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SHORT NOTES

(THIS SECTION CAN BE USED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE, MEETINGS, COLLECTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ETC.,).

1. REQUEST - DRAWINGS OF INSECTS by John Sang (1828-1887)

According to their second owner, John Sang's drawings of Coleoptera were the finest ever executed. The detail was reported to be such that the drawings could be examined under the microscope to reveal the fine detail. He used a technique of punching or pricking holes in the paper to represent the sculpturing on beetle elytra, but this could never be reproduced by printing methods. Herbert Willoughby-Ellis (1889-1943) was the lucky person to obtain these drawings from their original owner, Philip Brookes Mason (1842-1903) who commissioned John Sang to draw beetles from his collection. Sang curated Mason's collection from about 1882 until his death during which time he drew from the collection which is now in Bolton Museum. Each specimen drawn is labelled 'Specimen drawn by Sang' and they fall mainly within the Staphylinidae. Earlier he drew micro-Lepidoptera and these were also in Willoughby-Ellis' possession.

I am anxious to trace these drawings, particularly of the coleoptera as they relate to the collection here. More importantly, many of them are of the holotypes of the various species described by Rye, Matthews, etc., and could be of taxonomic significance if they have been published, which point I am also trying to establish. Furthermore, they will be exceedingly valuable and it is quite likely that material like this could be mouldering, unappreciated, in some museum or private collection. The museums of Torquay, Birmingham University Zoology Department, Harrow School, York, British Museum (.N.H.) and Liverpool which have some Willoughby-Ellis material have already been contacted and claim to know nothing of these drawings. Could anyone with any knowledge of them or any ideas concerning their whereabouts, please contact me.

Willoughby-Ellis, H (1942) Proc.R.Ent.Soc 17 (4-6) 62-63

'John Sang's original drawings of British
Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, with a note on
Dr. P. B. Mason's Collections'

John Sang - Obituary of, EMM XXIII (1807), 278-9

Willoughby-Ellis - Obituary of, EMM LXXIX (1943), 280

E. G. Hancock, Senior Keeper, Natural History Department, Museum & Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Bolton BS1 1SA. Tel.(0204) 22311 Ext 361.

2. PUBLICATION - KEY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS

The Nature Conservancy Council has initiated an AID-GAP project (Aids to the identification of difficult groups of animals and plants). In this context 'difficult' refers to groups not adequately covered in readily available field guides. It is intended to produce keys written so as to avoid excessive use of technicalities and the first one is available at 30p from Preston Montford Field Centre, Near Shrewsbury, Salop.

3. TECHNIQUES

Copies of the original sodium perborate method for preparing osteological material introduced to museums by J. Coy and C. E. Owen are available from Dick Hendry, Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG.

A round robin copy of a new technique for mounting mammals (medium and large), used at The Newfoundland Museum, is now available. The technique involves laminating a very thin layer of fibreglass and resin over the posed, frozen carcass. This layer is used directly as the mannikin. Contact Dick Hendry.

4. MEETING - 4-11 AUGUST 1976 PLANNING FOR MAN AND NATURE

This course is designed for those who have an interest in some branch of natural history or land use planning and who wish to gain knowledge of the conservation of nature. The course, involving field excursions, will cover -

the ecology of plant and animal communities;
recording, evaluation and management of sites of
ecological interest;
the economics and ecology of competing and complementary
highland land uses;
education and interpretation in the countryside.

The course will be held at Kindrogan Field Centre in the Scottish highlands and the fee for the week will be £39.00, inclusive of board, accommodation and tuition.

Details from - The Warden,
Kindrogan Field Centre,
Enochdhu,
Blairgowrie,
Perthshire. Tel Strathardle 286.

5. WANTED - ANIMAL REMAINS -

Jennie Coy would welcome any material capable of being made into skeletons, even parts of rarer animals.

Contact - J. Coy,
DOE, Faunal Remains' Project,
63 University Road,
University of Southampton,
Southampton SO9 5NH,
Tel. 559122 (Ext. 428).