the next phase in the **Sunflower Campaign**. It is **IMPORTANT**. Do it now! It should only take a few minutes of your time. (If you wish to remain anonymous simply enter the name of your AMC eg AMSEE - area museum.)

Send your shopping list to:

Biology Curators Group
c/o City Museum
Sheffield S10 2TP

Initiative Money (or Sunflower Money)

How is it being spent?

The extra £75,000 allocated by MGC to biology collections is a good shot, with a promise of more to come. But how is it being spent? Yorkshire and Humberside AMC has made £20,000 gross available in the form of 70% grant aid for a RECAP project (Reclassification of Collections Access Project). The objective is to make sections of unaccessible collections accessible by sorting into scientific order. During 1990/91 entomology collections have been given priority status. What is happening elsewhere? Are your collections benefitting? BCG is monitoring the situation. Keep us in touch.

New Leaflet

Your committee is working on a new campaign leaflet to keep things on the boil. We are seeking additional sponsorship and hope to print 10,000 copies on recycled paper by the late winter/early spring.

Derek Whiteley
BCG Secretary

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization including individuals within the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology and others who are interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. Preservation refers to any direct or indirect activity providing continued or improved care of these collections and supporting documentation.

The Society publishes a journal and a newsletter, each of which is distributed twice a year. The Society also conducts an annual meeting that includes presentations, posters, workshops, and other activities. Individual membership to SPNHC can be acquired by supplying the details listed below and

sending a cheque or money order for \$15 (payable in US currency) to: SPNHC, 5800 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206-3706, USA.

Details required: full name; institution; address; discipline; area of activity (eg administration, collection care, education, exhibits, research); special interests.

Museums and Galleries Commission Report 1988-89

A glossy and colourful 92 page account of the MGC and its agencies recently arrived in the BCG postbag. Biology features a little more than in the previous year, and there is even a photograph of a senior taxidermist at work on a sparrowhawk.

Appendices providing precise details of grant are summarised below:

Administered by the V&A Museum	£1,043,166
Administered by the Science Museum	£147,887
amount spent on Biology	£250
Museum Conservation grants	£0
(£179,935 in 1987-88)	
amount spent on Biology	£0
Conservation Unit grants	£88,228
amount spent on Biology	£250
Capital Grants	£350,250
amount spent on Biology	£5,000

Note - some general stores and grants to attend UK Conferences will have a biology component, but are not included in the above figures.

Once again these statistics make interesting reading to say the least. Despite a slight drop in V&A administered grants and a slight increase in Science Museum administered grants, there is still a massive disparity between the 'arts' and 'sciences'. Conservation Unit grants have doubled, but biologists seem to be slow on the uptake.

Nevertheless these figures are depressing. What is going on? Art museums, industrial museums, science museums, social history museums and applied art museums are finding the money. Over £10,000 was granted to geology. We await the next report with interest!

Derek Whiteley
BCG Secretary
[NB see 'Initiative Money' elsewhere in this issue]

F W Frohawk, his life and work

F W Frohawk (1861-1946) was a Victorian naturalist and fine illustrator who is best known, indeed revered, amongst entomologists for his classic work on British butterflies. Through the kindness of his daughter Valezina, Viscountess Bolingbroke, I was able to put on a museum display of his work which developed into a book. Frohawk was a man of many parts and the book follows his childhood in East Anglia, the countryside immediately outside London, wildlife on the London commons, his art work at London Zoo, a long career illustrating and editing for *The Field*, a similar long association with the British Museum and its scientific staff, a range of techniques in art work which half tone printing made possible for use in books, recollections of places, people and events over 100 years ago from Frohawk's unpublished memoir and many illustrations of his work from rough sketches to final art work for book illustration.

This book was published in 1987, but has now been made out-of-print and as author I have bought up the remainder stock. Therefore signed copies of this colourful and well produced hardback book are available at a greatly reduced price. They can be obtained by post from Dr June Chatfield, Anglefield, 44 Ashdell Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2TA for £7.50 including postage. The previous price was £20.

Stop Press Sheffield Under Threat!

Amongst the Director of Museums' proposals to 'redress the budget' for 1990/91, one post is to go from the Natural Sciences Section at Sheffield City Museum before the end of the current financial year.

The Natural Sciences Section has a staff of four plus two members of the City Ecology Unit, and includes Derek Whiteley, Secretary of BCG.

Source: Sheffield NALGO