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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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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printing made possible for use in books, recollections of places, people and events over 100 years ago from Frohawk's unpublished memoir and many illustrations of his work from rough sketches to final art work for book illustration.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