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## NSCG Newsletter

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## Conservation Project Reaches Milestone

In 1992 a project was launched to conserve the Roylean herbarium held at Liverpool Museum. John Forbes Royle amassed the core of the collection between 1823 and 1831 when he was superintendent of the Saharanpur Botanic Garden in India. There are also examples of material from as early as the 1760's. Most of the specimens were gathered in the Himalayas but later Royle added plants from South Africa, Siberia and Chile.

Royle's widow donated the herbarium to the Liverpool Royal Institution after his death in 1859. However, it was effectively lost to science until it was rediscovered among the remnants of the Institution's museum in 1952. In the 1990's it was decided to launch two projects to conserve and document this important historical collection.

The collection was in very poor condition. Conservators from the Paper Section of NMGGM and curators collaborated to arrive at a method in which to proceed with the project. This successfully combined the knowledge and standards of paper conservation with the techniques of plant mounters and the requirements for use by researchers.

At the outset of the project it was thought that there were a possible 100 Type specimens within the collection. After intensive re-curation, following conservation, it is now estimated to contain over 600.

In the first week of September this year the 10,000<sup>th</sup> specimen was conserved (the collection possibly contains 13,000) by Aileen Collis, Assistant Conservator. To celebrate this milestone, an event was organised to re-unite all the staff, past and present, who have worked as conservators or curators on the collection. The local press were invited to view the 10,000<sup>th</sup> specimen (*Cyperus corymbosus*) along with other parts of the collection.

Details of the methods used in this project can be found in:

**Walker, N. & Hughes, D. (1994)** The Royle Herbarium - a Conservation Approach, in Child, B. (ed) *Conservation and the Herbarium*. The Institute of Paper Conservation: Leigh. ISBN 0 9507268 6 9

Donna Hughes

## New Publications

### Pest Management in Museums

The Museums & Galleries Commission (MGC) has published *Integrated Pest Management*. The aim of the book is to provide practical, safe and cost-effective advice on the prevention and control of pests in museums.

*Integrated Pest Management* explains how a museum can protect its collections, furnishings and buildings from harm by pests. It describes how to prevent infestations and how to control them should they occur. The book also includes lists of useful addresses, suppliers and publications.

Peter Winsor, Collection Care Officer at the MGC commented: "*Integrated Pest Management* is an illustrated book which clearly outlines how to devise and implement a non-invasive, ongoing IPM system. The IPM approach has considerable advantages regarding health and safety, and is less harmful to both humans and the environment."

*Integrated Pest Management* is available from MGC Publications priced £6.00 plus £1.25 p&p (UK), £2.50 (Overseas). Cheques should be made payable to the Museums & Galleries Commission and all orders should be sent to: MGC Publications, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AA. Alternatively, e-mail [n.poole@mgcuk.co.uk](mailto:n.poole@mgcuk.co.uk) or telephone 0171 233 4200.

### Cost/benefits Appraisals for Collection Care

MGC has also published *Cost/benefits Appraisals for Collection Care - A practical guide*. This publication demonstrates how museums can move away from collection care decisions based solely on cost, towards a more equitable assessment of the benefits of different decisions. This tool is designed to help balance the cost of collection care with the need for a commitment to the long-term survival of museum collections.