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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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Author(s): Andrew, K.

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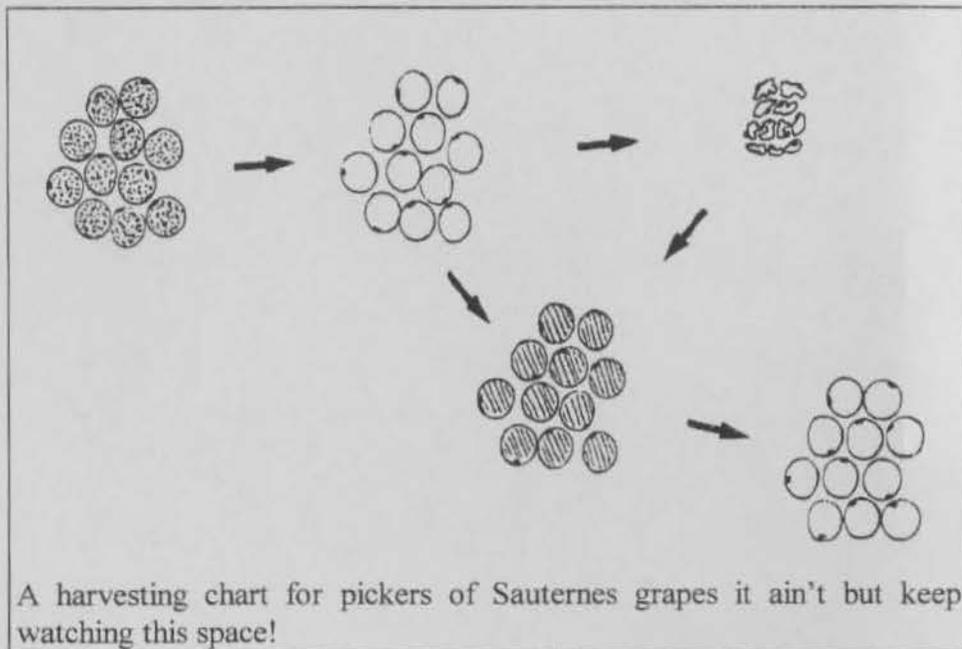
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## Editorial

Now that summer has come, gone and returned, it's time to start checking those storerooms - has *Anthrenus*, or any of its comrades in arms, managed to squeeze in under the window frames? Did your environmental scanner go off the screen during the three day heatwave in early June? Has your budget already overrun and your curatorial staff been cut? No this is not leading up to an overdose of methanol nor an ad. for a curatorial panacea (sorry!) but realistically, this has been a good year for *Anthrenus* and the micromoth brethren and a headache for conservators and curators alike. Hampshire County Council Museums Service has now set up its own humidified nitrogen fumigation tank and has already prevented a large whooper swan specimen from ending up as a duvet filler! Museum assistants have been diligently checking window cills each morning and flattening any beetles that have successfully negotiated the journey inside (what was that about beetling down to your museum??!) One Spanish student studying museums (six-legged) pests found that the even larger *Attagenus* or Attahaynoos, as she dubbed them, were capable of squeezing their bodies through the tiniest chinks in corners of windows - you have been warned!

Simon Moore



A harvesting chart for pickers of Sauternes grapes it ain't but keep watching this space!

## Chair's Letter

Dear Members

The Natural Sciences Conservation Group will be receiving quite a lot of international attention with representation in the USA and two international meetings coming up this summer in the UK.

Donna Hughes was able to take our cut-and-pasted poster to the SPHNC meeting in Philadelphia, where it attracted considerable attention and quite a few membership requests.

Coming soon is the Second World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections in Cambridge. We are presenting a workshop from 4-6pm on the Thursday 22 August entitled "Meet the UK Natural Sciences Conservation Profession". We are aiming to show work in all disciplines covered by our group, for the displays to have people working on specimens and mounts and to allow the conference delegates to have a go themselves. We also hope to attract new members to join by offering the opportunity for conference delegates to chat to as wide a selection of our members as possible. So, if you are attending the meeting please make yourself available for this session. If you have a demonstration to offer on the day and have not already been in touch, please phone me as soon as possible at Ludlow Museum 01584 873 857.

After a minor hiccup, the group is now in the process of joining the Conservation Forum, an umbrella organisation representing nearly all disciplines of conservation and restoration, other member institutions include SSCR, UKIC, BAFRA and the Institute of Paper Conservation. We will be represented on a Conservation Forum leaflet distributed at the ICOM meeting in Edinburgh later this summer and will also be represented through the Forum at the forthcoming Restoration meeting in Amsterdam.

The Conservation Forum has developed a business plan and has a number of both short and long term objectives, these include developing training, dealing with CCT, insurance for conservators and so on. Since the Forum aims to speak with one voice on matters of common interest, share expertise and information and co-operate in activities of common interest, membership should benefit the group and gain a higher profile for Natural Sciences Conservation.

The groups next big event after Cambridge will be our AGM in Cardiff in April 1997, by joining forces with BCG, we hope to run a much larger scale meeting with an evening reception, two days of talks and a day of tours. Please don't be shy, this is your chance to share ideas and ask for suggestions or solutions to problems that you have encountered, by presenting a talk or a poster; we do not really want to invite all the speakers.

Your committee are working on a new membership leaflet and a reprint of the poster are looking into ways of funding these. We will be holding a committee meeting in Cambridge after the workshop, so if there is anything that you the membership want to mention, please let one of us know.

Happy Holidays

Kate