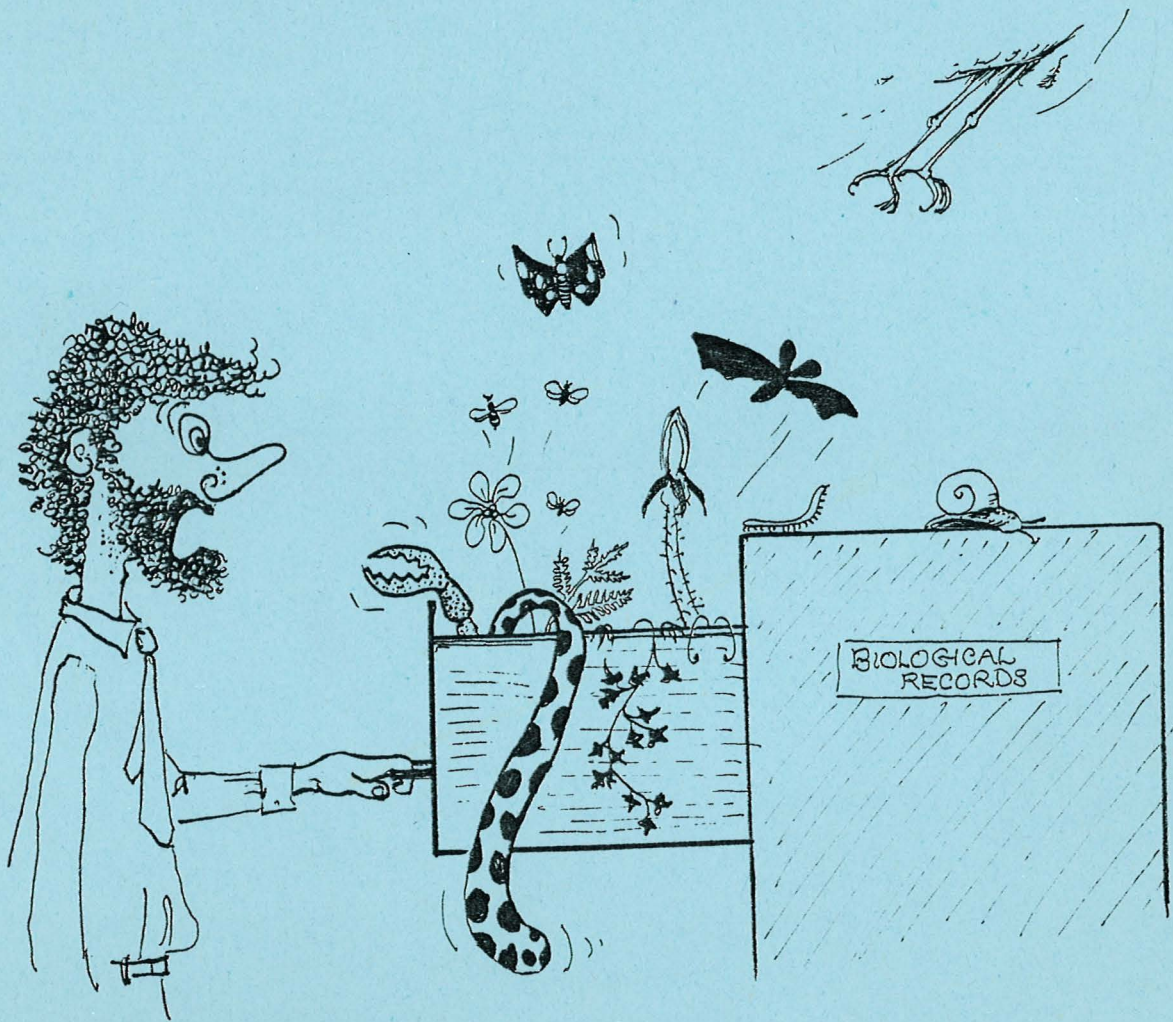


BCG

JULY
1977

Newsletter No.6 of the Biology Curators Group



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Editor's Notes

There is no coherent theme in this Newsletter but there are a number of loose ends to be tidied up before the plethora of Conferences in the next few months. The Liverpool papers stem from various Job Creation Schemes and are published en masse partly because the schemes are nearing completion and also as a contrast to the other activities reported in this Newsletter.

It is good to see so many requests for information - I hope the membership will respond.

The AGM is provisionally planned for Saturday December 3rd (to follow the Monks Wood meeting of Record Centres) at a London venue and will also have sessions on 'the prevention of biodeterioration in museum collections' (to cover new materials and new legislation).

(C) BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP
1977

PRODUCED BY ST. ALBANS
MUSEUMS AND THE CITY AND
DISTRICT OF ST. ALBANS.

Cover after P.Davis (Sunderland)

Rare Breeds at Shugborough

Shugborough Park Farm was built in the early 19th century, probably to the design of one of the Wyatt family, as home farm for the Anson estate. It is a typical model estate farm of the period, built around a rectangular courtyard and incorporating an agent's house, cattle sheds, granary, water-powered corn mill, malt-house and greenhouse. No fodder storage was provided as this was available at White Barn, a group of buildings some 400 yards away, now used as a storage area by the County Estates Department.

The farm remained the Home Farm until the mid 19th century when the buildings and land were let to a tenant. Shugborough Park Farm then remained a tenanted holding until some two years ago. The land then passed to the County Estates Department who let it on annual grazing tenancies, and the buildings eventually came to the County Museum in 1974.

The Museum had been collecting agricultural material for ten years and was urgently in need of display and storage areas for these collections. The opportunity of acquiring such an appropriate setting in which to display some of this material seemed too good to miss.

The County Council have made small sums of money (£5000 in the current financial year) available for the restoration of the buildings and this work is being carried out by the Museum's technical staff, with help from a number of school leavers employed under the Manpower Services Commission's "Job Creation Scheme". It is estimated that the restoration of the buildings will take approximately five years.

The livestock side of the project is funded on a voluntary basis, apart from the provision of labour by the County Council, and small amounts from the existing museum estimates for the "Purchase of Exhibits", which have been spent on stock purchases.

The livestock project arose from important connections between Shugborough, and Staffordshire, and a number of rare breeds. At the time the farm was built, Shugborough was the home of a particularly fine herd of Longhorn cattle, which came from Fowler of Little Rollright, via Coke of Norfolk, whose daughter Ann Margaret married into the Anson family and probably encouraged their interest in agriculture.

In addition, we are only a few miles from Chartley Castle, the former home of the famous herd of White Park cattle which left the county for Bedfordshire in 1905, and the possibility of displaying these cattle had been under consideration for some time before the farm became available.

Staffordshire is also the home of the Tamworth pig, probably the rarest of British pig breeds, and we had come into contact with Mr. Jos Holland, now over 80 years of age, and at that time the only breeder of Tamworth's left in the county, in the course of our collecting activities.

Finally, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in which Shugborough is situated includes Cannock Chase, and the tan-faced Cannock Heath sheep kept on the Chase in enormous numbers in the 18th century, and illustrated and described by Pitt in his "Agriculture of the County of Stafford" in 1791, were the direct ancestors of the modern Shropshire, a Down breed currently very close to the danger level.

Thus, we had on our doorstep two breeds of cattle, and one each of sheep and pigs, all of local historical importance, all very rare and in need of investigation and preservation.

The County Land Agent indicated that he would be prepared to release, at a suitable rent, some of the parkland adjacent to the farm buildings - up to a maximum for the present of 41 acres - and certain of the farm buildings could be fairly easily converted to house the stock. The only things missing were the necessary cash and, apart from myself, the staff needed to care for the animals.

We were fortunate in overcoming the second problem by appointing Bob Watson-Smith as Caretaker of Shugborough Park Farm. It was obvious that adding such a large area to the museum buildings would necessitate additional caretaking staff and, though at the time we had no clear idea of where the cash would come from, we specified in our advertisement that the Caretaker "could have to care for livestock at some point in the future". Bob came to us from Herefordshire College of Agriculture, Holme Lacey, in July, 1975, and shortly after Christmas was giving up his weekends to help conduct a nine-month old Longhorn bull on an extended tour of local boozers to publicise the project and help raise the necessary cash!

Together we are now responsible for eight cattle, twenty-four pigs, seven sheep and seventeen poultry, which brings me to my first warning - livestock projects grow very rapidly. Despite stating very clearly from the commencement of the project that we were confining our efforts strictly to the breeds already mentioned, Tamworth pigs, Shropshire sheep, Longhorn and White Park cattle, plus Redcap and Old English Game fowls, I have so far had great difficulty persuading various people that I do not want, even as a gift, Wild boars, Fallow and Red deer, Jacob and Dorset Down sheep, Lop rabbits and sundry other creatures.

We decided at an early stage to restrict the number of breeds and to attempt to keep the stock in as large numbers as we could possibly manage. I had been a member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust from an early point in its life and did not want to fall into the trap of showing the public a very wide selection of breeds, and providing them with excellent entertainment, but doing nothing for the breeds concerned.

We therefore established the following minimum target flock/herd sizes:

Longhorn cattle	6 - 8 cows
Chartley cattle	6 - 8 cows
Tamworth pigs	9 sows
Shropshire sheep	20 - 30 ewes

these being the minimum numbers we felt would make a worthwhile contribution to the survival of the breeds and, at the same time, have a reasonable chance of paying for their keep.

Small numbers of a variety of breeds, for example pairs of cattle, which I know are kept in more than one farm park, cause considerable problems with extra buildings and fencing and force the maintenance of far too many, largely out of work, males. Artificial insemination is available through the Longhorn Cattle Society, and now, thanks to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, for White Park cattle. There are problems however - AI is not always 100 per cent successful with beef cattle breeds and uncontrolled use of AI can easily result in the loss of valuable blood lines.

AI is relatively easily arranged for pigs but there are problems with semen life and again the problem of reducing blood lines. With pigs you have the additional problem that if you keep a boar, you have to keep him busy or he forgets what to do. Nine or ten sows per boar is a very bare minimum, and twenty would be preferable. We decided on nine sows as an initial target, as this will enable us to farrow in batches of three and therefore reduce the requirement for accommodation. As usual with stock, Sod's Law applies and we are currently farrowing two and one, though this will eventually sort itself out. One difficulty in purchasing stock is that breeder's records tend to be as old-fashioned as the stock they keep and it is difficult to buy pregnant females with any certainty as to farrowing or calving date.

An idea of the importance of maintaining even such small numbers of stock as we are keeping at Shugborough can be obtained from the fact that there are currently around 260 Longhorn females, and less than 200 White Park females in the country, and that the largest, of about twenty, Shropshire flock numbers around 100 ewes. The last volume of the Tamworth Herd Book included the registration of only 21 females, with an average life expectancy of 4-5 years.

Having briefly mentioned the breeds concerned and the numbers in which we plan to keep them, I will now summarise the Management systems we have adopted.

The Longhorns are managed on a single-suckler basis and the Chartley, when they arrive, will be managed in the same way. Each cow raises her own calf, to be used for beef or breeding, the beef animals to be finished for sale fat at about two years old. In the case of the loss of a calf or a large milk surplus, Hereford X Friesian calves, generally heifers, will be bought in.

Longhorn milk is high in butterfat but yield is low, and they are not worth milking. Liquid milk sales, in addition, provide lots of public health regulation problems and increased labour costs.

The cattle are at present wintering and calving outside, though we plan eventually to bring weaned calves in for their first winter and to provide a small covered yard, into which we can bring cows for calving. The cattle are all registered with the Longhorn Cattle Society and are Brucellosis Accredited, though this provides some problems in additional costs, due to the need to provide double fencing to separate our stock from non-accredited graziers stock in the adjoining parkland.

One of the buildings at the rear of the farm is being converted to provide a bull pen and yard, including a catching crate, and the bull, who is at the moment on holiday in Derbyshire with twelve lively young Shorthorn females, will not normally be accessible to the public except when led out by museum staff.

All feedstuffs are at present bought-in, though we will be growing our own hay, starting next year. Any attempt to plough up portions of the park for crops other than grass would be likely to meet with opposition from several quarters, though it may eventually be possible to grow some kale along wood boundaries to the mutual benefit of ourselves and the gamekeeper.

The present cattle stock comprises three heifers purchased from the "Grendon" herd in Warwickshire, an eighteen month old bull "Birbury Boy" and four calves, two Longhorns and two crossbreds.

We are in the course of establishing our Shropshire flock and now have two old ewes and five lambs, purchased from the Grangewood and Stretton Court flocks and will be buying a ram and possibly two or three more ewes next summer. This year the two old ewes have been put to Mr. Wood's Shropshire ram, while the ewe lambs are running with a Ryeland ram which should get slightly smaller lambs and help to reduce lambing problems. Once fully established the Shropshire flock will produce both breeding stock for sale and fat lambs for the butcher.

The sheep will tie in well with the cattle, though fencing for sheep is of course expensive, and Shropshires, being one of the larger and more active Down breeds, need good fencing. Housing requirements for sheep are limited, though we plan to build some small field shelters and hope eventually to build a timber lambing shed which will also serve as fodder storage for the early part of the winter.

The Tamworth sows are at present farrowing in temporary scaffolding crates in a range of three small loose boxes. At weaning the sows move into the boar pen and then into an outside paddock in the derelict walled garden, while the weaners remain in the loose boxes until they reach pork weight (c. 130 lbs liveweight) at about five months old.

Tamworths will do well on outdoor management systems, but the National Trust, who own the property, were not terribly keen on armies of ginger pigs sallying forth from corrugated iron shelters to plough up the parkland. We hope in the next twelve months to erect a permanent timber building, carefully screened to reduce impact on the park landscape, which will provide farrowing pens, dry sow stalls and a boar house. The three loose boxes will then be converted to provide more suitable fattening pens complete with a slurry pit for easy manure disposal. Manure disposal is an important point to watch on any farm open to the public, who tend to turn up in most unsuitable footwear and are not at all keen on a muck heap in the middle of the yard! A slurry system will, as well as reducing bedding costs, considerably reduce the labour requirement for pen cleaning.

The fowls, Derbyshire Redcaps and Old English Game, were forced to live on free range last summer, resulting in considerable damage to my garden, but the technical staff are now busy constructing small pens to house breeding trios and quartets. These pens will be fitted with trap nests, enabling us to be very selective in our breeding programme.

All the stock I have mentioned are fed on proprietary rations and we are using modern methods whenever possible, though shortage of cash does impose limits. For example, we cannot at present afford a tractor and when the grass got in front of the sheep last summer it was kept under control by a combination of volunteers with scythes and myself on a garden tractor.

The thinking behind our use of modern methods is as follows:

Firstly, I do not believe it to be possible to recreate a 19th century farm, or even an early 20th century one, at anything like a reasonable price, if at all. It is difficult enough to keep a good stockman without expecting him to get up at 4.00 a.m. to work horses, and we had no particular desire to become simply another purveyor of the rural myth.

Secondly, we are dealing with breeds which are in danger of extinction and feel that it is wise to use modern methods wherever possible, in order to ensure optimum breeding performance from that stock. In the 19th century pigs would have farrowed in deep manure and a large percentage of the young pigs would have been rolled on. I would prefer to use modern crates and to rear the maximum number of pigs from the small litters which Tamworths produce.

A further example of the difficulty of achieving 19th century pseudo-reality is in the difficulties associated with swill feeding. A large licence fee now has to be paid before one can feed swill, which will, in any case, reduce carcass quality.

Finally, part of our strategy in the preservation of rare breeds is to encourage other people to keep them and I feel that this is most likely to be successful if we display good quality stock, in conditions as close to those of a modern commercial farm as possible. One commercial farmer who decides to keep a few pedigree Longhorns or Tamworths, as one member of the Friends of Shugborough Park Farm has already done, is of more value to the breed than twenty nostalgia freaks who want to keep a pretty ginger pig at the bottom of the garden.

As part of our policy of breed promotion we are, in addition to making our males available to other breeders, following a full show programme and this year had exhibits at the Royal Show, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Show and Sale and Birmingham Fatstock Show, as well as co-operating with the RBST on a display of rare breeds at Staffordshire County Show, which at present does not have competitive classes for any rare breeds. We will be attending all these shows next year with increased entries and will, in addition, be supporting the Longhorn breed classes at the Three Counties Show, which have been reinstated after a lapse of many years.

As I mentioned briefly at the beginning the bulk of the livestock project is funded by voluntary effort. We knew from the outset that funds would be in short supply and set about gathering together a group of people who would be able to give practical advice and to involve themselves in fund raising. The group included representatives from the local branch of the National Farmers' Union, Staffordshire College of Agriculture, Staffordshire Agricultural Society, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and the Meat and Livestock Commission.

After several months work by this group the Friends of Shugborough Park Farm were launched in February, with Lord Lichfield as President. We were fortunate in having as our first Chairman, Mr. Jos Wood of Grangewood near Burton, also Chairman of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association. Mr. Wood unfortunately died in a car accident and his enthusiasm and effort will be sadly missed.

Membership of the Friends now stands at well over 200 and they have been most successful to date, having raised over £4000 towards their five year target of £17,000.

There are, of course, many problems in being dependent on voluntary fund raising efforts, but also considerable advantages. The back-up services which the group provide are probably essential unless funds are unlimited. For example, the Meat and Livestock Commission have been most helpful in the marketing of our pigs and a member of the group has become our volunteer veterinary surgeon. Veterinary care is extremely important - on a public farm you cannot afford to leave a sick animal to see if it recovers - and, if you have to pay for it, extremely expensive.

Though the project is in its early stages we are very pleased with progress to date and look forward to having stable numbers of paying stock and being able to commence performance testing so that a research, as well as a preservation, element is brought into the scheme.

I think that the project is unique in a museum context, in that it has a valid contribution to the survival of the breeds concerned as one of its main objects.

Shropshire County Council's project at Acton Scott aims to create an early 20th century working farm, as does the larger scale project at Beamish. The only museum which has been actively involved in the preservation of a rare breed is the Manx Museum, which has for many years maintained a flock of Manx Loghtan sheep and made a very valuable contribution to the breed's survival. It is unfortunate that it is too late for similar efforts to save the Cumberland, Dorset Gold Tip and Lincolnshire Curly Coat pigs.

The approach of the farm parks is rather different - aimed entirely at visitor attraction - and in the case of only a few notable exceptions do they actively preserve the breeds concerned. The project closest in approach to our own is perhaps Mike Rosenberg's private establishment at Ash Farm in Devon, where he is fortunate to be able to work on a wide variety of breeds and is, of course, not disturbed by hordes of visitors.

To anyone considering keeping farm stock, and rare breeds in particular, in a museum context I would make the following suggestions:

1. Do not embark on such a project unless you can guarantee continuing availability of capable staff.
2. Do not attempt it unless you can acquire sufficient land. I would say that 20 acres should be an absolute minimum.
3. Stick to a limited number of, preferably, local breeds and try to keep reasonable numbers so as to make a useful contribution to their survival.
4. Register all your stock with the appropriate breed society.
5. Be prepared for unusual management problems to occur. In general rare breeds have not received the thorough investigation particularly of veterinary problems, which the common commercial breeds have undergone.
6. Be prepared for the public. They will expect a different breed in every building, show-clean pens at all times, and close access to livestock. Do not give in to them.
7. If you like to sleep at night, forget it!

Finally, a brief note on costs. The project was estimated, in the summer of 1975, to cost £17,000 over a five year period, at which point the stock should become self supporting, allowing for the provision of labour by the County Council. This figure did not take account of inflation, or of funds raised for investment in further fund-raising, and I would estimate that the final figure will be nearer £25,000.

Cost effectiveness is difficult to measure, as with any museum display and I am unsure how you assess the pleasure of the public who visit the farm. The only measure which I can apply is to relate the funds spent on purchase of exhibits, or invested in stock to be retained for display, to the total expenditure on the live-stock side of the project. Of the £4000 + raised by the Friends to date, over £2000 has been invested in the purchase of stock. Even if we take into account the cost of labour and the small amount spent on the conversion of buildings for stock, I wonder how many conventional museum activities can show such a good ratio between expenditure on purchase of exhibits and total running costs?

A. Cheese
Staffordshire County Museum.

(This is the text of the paper given at the B.C.G. A.G.M. in December 1976.

The one other unpublished paper, on Observation Beehives, has not yet been received).

In the September 1976 issue of the B.C.G. newsletter a request was made for examples of the successes and failures of biological recording schemes which could be quoted when describing such schemes to audiences of local naturalists. Liaison with the N.C.C. and planning departments does not appear to be specific enough for the sceptical local naturalists. Below are some examples from the four replies that we received from:- Buckinghamshire County Museum, North East Environmental Records Centre, West Yorkshire Biological Data Bank, and the North Wales Naturalists' Trust.

There were several examples of destruction, or threat to sites due to their being unknown, notably:-

The best exposure of Permian marl slate in County Durham was unknown to the N.C.C. Hence they raised no objection when it was proposed to reclaim the site. The future of the site is now in the balance.

In Buckinghamshire no records were available to show the damage which could be caused to sites of natural history interest by the construction of a gas pipe line. Unfortunately time was very short for consultation and several local naturalists were on holiday. The result was the pipe line went ahead. Only later was it learned from a local natural history society that an orchid site had been destroyed. The society was aware of the biological records centre, but even after this event they still did not name the orchid species involved.

Action being taken to conserve wildlife thanks to data being made available is not uncommon. A most striking example was publicised by the national press during 1975 when the Bewdley by-pass was re-routed by some two hundred yards to avoid a bog with several plants very rare in Hereford and Worcester.

In Tyne and Wear, investigations and the subsequent reports have led to two sites being designated as local nature reserves by the county council.

The North Wales Naturalists' Trust were invited to identify all the important biological sites within the Snowdonia National Park. The outcome so far has been discussions with the Forestry Commission concerning those sites threatened by proposed afforestation. As yet these negotiations are not completed.

Although not able to stop development on a site for open cast coal mining, the West Yorkshire Data Bank has arranged for the transplantation of orchids from the site. Amongst a multitude of activities they have also reported on a number of sites proposed as S.S. S.I.s, and a proposed bird sanctuary. The Yorkshire Naturalists Trust they have located all known stations in West Yorkshire of five species. This is to help with the siting of possible nature reserves.

The setting up of Biological Record Centres would seem to lead to the discovery of new sites and species in the areas concerned within a relatively short space of time.

During the first year of the Oxfordshire scheme an important new site has been located where four species of wading birds, including Ringed Plover (a first record for the county), breed. A particularly surprising discovery was Compressed River Mussel, Pseudoanodonta complanata in the River Evenlode, a tributary of the upper River Thames. The second successive hot dry summer produced records of many new colonies of butterflies, including White Admiral and Wood White. New species of plants for Oxfordshire have also been located and include Bur Medick Medicago minima and the lichen Rinodina bischoffii.

Similar examples come from Tyne and Wear, where a site for Narrow Water-Plantain Alisma lanceolatum has been located. Prior to this the species was thought to be extinct in the county. The only station of Soft Clover Trifolium striatum in the county has also been found. Habitats discovered include an area of calcicolous grassland with Upright Brome Zerna erecta, and a disused railway line where about 200 species of flowering plants were recorded in a single day.

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It is to be expected that the discovery of new sites and species will lead to some being scheduled as S.S.S.I, made into nature reserves, or some conservation activity being taken on their behalf.

J. M. Campbell

Oxfordshire County Council
Department of Museum Services,
Fletcher's House,
Woodstock, Oxford.

Guidebook for Local Biological Records Centres - a synopsis

The B.C.G. Committee has agreed to support the production of a guidebook for those running, or proposing to run, a local biological records centre. The draft of this will be discussed at the meeting of centres at Monks Wood on 1st and 2nd December and then presented to the A.G.M. of the Curators Group on December 3rd before final printing is sanctioned.

The following is a synopsis of the proposed guide. The Honorary Editor would welcome comments from members.

1. Introduction
2. Area of coverage - reasons for aiming at one centre for each County Council or equivalent local authority area - historical county and vice-county recording - need for national network centred on B.R.C.
3. Types of information and functions - emphasis on site and species information of high quality - relationship with local authority biologists who would concentrate on landscape evaluation? Service, in addition to planning, for research and general public enquiries.
4. Sources of data - Literature, Museum, Field records - BRC, BTO, WFT, etc., and priorities both of sources to abstract and groups to tackle, Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

5. File Structure. The right mix of grid and site files.
6. Schemes and materials available - with an estimate of costs of the files, maps and cards necessary to set up system.
Use of microfiche and computers.
7. Site - Geological and Habitat classification - review of Sites Recording Scheme and suggested modifications, including need to add access details.
8. Dissemination of data - including consideration of use of E.D.P. for stimulating recording and to inform conservation organisations and general public - Red Data Book, Floras and Faunas. Annual and local meetings of Centres for coordination.
9. Enrolment and use of voluntary help both in the centre and in the field. Kinds of schemes in which young children can participate effectively.
10. Role of the Centre in relation to Trusts, N.C.C., Local Authorities, Nat.Hist Societies, Ministry of Defence, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Etc.,
Need for a Natural History Forum in association with Community Council?
11. Relations with BRC - the methods of data exchange and the priorities for species and sites.
12. Confidentiality.
13. Appendices a) List of Records Centres/map
b) List of gazeteers
c) N.C.C. Regions
d) Bibliography.

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION
WORKING PARTY ON RECORD CENTRES IN MUSEUMS

Report of the first meeting of the Working Party held in Room 211, Department of the Environment, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W.1 on Friday, 29 April 1977.

Present: Mr.K.J.Barton (in the chair)
Mr.Alan Aberg National Monuments Record
Mr.N.Cooper "
Mr.Henry Cleere Council for British Archaeology
Dr.F.R.Perring Biological Records Centre
Mr.Andrew Roberts Museum Documentation Association
Mr.J.A.Cooper Geological Curators Group (Leics.Museum)
Mr.S.R.Davey Hampshire County Museum Service
Mr.S.Flood Biological Curators Group (St.Albans Museum)
Mr.E.Greenwood " (Merseyside County Museums)
Mrs.P.Pottinger Hampshire County Museum Service
Miss B.Capstick Museums Association

Apologies:Mr.J.Bond Oxon County Museum Service (Archaeology)
Miss Laurel Ball AMSEEE (Social & Economic History)
Mr.Gareth Davies S.M.A.
Mr.Stuart Smith Ironbridge (Industrial History)

1. Introduction

The Chairman reminded members of the discussion at the meeting called by the Museums Association on 11 March at which the Working Party had been proposed. The Policy Committee of the Association had authorised this preliminary meeting to examine the recommendation that guidelines be prepared on museums as record centres and to report on the likely programme of work involved. The Chairman hoped to achieve agreement on the remit and avoid lengthy discussions.

2. Proposed content of guidelines

Attention was given to the various headings listed on the agenda.

(a) Coverage

AGREED that three levels of recording were required: local, county and national in the following areas of study: Archaeology, Geology, Biology, Social & Economic History, Industrial History, Military History and Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments.

Problems of omissions or inadequate cover were identified as follows:
Biology (Birds covered by B.T.O) - Dr.Perring stated that the recording structure had been established but was not effective overall. One major omission being marine biology.

Geology - no structure for national record repository had been determined.

Social History - Museum of English Rural Life, Reading, undertook certain responsibilities but had no national remit

Underwater archaeology - dealt with to certain extent by National Maritime Museum.

Industrial History - CBA register of industrial monuments and NMR recording involved degree of duplication. Science Museum also acted as record centre.

(b) Level of Recording

AGREED that minimum data requirements for each discipline should be compiled, incorporating species and location data, utilisable both at intensive and non-intensive level and for inter-disciplinary, environmental usage.

Reference was made to the work already undertaken by the CBA/OS, the Biological Curators Group, the Geological Curators Group at a disciplinary level. Members were asked to supply information as soon as possible.

(c) Location of Record Centres

AGREED that record centres should be county-based and, wherever possible, located in the appropriate museum service.

It was recognised that there were areas where museum coverage was patchy, particularly in areas of high recreation pressure such as Wales and Scotland, where another organisation, possibly the Information Centres of National Parks, should act as the record centre.

The proposals jointly prepared by the Society of County Museum Directors and County Planning Officers Society were endorsed.

(d) Retrieval and consultation

AGREED that data must be integrated on a location basis and therefore

- (i) that inter-disciplinary consultation was necessary at county level to achieve satisfactory compatibility for environmental data purposes;
- (ii) that annual meetings to monitor and co-ordinate retrieval for each discipline be arranged by the national record centres;
- (iii) that an annual meeting be held to co-ordinate inter-disciplinary recording.

(e) Terminology

AGREED

- (i) that responsibility for adopting and reviewing recording terms should rest with the disciplines.
- (ii) that agreement should be reached on environmental descriptors (see also d above)

(f) Confidentiality of Records

AGREED that all data should be available for consultation but that special data, e.g. on rare species, should be at the discretion of the record centre. The location of record centres in museums should guarantee unprejudiced access by statutory bodies, research workers and the public.

(g) Finance

It was acknowledged that local authorities should be responsible for record centres at county level, although agency arrangements might be set up, e.g. West Yorkshire Data Bank. The resolution passed at the meeting on 11 March calling on central government to make grant-aid available through Area Museum Councils was endorsed.

It was AGREED that information should be provided as a free service, costs being charged for copying facilities and requests involving a major retrieval operation.

3. Existing Schemes or Proposals.

(a) Report on Environmental Data Centres prepared by SCMD/CPOS

Those members who had seen this paper recommended its adoption into the Association's statement and guidelines. It was proposed that copies be made available to the other statutory bodies represented on the Working Party.

(b) Geological Site Recording System

Mr. Cooper reported that recording formats had been agreed but record centres had yet to be designated. A documentation committee had been set up by the Geological Curators Group comprising representatives of the major geological societies, the Association of Teachers of Geology and the GCG. A disciplinary method of categorising information was used but data would be accessible for environmental retrieval.

(c) Archaeology

Mr. Aberg reported that a further meeting had been convened by NMR/CBA to which the Society of Museum Archaeologists, Standing Committee of Unit Managers and Association of County Archaeological Officers were invited to obtain agreement on terminology and compatibility between the different recording systems already in use.

4. Conclusions

AGREED to produce an interim report based on the Working Party's discussions to form a statement of policy for submission to the Museums Association conference in July 1977.

AGREED that the Museums Association should act as the co-ordinating body for the operation of environmental record centres and that a further meeting to review developments be arranged early in 1978, possibly March at the D o E.

Following this meeting a series of "Guidelines for Record Centres" was produced and circulated to members of the Working Party. At the same time the Council of the Museums Association discussed the problem and produced the resolution on Record Centres which will be presented at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting (reproduced below for non-members). The final version of the "Guidelines" will be discussed at Conference and, if agreed, will be included in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile a "flow chart" has been produced and is included below, together with current B.R.C. notes on recording schemes and atlases available.

Motion, proposed by Council of the Museums Association, for the 48th Annual General Meeting at Bradford on 16th July, 1977.

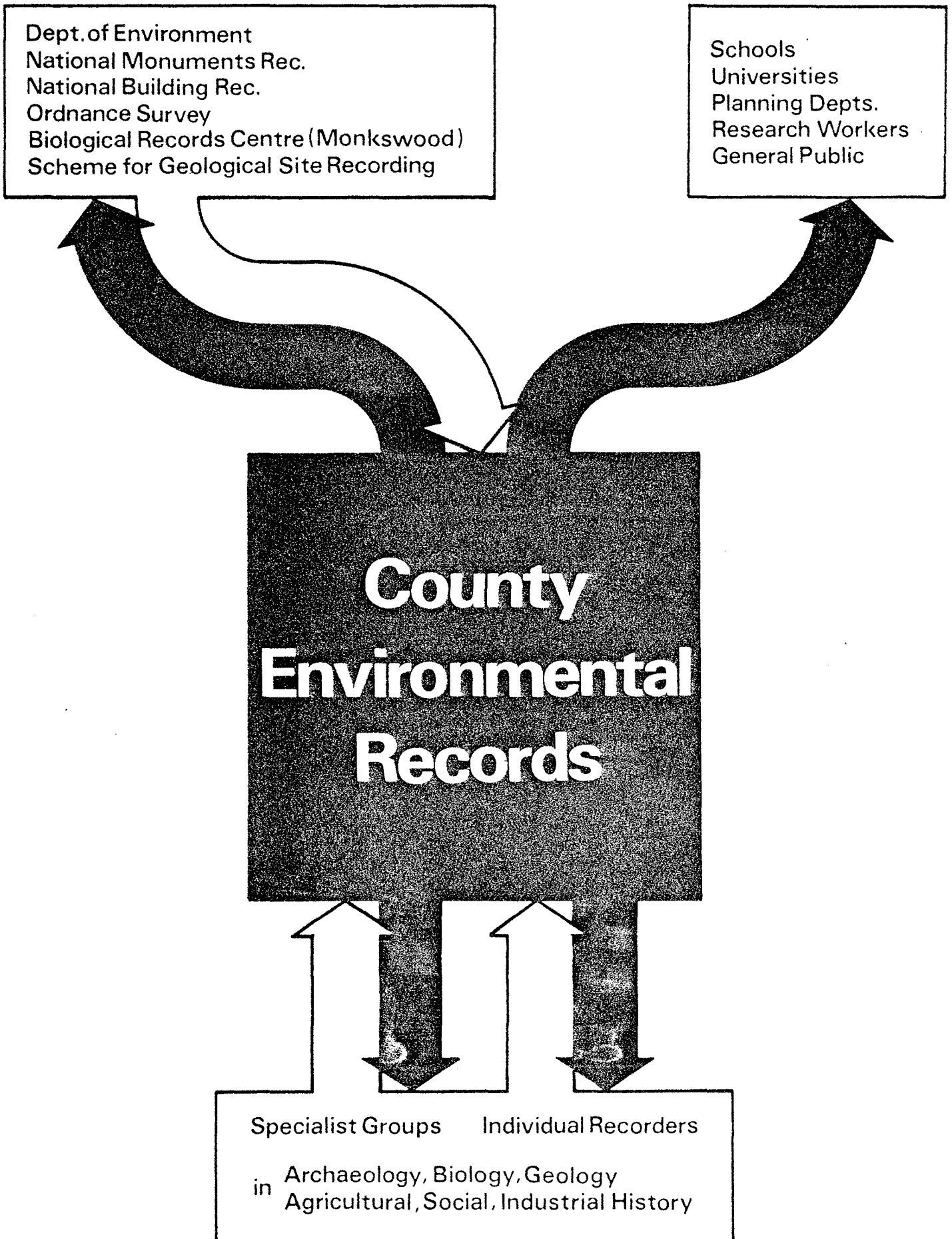
"That the Association in Conference considers that Environmental Record Centres should be established on a county-wide basis and, wherever possible, located in the appropriate museum service:

that the Museums Association be responsible for the co-ordination of such interdisciplinary recording in liaison with existing national organisation responsible for co-ordinating data collection in their fields of interest:

that the Guidelines being prepared by the Working Party on Record Centres in Museums be circulated to all interested parties".

Environmental Recording Flow Chart

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BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

SCHEMES IN OPERATION - FEBRUARY 1977

FLOWERING PLANTS & FERNS	Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS
MOSSES & LIVERWORTS	Dr A J E Smith, British Bryological Society, Department of Botany, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd
LICHENS	Dr M R D Seaward, Postgraduate School of Studies in Environmental Science, University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP
MARINE ALGAE	Dr T Norton, Department of Botany, The University, Glasgow, W2.
MAMMALS	Biological Records Centre
DEER	Mr M Clarke, "Greenbrae", Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.
BIRDS	British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.
FRESHWATER FISH	Dr P S Maitland, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, c/o The Nature Conservancy Council, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AS
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS	Biological Records Centre
ECHINODERMS	Dr A J Southward, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB.
SPIDERS	Dr P Merrett, British Arachnological Society, Furzebrook Research Station, Wareham, Dorset.
OPILIONES	Mr J H P Sankey, Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6DA
PSEUDOSCORPIONS	Mr P E Jones, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS
TICKS	Mr G B Thompson, 56 Beaumont Road, Cambridge.
BUMBLE BEES	Bee Research Association, Hill House, Chalfont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.
ANTS	Mr K E J Barrett, 129 Smiths Lane, Windsor, Berks
SOCIAL AND SOLITARY WASPS SOLITARY BEES	Mr N E Archer, Department of Biology, St. Johns College, Heworth Croft, York, YO3 7SZ
DIPTERA DIXIDAE	Dr R H L Disney, Field Studies Council, Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, Yorkshire.

DIPTERA TIPULIDAE Mr A E Stubbs, Nature Conservancy Council,
19/20 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PY

FLEAS Mr R S George, 8 St. Peters Street, Duxford, Cambs.

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS Biological Records Centre

GRASSHOPPERS, CRICKETS & E C M Haes, 36 Abbotsbury, Kings Beach Estate,
MOTHS Pagham, Sussex, PO21 4RT

DRAGONFLIES D Chelwick, 6 Gander Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex

CADDISFLIES Biological Records Centre

COLEOPTERA CARABIDAE Dr M L Luff, Department of Agricultural Zoology,
The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7RU

COCCINELLIDAE Mr J Muggleton, Department of Zoology, University of
Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

STAPHYLINIDAE Mr P Hammond, Department of Entomology, British Museum
(Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD

NEUROPTERA Dr M A Kirby, Dept. of Zoology, Williamson Building,
MECOPTERA University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL

NON-MARINE ISOPODS Mr P T Harding, Monks Wood Experimental Station,
Huntingdon, PE17 2LS

MARINE ISOPODS Dr R J Lincoln, Department of Zoology, British Museum
(Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD

MILLIPEDES Dr C P Fairhurst, Environmental Resources Unit,
Department of Biology, University of Salford,
Salford, M5 4WT

CENTIPEDES Mr A D Barber, Science Department, Plymouth College
of Further Education, Plymouth, PL4 8AA

LAND & FRESHWATER Dr M Kerney, Conchological Society, Dept. of Geology,
MOLLUSCS Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2AZ

MARINE MOLLUSCS Mr C Palmer, Department of Palaeontology, British
Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7
5BD

CLADOCERA Mr J Hearn, 3 Waverley Way, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey

MARINE DINOFLAGELLATES Dr J D Dodge, Department of Botany, Birkbeck College,
Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX

MARINE CRABS Dr R Ingle, Institute of Oceanographic Studies,
Brook Road, Wormley, Godalming, Surrey

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Atlases of British Flora and Fauna Published or being Printed

- Flowering Plants Atlas of the British Flora. EP Publishing Ltd., Bradford Road, East Ardesley, Wakefield, Yorkshire, WF3 2JA. 1976. (Reprinting) £20.00
Critical Supplement to the Atlas of the British Flora. Thomas Nelson & Sons. 1968 (Out of print)
- Pteridophytes BRC and British Pteridological Society - in preparation
- Bryophytes Annually in the Transactions of the British Bryological Society 1963 to 1971 and now in the Journal of Bryology.
- Mammals New Edition in preparation by BRC.
- Freshwater Fish Key to British Freshwater Fishes by Peter S. Maitland. Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication No. 27, £1.20 from Ferry House, Ambleside, Cumbria.
- Amphibians & Reptiles Provisional Atlas of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the British Isles. Biological Records Centre, £0.25
- Insects Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles :
Part 1. Lepidoptera Rhopalocera - in Howarth T.G., 1973 "South's British Butterflies". Warne.
Part 2. Lepidoptera : Sphingidae, Notodontidae, Lymantriidae, Lasiocampidae, Saturniidae, Endromidae, Drepanidae, Arctiidae, Nolidae and Thyatiridae (101 species). £1.00
Part 3. Hymenoptera, Apidae £0.75
Part 4. Siphonaptera £1.00
- Birds Atlas of Breeding Birds of Great Britain & Ireland Ed. J.T.R. Sharrock, British Trust for Ornithology.
- Mollusca Atlas of the Non-Marine Mollusca of the British Isles (Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland) Available from Mrs B Rands, 51 Wychwood Avenue, Luton, Beds £3.00 + 85p postage and packing.
- Crustacea Provisional Atlas of the Crustacea of the British Isles :
Part 1 - Isopoda : Oniscoidea. British Isopoda Study Group
Available from P.T.Harding, 60 Boxworth Road, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB3 8JQ. £2.00 + 27p postage and packing.
- Nematodes Provisional Atlas of the Nematodes of the British Isles.
Part 1. Longidoridae)
Part 2. Trichodoridae) - £2.00
Part 3. Criconematidae)
Available from Scottish Horticultural Research Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee, Scotland, and from the Biological Records Centre.

Lord Edward Smith Stanley, 1775-1851, XIIIth Earl of Derby:
A review of his biological collections and their importance.

The 13th Earl of Derby's bird and mammal collections are well documented by manuscript catalogue, lists, letters, paintings and books held at Merseyside County Museums, City of Liverpool Libraries and Knowsley Hall. Liverpool staff have published few papers on the collections over the past seventy years, R. Wagstaffe's contribution being the major one. (Wagstaffe, 1954a, b, c, 1955a, b, c.). These dealt with letters from donors such as John Latham, John Gould, his collector Gilbert, and J. E. Gray. He has just completed the first bird type list, 314 specimens of 222 species/subspecies which will be published later this year. Other work, especially on material from the Cook voyage, has already been published (Medway, 1976.) and is in prep, (Medway and Morgan). All of this will serve to reinforce the scientific and historical importance of the collection. To aid in future analysis and to form a firm base an historian, Michael Brennan, has, under the Job Creation Programme, completed a donor/collector, date and specimen index, cross-referenced to the archival material. This preliminary paper is intended to show the scope and wealth of the collection and the role of Lord Derby in the development of natural history during the early and middle nineteenth century. It will also emphasise the point that the scientific bird skin collection is still extant and was not destroyed during the bombing and fire of 1941, (Allan, 1941.), a misapprehension still held by some foreign museums.

The collections were presented to the City of Liverpool by the XIVth Earl of Derby following the late XIIIth Earl's wishes. His other wishes were not followed however, especially that the museum be linked to the Collegiate Institution, (Royal Institution). Although the latter was offered to the city in 1850-52 for £1,000, it was not purchased. This was a great pity as the two combined would have been absolutely invaluable during historical studies at the present time. The Royal Institution collections were sold privately during 1877-1886, (Ormerod, 1953) and only a few hundred specimens reached Liverpool through a circuitous route in 1956. The bird and mammal collections of Lord Derby were known as the Knowsley Museum, and upon transfer to Liverpool formed its first local authority museum, The Free Public Museums, of which the Derby Museum was the base. At the present moment c. 20,000 birds are still extant; the mammals, nearly all mounted, having suffered more heavily in the fire. Much of the important Australian material survived however and is being studied with a view to publication (Harris in prep.).

The following list of donors/collectors and dates has been compiled from the manuscript Catalogue of Birds in the Knowsley Museum, 6 vols. by Louis Fraser prepared during 1848-1850. Although this work was never completed and only covers one quarter of the collection, it does, however, give a good representation of the scope and sources of the collection. For comparison donors/collectors recorded by Sharpe, (Sharpe, 1906), in the History of the Collections of the B.M.(N.H.) have been marked*; donors for which Merseyside has archival material, letters, lists, etc., a, and those associated with type material, T. in the Earl of Derby's collections are also indicated.

The methods of acquisition and size of the collection must also be seen in context. Lord Derby's collection numbered 20,000 - 25,000 in 1851, material having been received from collectors during their lifetimes. In 1872 Bowdler Sharpe estimated only 30,000 - 35,000 birds and eggs in the Brit. Mus. (Nat.Hist.) collections, many of these received after the death of a collector direct or through an intermediary. This had changed dramatically by 1906 when 400,000 birds and 100,000 eggs were present, but in 1851 Lord Derby's must have been one of the largest collections containing a great deal of early material, indeed in historical terms it is still vitally important with regard to type and figured material.

Abbot	00.00.1810	1	T a*Cuming H.	22.06.1833-22.06.1848	212
(see Bullock)			(B.M.11.06.1841-19.04.1859)		
A Aitken Museum	24.12.1823-00.08.1839	28	" see Bridges T.		
Alexander.Capt.Sale.	00.03.1838-08.03.1838	39		00.11.1845-00.07.1848	4
a Audubon.J.J.			" " Gosse P.H.		
(see Townsend)	00.06.1838	4		10.06.1846	1
T a*Andersson.C.	15.01.1832-15.01.1850	22	" " Salle A.		
Baker	02.10.1848	1		00.07.1848	2
*Banks, Sir.J.			Cunningham	no date	2
(see Bullock's Sale)		1	a Curtis	00.03.1812	3
Barnett	no date	1	Dalrymple	no date	1
Barrett	no date	1	Lt.Gen.		
Bartal			Darnley	" "	1
(see Leadbeater)	00.03.1841	1	Countess		
a*Bartlett A.D.	04.04.1843-08.05.1850	25	Davenport D.		
(B.M.30.12.1843-01.05.1852)			(see Latham)" "		2
T a Bates.J.	00.10.1836-00.09.1843	51	a Davies	" "	9
" see Clee C	00.09.1843	2	T a Davies Gen. T.Sale		
" " Kaup Dr.	00.09.1843	3		06.06.1812-08.06.1812	18
a Bath Sale	00.04.1810	2	*Day W.S.	24.08.1843	2
a Beale Rev.H.	00.00.1820	1	T de Lattre A.	00.06.1813-00.12.1846	67
Beechey	no date	2	"(see Kaup)		
Bentinck Lady W.	00.00.1833	14		00.12.1846	1
Benzon B.	18.07.1848	1	"(" Leadbeater)		
a Bradbury	00.00.1812	15		00.12.1836-00.12.1846	41
*Brandt	00.00.1845(B.M.		Denison Capt.W.T.		
	14.03.1842- 7			11.07.1849	3
	20.11.1853)		a Dietrichson	13.02.1831-12.02.1833	9
Brantingham	24.05.1844	2	Dobie Capt.	00.12.1830-00.12.1846	37
T a*Bridges T.	00.12.1841-00.07.1848	286	a Donovan's Sale		
(B.M.21.07.1843-09.09.1846)				00.05.1818-09.05.1818	8
" see Cuming H.	00.11.1845-00.07.1848	4	" " see Latham		
" " Fraser L.	28.08.1846 or	1		00.05.1818	2
a Brooke's Sale	23.03.1830-23.03.1833	3	Douglas I.	no date	1
Brotherton E.S.	no date	5	Drummond	00.02.1835	9
Brown & Man,Messrs.	00.04.1812	1	*a Dyson	00.05.1845-02.06.1849	94
Bruzon	08.07.1848-18.07.1848	9	Edwards J.	no date	3
T a*Bullock's Sales	00.05.1811-05.04.1821	66	T a*Eyton T.C.	18.06.1840-00.00.1846	73
" see Banks Sir J.	no date	1	B.M.31.12.1880-18.02.1881		
a " " Latham	00.00.1810-00.05.1820	9	Ford	67.10.1881	1
a*Bullock W.	00.00.1810-26.03.1818	23	Forster T.B.	00.08.1840	1
a " see Abbot	00.00.1810	1	a*Fortune R.	00.07.1844-10.10.1845	30
" see Gould	00.00.1819	3	T a*Fraser L.	00.03.1847-00.01.1849	20
a " " Lewin T.W.	00.09.1810	2	B.M.30.10.1846-17.10.1849		
" " Swainson W.	no date	1	" see Bridges T.		
a Burke J.	00.11.1844-02.08.1847	47		28.08.1846	2
" see Hooker Sir W.	00.11.1845	8	a Freestone W.	00.05.1828-15.05.1832	10
Caley G.	19.07.1813	1	a Fuller	00.00.1847	1
a Campbell Lady	00.06.1841	3	a Garnett G.H.	00.00.1836	4
Canning G.	00.07.1847	2	a Giblett J. of London		
a Carbery	00.00.1811	3		27.04.1819	1
a Cayley G.	19.07.1813	1	Giraud J.P.	00.07.1842	2
Champenys Rev.H.W.	no date	1	Goodwood	14.10.0000	2
a Chapman	21.11.1828	1	*Gosse P.H.	00.05.1845-10.06.1848	18
Chitley Capt.	03.12.1836	1	B.M.29.04.1845-11.10.1848		
Cland	24.03.1838	20	" see Cuming H.		
Clee C.				10.06.1846	6
see Bates J.	00.09.1843	2	T a*Gould J.	00.04.1830-27.02.1852	543
Comrie Dr.	00.10.1846	1	B.M.15.03.1837-14.10.1890		
Cooper Mrs.	00.12.1843-13.12.1843	30	" see Bullock		
a Corbet	00.11.1818-00.00.1822	10		00.00.1819	3
" see Latham	00.00.1811	1	" " Kaup	00.03.1844	1
a Cross E.	00.04.1831-02.04.1831	8			

	Gould J. (cont.)			Lewin T.W.	
	" see Linden	00.12.1848	2	see Bullock	00.09.1810 2
	" " Sturt M	00.11.1847-00.05.1848	8	Linden	
T a	Gray J.E.	00.05.1845-00.09.1846	10	see Gould J.	00.12.1848 2
	Greenfield	no date	1	Lockett Messrs.	
	Grosvenor Lord	24.10.1837	1		00.10.1849 18
*	Gunn R.	00.00.1836	17	Lockett W.	17.11.1849 1
		B.M.15.01.1838		a Lowe Dr.	no date 27
*	Hardwicke Maj.Gen.	00.00.1812	1	Ludwig C.B.S.	" " 8
	Harrop	00.05.1841	1	McCleverty	00.09.1835 5
	Harwood Sir B.	00.00.1794	2	McCulloch	03.03.1835 6
	Hesketh Sir T.	no date	1	McDormell	no date 1
	Hodgson Mrs. A.	" "	12	McDougall's Sale	
T *	Hodgson B.H.	00.00.1845	156		15.07.1814 1
		B.M.13.01.1843-04.03.1859		a*Macgillivray J.	00.11.1845-03.09.1848 70
	Holme W.	00.10.1828	9		B.M.11.01.1851-14.10.1856
	Holmes	no date	2	McWilliams	00.06.1847 1
	Hooker Sir W.J.	00.02.1843-00.11.1845	32	Maddox	00.06.1838 6
	" see Burke J.	00.11.1845	7	Malcolm Col.	00.00.1844-00.00.1846 21
	Hopwood Hon.	no date	1	Man (See Brown & Man)	
a	Hopwood R.G.	" "	1	a Mangles Capt.J. (R.N.)	
a	Horn	25.06.1819	3		00.05.1837-00.05.1839 32
a	Hornby Col.	00.00.1837	2	Marrat	00.04.1831-00.04.1841 2
	Hornby E.G.	00.00.1831	1	a Marriot Rev. F.A.	
	Hornby Capt.P.W.	17.05.1847	19		00.10.1844 2
a	Hornby Rev. G.	06.11.1831	3	a Mather	02.10.1822-00.01.1848 45
a	Hunting	00.06.1832-14.03.1833	10	Metcalfe W.	no date 3
a	Isaacson B.	06.04.1844-00.08.1847	22	Mills	00.06.1844 1
T a	Johnson	00.07.1833-30.03.1850	50	Miolon Capt.	00.11.1837 3
T	*Kaup Dr.			a*Montagu Col.	no date 1
	see Bates J.	00.09.1843	1		B.M.00.00.1816
	" de Lattre A.	00.12.1846	1	Myers J.	11.11.1837 1
	" Gould J.	00.03.1844	1	Nash Capt.	00.09.1837 3
	" Leadbetter	00.09.1844-00.10.1845	2	Natterer	00.12.1840 11
	" Warwick I.E.	09.01.1849	1	see Leadbeater	
	" Williams	00.06.1847	1	Nightingale	no date 6
a	Keat's Sale	00.05.1811-08.05.1811	8	a Noel Messrs.	00.00.1830-28.05.1830 24
a	King's Sale	00.02.1813-01.03.1831	17	a Nuttall	no date 1
	" see Latham	00.04.1816	1	O'Gambe	" " 3
T a	*Latham J.	00.00.1811-00.05.1813	23	Ogilvy W.	29.08.1843 1
	" see Bullock's			Parkinson	00.12.1830 18
	Sale	00.00.1810-00.05.1820	9	*Parry Sir E.	26.12.1834 3
	" " Corbet	00.00.1811	1	Patten W.	00.12.1841-26.12.1843 8
	" " Donovan's			Peter Dr. R.	no date 3
	Sale	00.05.1818	2	Radcliffe	00.00.1841 1
	" " King's Sale			a*Raffles Sir T.S.	
		00.04.1816	1		00.00.1825 4
	" " Leadbeater			Ratcliffe	no date 5
		00.00.1815	2	Reade Sir T.	00.00.1834 4
T a	*Leadbeater Messrs.			a Reddell G.L's Sale	
		00.05.1811-00.12.1846	1047		00.03.1818-02.04.1831 11
		B.M.02.08.1839-05.10.1846		Rochatte	13.02.1843 10
	" see Bartal	00.03.1841	1	a*Ruppell Dr. E.	no date 1
	" " de Lattre A.				B.M. 08.04.1842-02.06.1845
		00.12.1836-00.12.1846	38	Sabine J.	00.06.1830-27.08.1830 24
	" " Kaup Dr.	00.09.1844	2	St. Petersburg Mus.	no date 4
	" " Latham J.	00.00.1815	2	Saintsbury	00.00.1837 23
	" " Natterer	00.12.1840	110	*Salle A.	00.06.1848-00.07.1848 6
	" " Swainson W.	no date	1		B.M. 14.11.1851-28.06.1854
	" " Temminck	00.12.1846	8	" see Cuming	00.07.1848 2
	Leech I.	08.10.1853	1	T a Salt H.	00.00.1812 21
T a	*Leverian Museum	no date	20	Sandbach	no date 3

	Seaton	no date	2		* Whitely H.	17.12.1846	1
	Shuttleworth	00.09.1823	1			B.M.30.01.1866-13.10.1880	
	a Smart	17.09.1811	1		a Whitefield	00.10.1841-20.11.1848	23
T	a*Smith Dr.A.'s Sale				* Whitley Capt.		
		06.1836-08.06.1848	47			04.12.1836	2
	a Smith J.	00.07.1837	1		Whitmore T.	23.12.1816	2
	a Sowerby's Sale				Wickstead	no date	2
		00.06.1820-11.06.1828	9		Wiles	00.00.1834	2
	Spencer	00.11.1840	1		Williams		
	Spiller Capt.G.				see Stockall and Williams		
		11.03.1835-11.03.1845	25		a Williams R?	00.04.1845-00.05.1848	319
	Stanley Mrs. A				" see Kaup	00.06.1847	1
		00.06.1847	1	T	Williams T.M.		
	Stanley Mrs. C. Rt.Hon.					00.07.1835-00.03.1845	75
		00.07.1847	7		a Willis Judge J.W.		
	Stanley Col.	00.12.1845	1			10.09.1834-28.06.1839	26
	a Stanley Capt. E.				a * Wilson E.	02.10.1840	2
		00.00.1823-00.05.1847	75			B.M.16.07.1846-18.03.1847	
	Stanley Hon. H.E.				a Wright	00.08.1845	5
		27.07.1850	2				
	Stanley Rt.Hon.Lord						
		21.10.1845-00.08.1846	12				
	*Stevens S.	00.10.1849-04.06.1851	2				
		B.M.21.11.1848-13.06.1887					
	a Stockall and Williams						
		00.11.1840-00.05.1846	36				
	a*Sturt Capt. C.	00.00.1832-00.11.1847	27				
	" see Gould	00.11.1847-00.05.1848	8				
	" " Tucker	15.06.1833	1				
	a Swainson's Sale						
		00.06.1823-00.01.1828	2				
W	Swainson						
	see Bullock	no date	1				
	" Leadbeater						
		no date	1				
	Sykes Col. W.H.						
		00.11.1837	2				
	Taylor Sir H.	no date	3				
	Temminck						
	see Leadbeater						
		no date	8				
T	Thomas	00.04.1829-23.08.1843	34				
	Thomas J.	31.03.1836	1				
T	a Thompson J.	00.00.1810-00.09.1842	17				
	Townley W.	00.11.1843	1				
T	Townsend						
	see Audubon	00.06.1838	4				
T	a Tucker	00.06.1825-00.05.1845	170				
	see Sturt	15.06.1833	1				
T	Verreaux	09.10.1849-06.03.1851	81				
		B.M.17.11.1843-18.04.1870					
	Wainwright J.	no date	4				
	Warburton Sir. W.						
		no date	1				
	Ward E. H.	14.05.1834-10.05.1836	9				
	Warner W.	no date	1				
T	a*Warwick I.E.	11.11.1832-00.03.1845	35				
		B.M.18.12.1830-11.01.1858					
	" see Kaup	09.01.1849	1				
	Wemyss F.	no date	1				

The donor list underrepresents the contributions of probably all collectors, due to the unfortunate termination of Fraser's work, but the importance of certain individuals within this limited context can clearly be seen. Although other names will of necessity be added upon further research, existing names of obvious importance can be projected forwards and their possible importance in terms of the collection as a whole gauged. It is of interest, therefore, to comment briefly upon these individuals, and indicate their importance within the field of natural history as a whole during the time Derby received specimens from them. Much of the following information is taken from Sharpe, 1906; "Dictionary of National Biography"; and the "Biographical Index of Deceased British and Irish Botanists". 1931.

Outstanding among the donors were men such as Gould, Bridges, Leadbeater, Cuming and Hodgson. Leadbeater and Sons (1,047 specimens) were dealers supplying material to Lord Derby. This came from a wide variety of sources, including museums. Leiden Museum, with material from Muller, Temminck etc. sold duplicates, often from type series. The most important aspect of many specimens received is the labels which are in the different collectors' handwriting. These specimens will be studied intensively as amongst them are important specimens (Morgan, 1975) from expeditions and early collectors. Unfortunately Leadbeater did not always indicate from where he had obtained his specimens when sending them to Lord Derby; tracing them back to source will involve a good deal of research.

Second in importance was John Gould (1804-1881), contributing 543 specimens. Having gained his early knowledge of birds while working as a gardener, becoming a skilled taxidermist, Gould was appointed taxidermist to the Zoological Society's collection in 1827. During the rest of his life he completed 41 folio volumes of natural history material, these being illustrated by 2,999 plates in which he achieved remarkable success in portraying accurately animals and birds in their natural environments.

Thomas Bridges (1807-1865), who collected in Chile, Peru, Bolivia and California between 1827 and 1865, contributed 286 specimens. Bridges made many contributions to the Proceedings of the Zoological Society. His father-in-law, Hugh Cuming (1791-1865) himself donated 212 specimens. In 1826 Cuming gave up his business to devote himself full-time to his enthusiasm for natural history, building himself a yacht and working especially in the Pacific, notably Chile, Malacca and the Philippines. Apart from his own collecting, Cuming also acquired much material collected by other naturalists.

As a final example of such collectors, one may cite Brian H. Hodgson with 156 specimens, a former member of the Indian Civil Service who returned to India after resigning from the Service in 1843. The bulk of his large Indian collection was eventually destined for the British Museum. Our Hodgson specimens carry original labels.

Lesser, but still significant, contributors included William Bullock, traveller, naturalist and antiquarian, whose museum contained valuable ornithological specimens, including material from the Leverian Museum and Sir Joseph Banks, as well as natural curiosities, works of art and armoury, was moved from Liverpool to London in 1809. In March 1819, the British Museum rejected a request that they purchase the museum and it was sold at auction in April, May and June of the same year. Despite the entertainment aspect of his collection, Bullock's significance as a man of science should not be underestimated. He was a member of the Linnaean Society and of other learned societies, conducting his own research into his field of study.

Another sale from which Derby obtained a significant number of birds was that of Dr. Andrew Smith. An early explorer in South Africa, Smith described many species for the first time, his collections being mounted by Jules and Alexis Verreaux. The sale of his collection began in June 1838, after the failure of his exhibition. Rather less material was obtained from the sale of the museum of Sir Ashton Lever in 1806. Like Bullock Lever's museum contained many curiosities, but it also included Cook material amongst its considerable bird collection.

A further source was Thomas Campbell Eyton (1809-1880), a correspondent of such naturalists as Charles Darwin. Prominent among his publications were his Monograph of the Anatidae, "History of the rarer British Birds" and his "Catalogue of British Birds".

Also significant was John Macgillivray, the son of the distinguished natural history academic, William Macgillivray, whose "History of British Birds" had for the first time produced a classification of birds based on their anatomical structure. He pursued a career as Naturalist on the "Fly" (on Derby's initiative), finally, after 1855, spending his life working among the Australasian Islands.

Finally, mention can be made of two men who collected for Lord Derby in the Americas and South Africa. Joseph Burke collected for Derby in South Africa from 1839 to 1842, and in North America between 1844 and 1846. David Dyson was employed during his early life as a weaver and constituted an example of a vanishing phenomenon - the self-educated expert naturalist. Dyson collected in South America between 1823 and 1856, succeeding Louis Fraser at Knowsley before concentrating his interests on conchology.

Thus, even by considering a small number of the donors to the Derby collection the variety of sources used becomes apparent. Lever and Bullock, also interested in museums, are encountered alongside such renowned naturalists as Gould and Cuming, an explorer like Smith, a self-educated naturalist like Dyson and a roving ship's naturalist like Macgillivray. All such strands of the natural history world were drawn together in the person of the XIIIth Earl of Derby, and serve to give some indication and illustration of the 'bridging' role referred to earlier.

The Role of Lord Derby in 19th Century Natural History

An analysis regarding the origin of the specimens forming the collections, and the associated archival material, allows some appraisal to be made of Lord Derby's contacts, and his influence upon them and varied institutions developing at that time. This role of his has been largely ignored, or at least sketchily dealt with, in papers and books published on this period; this is not surprising considering the dearth of published material. Visits to Knowsley or Liverpool would have corrected this, however, and given a more balanced picture.

Lord Derby, born in 1775, was interested in natural history at an early age, as his notebooks when aged 9-11 show us that, like many of his generation, he was undoubtedly influenced by the fervour developing from the Cook and other voyages. He was also in a social position which allowed him to meet and contact people closely connected with these ventures. He began to amass his collection during the first ten years of the 19th century, an important time, with the sale of the Leverian Museum, (1806, 94 specimens purchased) Bullock's sales, (1811-1812, 298 specimens purchased) and General Davies' sale, (1812, 108 specimens purchased). Two exact dates for the latter are recorded in Derby's MSS as June 6th and 8th, 1812, the recent "Natural History Auctions: Register of sales", listing it as early 19th century with no year or date (Chalmers-Hunt, 1976).

Derby's correspondence and lists show him to have been in contact with major ornithologists and naturalists of the day, corresponding with Latham and Montagu in the early days, and others such as Gould and Gray towards the end of his life. He thus spanned, as did Audubon, the early collectors and writers of the late 18th century and early 19th century, forming a bridge between these and the more scientific collectors and writers of the mid 19th century. He was fortunate in living at a time when the development of scientific natural history and institutions was beginning to progress along lines leading to the present day situation. He was not a passive collector and it is obvious that his knowledge and influence reached a large number of people and institutions. His exact role is the subject of an on-going study, but several points illustrate his direct involvement. He was closely linked with the Linnaean Society (President 1832-1834) and was one of the founder members of the Zoological Society of London, being later on the committee,

and President from 1834 until his death in 1851 (Scherren. 1905).

This was in keeping with his major interest, his menagerie and aviary, which was one of the finest in Europe at that time. The sale of his living collections in 1851 gives a clue as to its range and success. 345 mammals of 94 species and 1,272 birds of 318 species were sold, of which no fewer than 207 mammals of 39 species and 549 birds of 45 species had been bred at Knowsley. These included the Hawaiian Goose and 70 Passenger Pigeons. With current practice the fate of that last species may well have been different. To put this into perspective, in 1861, ten years later, the London Zoo had 450 mammals of ? species and 843 birds of ? species.

Lord Derby contributed a number of specimens to the London Zoo and there is no doubt that he brought his knowledge and experience on designs for accommodation, and for successful breeding and rearing of animals, to bear during his time as President. The establishment of a farm for breeding purposes and domestication experiments was an important aspect during the early years of the Zoo. Two other aspects also followed in this close-knit system. Upon dying, animals went into the collections of the Museum, often as types; and the transfer of staff from the Zoological Society to Knowsley was common. His support for other workers bore fruit; Yarrell, Vigors, Fraser, Moore, Gould and Lear all benefiting from his interest and position, in turn making significant contributions to his museum, library and documentation. The artistic documentation of the collections was undertaken by nearly all the major natural history artists of the time, Edwards, Waterhouse-Hawkins, Richter, Wolf, Gould and Lear. Many paintings are still at Knowsley, including Gould's originals for his folios and 400 of Edward Lear's paintings, the majority unpublished and many being traceable to specimens in the museum. Due to the courtesy of the present Earl of Derby, twenty of these formed an exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, in 1975 (Bailey 1975). The value of these paintings in academic terms is difficult to assess, but the link between Gould and Lear, controversy over the latter's influence etc. can best be judged by looking at these works. A number certainly form the basis of Gould's plates. The patronage of Lord Derby often went beyond a working arrangement, and in Lear's case this was evident; indeed Lear became almost one of the family and his nonsense poems were written for the grandchildren of the XIIIth Earl. Some details of the Menagerie are contained in two finely illustrated works (Gray, J. E. 1846).

Derby also had a botanical interest, corresponding with Hooker at Kew and getting his collectors to obtain specimens for him. In one case, however, that of J. P. Burke in Canada, things did not go well. (Glover 1975)

Lord Derby was not a prolific scientific writer, one of his few works being the descriptions of species obtained during Salt's journey to Abyssinia (Salt. 1814), from which he received many specimens. He did, however, contribute to the Zoological Society's meetings, and produced a number of papers for them as are recorded in the Proceedings. He was a man, primarily however, who employed others to do this for him. He and they kept detailed and meticulous records of the museum, specimens received and comments upon them. It is, though, a great pity that no really good scientific person worked at Knowsley full time. The numbers of pre-type material are difficult to estimate, but they are high. Among the people employed at Knowsley were Dyson, Sherlock, Moore and Fraser. Sherlock produced an inventory of the whole museum in 1822-23. This is now invaluable in tracing back specimens to the Leverian Museum and the Cook Voyages, the contents being numbered case by case and listed and cross-referenced to his own MSS Catalogue. Louis Fraser, first in the early forties and then full-time from 1848-50, prepared the six-volume "Catalogue of the Birds of the Knowsley Museum". The task unfortunately was never finished as Fraser obtained, through the courtesies of Lord Derby, the post of Vice Consul in Nigeria, thus illustrating the important reserves of patronage at the disposal of someone in the XIIIth Earl's position.

Thomas Moore, brother of Frederick Moore, Curator of the India Museum, provided the continuity between Knowsley and Liverpool. Employed from the age of eighteen at Knowsley, he superintended the transfer of the collection and remained the curator/director of the Derby Museum until 1892. He kept accurate records of daily work and

the museum was a visiting place throughout his time for eminent ornithologists of the day. Indeed on the public side no fewer than 500,000 people passed through the museum in a year, a figure difficult to better today with the increased population. After Moore's death Henry Ogg Forbes became director and published some catalogues of the collections, including Canon H. B. Tristram's, purchased for £3,150 in 1896. (Brennan in prep.) by Liverpool Museum.

Since that time, much of the value of the Derby collection in scientific and historical terms has been little appreciated. The loss of mammals during the war was a major reason for this. The scientific aspects will start to be uncovered in the first type list (Wagstaffe 1977), and the list of Extinct and Vanishing Species (Fisher and Morgan in prep.). However, the collection and donors offer a valuable insight into Derby's status and influence at a crucial period during the development of scientific natural history, Derby was closely connected not only with individuals but also with the development of the Zoological Society, the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) Zoology section and the London Zoo, as well as with British politics.

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The Wallace Egg Collection - Hidden Problems and Discoveries.

The zoological collections at Merseyside County Museums are presently being prepared for IRGMA analysis. Most of the collections were compiled in the North-West at the beginning of the century, and many of them have complete data and contain eggs of many species on the British list. Among the collections were two mahogany cabinets containing 481 clutches and with apparently no data nor information regarding the source of the collection. Closer observation of the collection revealed that a few of the eggs had some data pencilled upon them. A search through an old card index system which was compiled in the 1920's found a series of cards which corresponded to the clutches in the mahogany cabinets. The cards were labelled as the 'Dickinson Egg - collection' but contained no further information apart from name of specimen and clutch size. The Stock Books were searched and eventually reference was found to the Dickinson Egg-collection, but only 126 clutches were listed and those that were bore no resemblance to the card index system or clutches in the two cabinets. So back to the boxes of dusty files and manuscript material which had been virtually untouched since the war. After a great deal of time a small manuscript book was found which corresponded to the card index system and clutches in the cabinets. The title page of the Book was "The Wallace Egg collection". Further page by page searching through stock books and minutes of the Museum sub-committee meetings eventually revealed that the collection was purchased from Ritson Wallace of Thames Ditton on 3.7.1924 for £170 after being on loan to the Museum since 17.11.1916. The manuscript book gave details of the name of the species, clutch size, cost, name of dealer, and date obtained for every clutch. The book details 481 clutches though 56 of these were found to be missing from the cabinets. The collection was compiled by Wallace between 2.3.1894 and 21.5.1914 for a total cost of £355.13s.6d.

A list has been compiled of the dealers from whom Wallace obtained clutches and is presented below together with the number of extant clutches in the collection

Jeffreys	151	Bennet	5
Gorton	71	Cattle	3
Plumb	39	Rosman	3
Whitehouse	36	Berthing	3
Stevens (auctions)	35	Williams	2
Booth	28	Skinner	2
Marsden	23	Ernshaw	1
Wallis	14	Ellison	1
Saunders	7	Dewery	1

Clutches were also obtained from Beaumont, Taylor, Westell, and Norman but these are missing from the collection.

Copies of some of the Stevens Sale catalogues were traced by using Chalmers - Hunt (Natural History Auctions, 1700 - 1972, Sotheby Parke Bernet, 1976). Sale catalogues for 7 of the 35 clutches purchased through Stevens have not yet been traced. Of the remaining 28 clutches, catalogues revealed further data on 18 clutches, whilst catalogues for the remaining 10 clutches revealed no further information.

Copies of the Stevens Sale catalogues were obtained from D. B. Janson, 44 Great Russel Street, London WC1B 3PA. Those which are listed below are held at Merseyside County Museums.

18 and 19 May 1904
14 July 1904
5 December 1905
21 and 22 January 1907
9 April 1907
28 and 29 May 1907
28 October 1907
18 March 1908
21 September 1909
16 June 1914

In order to trace information on 7 further clutches the following Stevens Sale catalogues are required.

16 June 1904
17 April 1912
21 November 1912
13 March 1913.

Caution has to be taken when dealing with old egg collections regarding the identification of specimens. One of the eggs in the Wallace collection was labelled as 'Eskimo Curlew'. It was bought through a Stevens Sale for £3.3s.0d. The Sale catalogue stated that the egg had previously been owned by W. A. Wilkinson, and had been collected at St. Michaels Bay, Alaska on 2.6.1885. The egg was uncharacteristic for an Eskimo Curlew, and later was identified at the British Museum (Natural History), sub-department of Ornithology, Tring, as an egg of Hudsonian Godwit.

Some of the eggs in the Wallace collection are scientifically quite valuable. There are two eggs of Ivory gull, one collected in Greenland, and the other on the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition to Franz-Josef Land.

Should any museum have information on any of the dealers mentioned which may help to trace data for some of the clutches in the Wallace collection, and in addition any copies of the 4 outstanding Sale catalogues, then Merseyside County Museums would be glad to hear from them.

The completion of IRGMA cards for the zoological collections at Merseyside County Museums is being financed by the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme.

Julian G. Greenwood,
Dept. of Vertebrate Zoology
Merseyside County Museum

Notes and Requests

Whales, dolphins and porpoises stranded on the British coasts.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises stranded on the British coastline have been the property of the Crown since a statute was enacted early in the 14th century, as are Cetacea caught in our coastal waters.

There are, however, certain exceptions to this basic statement. For example, in Scotland the pilot whale, the bottle-nosed whale and any other species not exceeding twenty-five feet in length are not 'Fishes Royal', nor are any cetaceans stranded on the coasts in areas where the right of ownership has since passed from the Crown to the Lord of the Manor. It must not be assumed, however, that Cetacea stranded on those parts of the coast that belong to Lords of the Manor can be taken or mutilated in any way without the appropriate permission.

Since 1913 records of cetaceans stranded on the coasts of the British Isles have been kept in the Natural History Museum in London. Since the Museum began its scheme for recording strandings of cetaceans in 1913 over 1900 records have accumulated and twenty two different species are represented.

Through the involvement of their departments, the Receivers of Wreck and Officers of H.M. Coastguard inform the Museum of strandings and send details required on specially prepared forms. In some instances this Museum receives information regarding strandings from members of the general public.

Occasionally members of the Museum staff visit individual strandings to examine the specimens, and in such cases the animal is taken back to the Museum either in entirety or in part. Dissections are often carried out on the beach. The disposal of the remains of all strandings is normally arranged between the Receivers of Wreck or H.M. Coastguard Officers and the local authorities. In this respect there are certain rules that must be followed. Cetaceans stranded must not, for example, be buried below high water mark.

It is necessary to dispose of animals not required by this Museum as soon as practicable as to some extent they are a potential health hazard.

Should any local museum, or any other bona fide institution be interested in obtaining specimens from a stranding, whether in their area or not, they are welcome to contact this Museum for permission to do so. In practice this permission will often be given though under no circumstances should any animal be touched beforehand. When such authority has been granted the institution concerned should liaise with the local Receiver of Wreck or Coastguard Station.

Anyone hearing of a stranding is requested to notify either the Receiver of Wreck, H.M. Coastguard or this Museum.

Frequencies of the Species 1913 - 1976

Species.	Number of records	Order of frequency.
Common porpoise (<u>Phocoena phocoena</u>)	721	1
Bottle-nosed dolphin (<u>Tursiops truncatus</u>)	210	2
Common dolphin (<u>Delphinus delphis</u>)	174	3
Lesser porpoise (<u>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</u>)	128	4
Pilot whale (<u>Globicephala melaena</u>)	124	5
White-beaked dolphin (<u>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</u>)	108	6
Bottle-nosed whale (<u>Hyperoodon ampullatus</u>)	81	7
Risso's dolphin (<u>Grampus griseus</u>)	74	8
Killer whale (<u>Orcinus orca</u>)	49	9
White-sided dolphin (<u>Lagenorhynchus acutus</u>)	40	10
Cuvier's whale (<u>Ziphius cavirostris</u>)	37	11
Fin whale (<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>)	35	12
Sowerby's beaked whale (<u>Mesoplodon bidens</u>)	28	13
Sperm whale (<u>Physeter catodon</u>)	23	14
False killer whale (<u>Pseudorca crassidens</u>)	18	15
Sei whale (<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>)	9	16
Euphrosyne dolphin (<u>Stenella coeruleoalba</u>)	6	17
Blue whale (<u>Balaenoptera musculus</u>)	4	18
True's beaked whale (<u>Mesoplodon mirus</u>)	3	19
Narwhal (<u>Monodon monoceros</u>)	2	20
Pigmy sperm whale (<u>Kogia breviceps</u>)	1	21 =
White whale (<u>Delphinapterus leucus</u>)	1	21 =

In addition to those listed above there have been a number of Cetacea stranded which could not be identified from the information given.

The following references may be of interest for further reading and information :-

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- Harmer, S.F. (1914-27). Reports on Cetacea stranded on the British coasts, nos. 1-10. London, British Museum (Natural History).
- Sheldrick, M.C. (1976). Trends in the strandings of Cetacea on the British coasts, between 1913-72 Mammal Rev. 6 No. 1. pp. 15-23.

EXTINCT, RARE, OR THREATENED BRITISH FRESHWATER FISHES IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS.

The relationship of museums to the conservation of endangered species, or populations, is a potentially controversial topic and one liable to lead to misunderstanding amongst naturalists. Few conservationists (or museum workers) can look upon the series of eggs and skins of some nearly extinct bird without a distinct qualm of conscience concerning the role of museums in conservation. It is true, however, that even in the past, museum collecting policies have had little effect on the continued survival of any species. However, one positive role for museums is important. If conservation measures fail to preserve a species or population from extinction, museum specimens may then be the only material available for study. For this reason curators have a responsibility to the conservation and scientific communities for the care and safe preservation of extant material of such taxa.

Many threatened species are listed in the Red Data Book and are often well known, but endangered local populations are less likely to be noted. Our interest lies in collections of certain species of freshwater fishes from the British Isles which all fall into the category of extinct or endangered local populations and we propose to compile a list of museum holdings of such taxa, so that curators are aware of the value of their material and the amount of material available for research is known.

We appeal to curators to check their collections of fishes for any of the following species collected from localities in the British Isles, and to inform us of their holdings.

CHARR Salvelinus alpinus

(Synonyms include : Salvelinus (or Salmo) willughbii, S. lonsdalei, S. maxillaris, S. perisii, S. mallochii, S. killinensis, S. inframundus, S. struanensis, S. gracillinus, S. colii, S. grayii, S. travelyani, S. fimbriatus, S. scharffi, S. obtusus ; char).

WHITEFISHES Coregonus albula

(Synonyms include : Coregonus vandesius, C. gracilior, C. pollan, C. p. altior, C. p. elegans ; vendace or pollan).

Coregonus lavaretus

(Synonyms include : Coregonus clupeioides, C. c. stigmaticus, C. c. pennantii; powan, schelly, skelly, gwyniad).

Coregonus oxyrinchus

(Synonyms include : Coregonus oxyrhynchus ; houting).

ALLIS SHAD Alosa alosa

BURBOT. Lota lota

(Synonyms include : Gadus lota, Lota vulgaris).

STURGEON Acipenser sturio from any British Isles locality, marine and freshwater.

In addition to the above listed species, we also require information on museum holdings of representatives of the following local populations.

SMELT Osmerus eperlanus from Rostherne Mere, Cheshire.

THAITE SHAD Alosa fallax from Lake Killarney (Lough Leane).

(Synonyms include: Alosa finta, Clupea finta, C. fallax ; goureen, lake herring.

The Killarney lakes population has been recognised as a sub-species and named

A. fallax killarnensis).

We wish to hear from curators with any of these fish in their collections, so that details of their specimens may be incorporated into the proposed register of museum holdings of rare, extinct or threatened fish species.

The following information is required : -

Species name

date of collection or incorporation

locality

number of specimens

method of preservation (e.g. wet, dry, skeletal preparation etc.) .

Information of a more general nature about the fish collections of British museums is also required e.g.

Approximate total number of fish specimens in collection.

What proportion of the collection is of British or North Atlantic material.

Details of any known type specimens.

Reply, please, to :

Alwyne Wheeler,

British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road,
London, SW7 5BD.

or to : Geoffrey N. Swinney,

Royal Scottish Museum,
Chambers Street,
Edinburgh, EH1 1JF.

I am preparing the Royal Entomological Society Handbook covering the Cleroidea and Lymexyloidea (Coleoptera). Work is well underway, and I have the keys worked out for all species. I am trying to amass data in order to ascertain the rough distribution of the species. All I require is place and date of capture, captor, collection and if available any ecological information - e.g. "with Lyctus" or "on oak" is adequate.

The species I would particularly like to hear about are (I follow Kloet & Hinks, 1977) - Nemozoma elongatum (Linn., 1761) (Trogossitidae), Paratillus carus (Newman, 1840), Tillus unifasciatus (Fab., 1787), Trichodes alvearius (Fab., 1792) and T. apiarius (Linn., 1758), Tarsostenus univittatus (Rossi, 1792) (Cleridae), Lymexylon navalae (Linn., 1758), (Lymexylidae).

Only those captures of P. carus made under natural conditions - the species was introduced with Lyctus infested timber of Australasian origin, and doubtless still occurs in timber yards, docks etc.

Except for about two of the species mentioned above, not captured this century in G.B., four are presumed extinct in these Islands. A collation of any data would be most interesting.

J. Cooter.

Department of Natural History,
Art Gallery and Museum,
Kelvingrove,
Glasgow, G3 8AG.

I am at present trying to gather information on the Sea Eagle from egg clutches present in collections, as a background to our Sea Eagle Reintroduction Project on the Isle of Rhum. I hope to be able to build up a distribution map of the species prior to its extinction, and perhaps to assess why it declined when the Golden Eagle is still with us.

I wonder whether B.C.G. members could send me details on any Golden and White-tailed Sea Eagle which you may have in your collections - date, location, clutch size (and egg measurements if available) would suffice.

I would also be grateful to hear if they know of any other sources which may prove fruitful to follow up.

I hope this request does not prove too inconvenient. Thank you.

J.A. Love.

The Nature Conservancy,
Isle of Rhum,
Inverness-shire.

I was most gratified by the response to my request for further information regarding molluscan collections (B.C.G. Newsletter, 5: 19-19)

There were inevitably a few criticisms as to the selection of museums which, of necessity had to be largely subjective. In addition it was primarily intended for biologists- the 'fossil' material was included only where the museums concerned also possess 'recent' molluscs -therefore specifically geological collections were omitted. I was also very much dependant on my sources of information which, as stated in the article, were only up to date to 1970. Since this date most museums have continued re-arranging and accessioning material so that some of the figures may appear low.

The purpose of the article was to illicit information and I would like to thank the following for their comments; the museums at ^{Aylesbury}, Glasgow, Ludlow, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxfordshire, Sheffield, Spalding, Stoke-on-Trent, Swansea, Tyne and Wear (including Sunderland, Saltwell Park, and South Shields). I would appreciate further comments before I draft a list of additions and amendments.

Dr Peter Lingwood
Merseyside County Museum

Bird Collections in the United States and Canada

The questionnaire in the BCG special newsletter (April 1977) was produced in an attempt to ascertain the location and detail of biological collections in Great Britain. In 1969 a similar survey of bird collections was carried out in North America, and the results were subsequently published :-

Banks, R.C., Clench M.H., and Barlow J.C. (1973)

Bird Collections in the United States and Canada.

Auk 90 136 - 170

Clench M.H., Banks R.C., and Barlow J.C. (1976)

Bird Collections in the United States and Canada : Addenda and Corrigenda.

Auk 93 126 - 129

These papers detail 865 individuals and institutions in North America. Only if the museums contained more than 200 specimens were comprehensive details presented in the papers, otherwise just the addresses for correspondence were given. The papers show the locations of collections of ornithological material with research potential, with an estimate of the numbers of skins, skeletons, spirit-preserved specimens, eggs, and nests. Geographic and systematic groups most well represented in collections are detailed, as are numbers of holotypes, details of special preparations, housing of original field notes, card files to facilitate finding specimens, housing of previous private collections, loan and visiting arrangements, nest record schemes and ringing programmes associated with the collections, details of original paintings, photographs and tape recordings, and name and address for correspondence.

Julian G. Greenwood,
Dept. of Vertebrate Zoology,
Merseyside County Museums.

Information required about H.S. Leigh (Entomologist)

I am anxious to trace the whereabouts of the collection, any correspondence, or notebooks of H.S. Leigh. He worked for a while in the University of Manchester around 1915 but they have no record of any work he did. In 1908 and 1911 he published notes in the Entomologist and the Entomologist's Record requesting information about melanic lepidoptera. Dr. J. Bishop of the genetics department of Liverpool University believes that the work of Leigh may shed extremely useful information on the development of melanism in Britain. He asked me to submit this request to the Biology Curators Newsletter as a useful means of contacting many natural history curators.

I.D. Wallace
Merseyside County Museums
LIVERPOOL

Request for specimens.

TRAFFIC (Trade Records analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) the Trade Specialist Group of the Survival Service Commission of I.U.C.N. are developing a reference collection of animals and plants in trade. Any skins or other products that could assist in this work would be gratefully received. With or without data they can be put to good use.

John.A. Burton,
Chairman TRAFFIC
Fauna Preservation Society,
c/o London Zoo,
Regents Park,
London N.W.1.

(Ed. John Burton is the major speaker at the B.C.G. arranged session at the Museum Association Annual Conference this year. Aspects of this work illustrating the need for a good reference collection will be reinforced then.)

I am interested in locating certain specimens of the reed-fish, Calamoichthys calabaricus, Smith, and would like to hear from any curator who has specimens of this fish in his or her collection. (The species was originally named as Erpetoichthys calabaricus, but Smith changed the name to Calamoichthys calabaricus on the advice of Gunther. The generic names Herpetoichthys and Calamichthys have also been used by some authors). I would be grateful for brief details, and in particular the date of acquisition, of any specimens which might be known to my fellow curators.

G.N. Swinney
Assistant Keeper (Curator of
Fish)
Royal Scottish Museum ,
Chambers Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

Nicely timed for Conference the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council have produced the first summary of their Natural Sciences Collections as a reprint from 'The Naturalist' (1977 - 25-30) on the Botanical Collections.

Details of collectors, sources, approximate numbers, period of collection and area of coverage are tabulated for the major collections - the Herbaria of the Cartwright Museum, Bradford, based on collections by F. Arnold Lees (1847-1921), the important cryptogams of Thomas Hebdon (1849-1931) from Cliffe Castle, Keighley and the Wakefield Museum Herbarium.

Copies, 10p plus postage, are available from Margaret Hartley c/o Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley, West Yorks-BD20 6LH.

Charles Pettitt (Manchester Museum, The University M13 9PL) and Philip Palmer (British Museum, Natural History, London SW7 5BD) are collaborating on a study of the Scaphopoda of the N.E. Atlantic and surrounding seas. They would be very pleased to hear of any well localised or type scaphopod material from that area that may be in collections in care of members of the BCG. In return they would be happy to provide current identifications for the material.

1977 Subscriptions.

The following members have not yet paid their 1977 subscriptions, in order to stand for the committee, nominate anybody, vote for the committee and receive the next newsletter would they please send to me, Peter Morgan, their subscription of £1.

Miss J.A. Bardsley.	Booth Museum, Brighton.
Mr. P.C. Bates.	Museum of Pathology, Royal Free Hospital, London.
Mr. C.R. Betteridge.	Dept. of Museum Studies, Leicester.
Dr. D.L. Burkel.	Glasgow Art Gallery and Museums, Glasgow.
Mrs. J.E. Chamberlain.	City Museum and Art Gallery, Portsmouth.
Miss. S.D. Chapman,	Palaeo. Dept. Brit. Mus. (Nat.His.), London.
Mr. D.J. Clarke.	Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle.
Mr. T.M. Clegg.	Yorkshire Museum, York.
Mr. J.J. Daws.	Gordon Museum, Guy's Hospital, London.
Mr. I.M. Evans.	Leicestershire Museums Service, Leicester.
Mr. K. Ghani.	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.
Mr. A.P. Harvey.	Palaeo. Library, Brit.Mus. (Nat.Hist.), London.
Mrs. A. Hollowell,	City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol.
Mr. T.A. Hose.	Grosvenor Museum, Chester.
Mr. J.A. Keefe.	Croydon. Nat.His. and Scien. Soc. Croydon.
Mr. R. Mahoney.	Zool. Dept. University College, London.
Mr. J.C. Metcalf.	Leicester (private member).
Mrs. S.J. Patrick.	Derby Museum, Derby.
Mrs. H.C.G. Ross.	Ulster Museum, Belfast.
Mr. B.R. Sawford.	North Herts. Dist.Mus. Serv. Letchworth Museum.
Mr. C. Simms.	Yorkshire Museum, York.
Mr. C.A.B. Steel.	Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton.
Dr. A. Stevens.	Pathol.Dept. University of Nottingham.
Mr. S.J. Trodd.	A.M.S.S.E.E. Milton Keynes.
Mr. B. Walker.	Museum and Art Gallery, Scunthorpe.
Mr. G.P. Whalley,	Woolaton Hall, Nottingham.

We welcome to the ranks of the B.C.G. the following new members :-

Mr. J. Cooter.	Glasgow Museums and Art Gallery Kelvingrove.
Dr. P.F. Cornelius.	Dept. of Zoology Brit. Mus. (Nat.His.), London.
Mr. H. Galbraith.	Glasgow Museums and Art Gallery Kelvingrove.
Mr. A. Garside.	Hancock Museum, Newcastle.
Mr. D.I. Steward.	Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.
Mr. K.R. Watt.	Dept. of Zoology Aberdeen University.
Mrs. M. Crittenden.	Dept. Entomology. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada.

B.C.G. Officer and Committee elections.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last A.G.M. the elections for the B.C.G. will be by postal ballot.

Requests for nominations are included in this Newsletter below and details of those nominated will appear with voting slips in the September Newsletter. These votes will be counted and announced at the A.G.M. in December, details then being published in the December Newsletter.

The work of the B.C.G. has increased and several changes in the committee structure have been agreed. This effectively enlarges it by four spreading the workload and bringing more people, hopefully from more regions and types of institutions to the committee and its work.

The new posts will be that of treasurer, separated from the work of the Secretary and that of assistant editor whose main task will be to contact people for articles etc. leaving the editor to deal mainly with production etc. Two extra committee posts are also available.

REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS : -

Nominations are required for the following posts,

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Assistant Editor,

Six committee members.

Nominations should be proposed and seconded and sent to the Secretary by 31st August.

The nominations should also include some information on the nominee, background, interests etc. for publication in September. Do not even be afraid to tell others you wish to stand, the more active people the better.

B.C.G., G.C.G., S.A. September Conference.

Full details of the conference have been sent to all members. Will those members intending to come please send their booking forms by August 10th or as soon as possible. 35 people, excluding speakers are already coming.

E.F. Greenwood,
Merseyside County Museums,
Liverpool.

Biology Curators' Group

Committee 1977

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