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The Biology Curator

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how could I ever face coming into work if I knew that I would never be reintroduced to the exciting, devastatingly interesting and unforgettable elephant hawkmoth caterpillar.

Steve Garland, Bolton Museum.

Committee News: Steve Thompson reports: Your committee has been pursuing its usual activities, supporting collections and posts at risk, organising excellent and well attended meetings, promoting training and working with other groups. However, committee itself has been having some problems, mainly due to ever-increasing workloads of its members. The last committee meeting was therefore given over principally to looking at committee and its operation, particularly at editorial issues and cell activity.

It is clear that it is very difficult for one person to handle the editorial task, and both Bill Pettitt and Mike Taylor have expressed their intention to pass the job on after the current issue. Anyway, for the last two years, it has been decided to establish a team to handle editorial work, though the team itself has to be finalised. It will take over after this issue of TBC, with its first issue to appear in mid-May.

The cell structure of committee is to remain in place, but their roles are to be more carefully defined. In addition they are to be given clearer direction by committee, will need to meet deadlines and report back, both to committee and the AGM, and more effort will be put into getting the members of the group as a whole involved, both in working in a cell, and putting information in. Details of the cells, their activities and principal contacts should be published in the May TBC.

We hope that these things will make the committee and BCG as a whole, more effective in the future. In the meantime, three people are standing down from committee at or by the AGM, Rosina Down, Mike Taylor and Bill Pettitt. Officer posts that will become vacant are Chairman and Editor. Committee will have nominees for the first two. Volunteers for committee are welcomed and encouraged. Seconded nominations to the Secretary please by 16 April.

Notice of AGM: 30 April, see Diary Dates below.

"Keeper of the Archives" !: I have been asked to act as the archivist for BCG. If you feel you have any items to add to the archive (particularly committee documents), please send them to me at the following address: Clare Valentine, Invertebrates 1 (Porifera), Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. 0171 938 9252. e-mail cv@nhm.ac.uk.

I also hold issues of the following journals that we have received in exchange for the BCG Newsletter from other societies:

Association of Systematic Collections Newsletter

Vol.20, no.5 (Oct. 1992) to date [Vol.23, no.3 (June 1995)].

(Issues up to 1991 held by John Mathias, Leicester Museum).

Special Issues:

America's Systematic Collections: A National Plan. December 1973.

Guidelines for Acquisition & Management of Biological Specimens.

A Report of the Participants of the Conference on Voucher Specimen Management. May 1992.

G.C.G Newsletter – Vol.2, no.8 (1980) to Vol.5, no.5 (1988) + Index to Vol.2 (1990). (Vol.4, nos.4,6 & 7 missing.)

Coprolite – No.11, May 1993 & No.18 Nov.1995 only.

(Some earlier issues held by Steve Garland, Bolton Museum).

Guild of Taxidermists – Volumes 23 & 24 only.

Scottish Society for Conservation & Restoration Journal – Vol.1, No.1 (Feb. 1990) to date (Vol.5, No.2)

Issues of the Bulletin & Newsletter held by John Mathias.

I also have a copy of *The Manual of Natural History Curatorship* 1995 edited by Geoff Stansfield & John Mathias that the Group was given as a review copy.

If anyone requires photocopies of any of the above, please contact me for a quote.

Natural Sciences Conservation Group: The first newsletter of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group is hot of the press and is winging its way to members. The first newsletter contains a bibliography of current articles relevant to natural sciences conservators, three articles on the Tenth Annual SPNHC Meeting and Herbarium Workshop held in Toronto this year, and a review of the

Collection Risks Assessment Workshop, organised by the Natural Sciences Conservation Group and run by the Canadian Museum of Nature, held at Museums Association Conference at Leicester University in September.

As well as members of the new Natural Sciences Conservation Group all members of the old UKIC Natural Sciences Section will also receive this first issue. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter and you are not already a member or wish to join the new Natural Sciences Conservation Group annual subscription to the group are: UK personal £10, Overseas personal £15, UK Institutional £25 (1 set of publications plus 3 membership rate places at meetings), Overseas Institutional £35 (1 set of publications plus 3 membership rate places at meetings). Annual subscriptions will be due in April. Because the new group is forming in the middle of the year however, the first subscription fee will cover years 95/96 and 96/97, finishing in April 1997. For this period only the subscription rates will be slightly higher: UK personal, £12, Overseas personal, £18, UK Institutional, £30, Overseas Institutional, £42.

Cheques, in sterling, should be made payable to Natural Sciences Conservation Group and sent to: Kate Andrew, Natural Sciences Conservation Group, c/o Ludlow Museum, Old Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NW.

DIARY DATES

27-28 Mar 1996. Natural Sciences Conservation Group Annual General Meeting – Ipswich Museum. 'Preventative Conservation and Natural Sciences Collection Care'.

Papers and short talks are required. Meeting will consist of a programme of talks followed by the AGM on Wednesday 27th and an optional visit to Colchester Museum on Thursday 28th.

Speakers include: The control of acidity in formaldehyde solutions being used for the preservation of fish parasitology material – Julian Carter, Zoological Conservator, National Museum of Wales; Setting up a myco herbarium – Simon Moore, Hampshire County Museums Service; St Kilda explored – an interactive exhibition, Glasgow Museum; Keynote speaker to be announced.