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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Reports

Secretary's Report

The two main events of the year have been the Wildlife and Countryside Act Seminar held in London in May and the Cardiff Conference which took place in July. The former was held in cooperation with the Museums Association and brief reports have been published in the Museums Bulletin and in the Newsletter. After some delays, it is hoped that the full report will be available within a matter of weeks. The report of the Cardiff Conference (which the Secretary was unfortunately unable to attend) is promised early in 1983.

It was not possible to organise a meeting for members at the Museums Association Annual Conference at Nottingham this year but Eric Greenwood and Howard Brunton both presented papers on aspects of natural history collection management to the main conference.

An important development during the year has been the proposals to reintroduce a Natural Sciences Diploma Course. Two meetings have been held between members of the BCG and GCG and it is hoped to put forward firm proposals to the Museums Association shortly. It is recognised that there may be difficulties in making the courses compulsory and it is thought that courses should be made available to any natural history curators who wish to attend. It is proposed that the courses be held in Leicester with some field work and some visits to London and elsewhere.

The Group has commented through the Secretary on a number of developments which affect natural history museums and natural history collections including the dispersal of collections at Chester and Burton on Trent, and a number of official reports.

The Group has been pleased that the Museums Association has continued to provide a liaison officer at committee meetings and would like to place on record its thanks to Janet Chamberlain on her retirement from this position and welcome Charles Steel who has taken her place.

We would also like to thank the Museums Association and the British Museum (Natural History) for providing facilities for meetings.

Later in the year we hope to welcome some of the overseas natural history curators who will be attending the International Council of Museums Conference to be held in London. An excursion is being arranged for members of the ICOM Natural History Committee and it is hoped that some BCG members will be able to accompany them..

As I shall be retiring from the position of Secretary at the Annual General Meeting I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their support during my period in office.

G.Stansfield
Honorary Secretary