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supplied by Sir J.E. Smith which are largely duplicates of specimens now kept in herb. LINN-Smith.

2 Joseph Dickinson (c. 1805-1865) was a lecturer and physician at Liverpool School of Medicine and Liverpool Royal Infirmary. He became Secretary of Liverpool Botanic Garden, from whose living collections he prepared vouchers.

3 International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (1995), edited by P. Treharne et al., is published by Quaterjack Publishing, Wimborne as vol. 133 of the series *Regnum Vegetabile*.

4 The University of Liverpool's cultivated herbarium (part of LIVU), which is now incorporated into the Liverpool Museum's herbarium (LIV), was previously kept at the University's Botanic Garden at Ness which had been founded in 1897 as the private botanic garden of Arthur Kilpin Bulley (1861-1942). Bulley, a socialist and philanthropist whose wealth was derived from cotton trading, sponsored many field expeditions by noted collectors such as George Forrest.

5 A biographical memoir of James Bolton of Halifax was published by the National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside in 1995.

PLANT COLLECTIONS FOR NON-BOTANISTS WORKSHOP PART 1

It is stating the obvious to say that not all museums blessed with having a natural history collection have a full set of specialist curators and that the most common absentees from the equation are botanists. This workshop, held at Liverpool Museum on 26th February 1996, set out, therefore, to fill an equally obvious gap by providing practical guidance for non-botanical curators with plant collections in their care. It must be said, however, that of the 57 people who attended many had come for supplementary purposes while others just wanted to see what other curators got up to. This was fine as the largely practical nature of the day allowed people to get what they wanted out of it.

The day started with two introductory presentations looking at herbarium practice, then and now. This was followed by two practical sessions. The first covered aspects

of vascular plant curation and care comprising:- 1. The Preparation of Material in the Field; 2,3 & 4. Mounting Techniques à la The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, The Natural History Museum and The National Museums and Galleries of Wales; 5. Conserving Old Collections; and 6. Collections Arrangement. The second practical session focused on non-flowering plants and economic botany collections and included:- 1. Fungi; 2. Lichens; 3. Bryophytes; 4. Large Algae; 5. Diatoms; and 6. Economic Botany and Timbers. Many of the write-ups for these are based on information sheets used for the sessions while others are retrospective compositions. Neither, unfortunately, capture the impromptu question and answer nature of the demonstrations, however, all demonstrators included here will be happy to talk to you further should you have any specific queries. The afternoon was taken up with tours led by members of Liverpool Museum's Botany Department looking at the Natural History Centre; the James Bolton Exhibition; the Plant Room and use of living plants in NMGM. The day concluded with a well earned cup of coffee and a lively 'Curators Question Time.'

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National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside

Herbarium Practice, Then and Now

THEN: Herbarium Collections

Dr Angus Gunn, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

The tradition of collection and pressing plants for study dates back to the latter half of the 16th century with the establishment of herbaria at the Universities of Bologna (1570), Basel (1588) and Oxford (1621). The oldest surviving collections are probably in the Naturkundemuseum in Kassel (c.1569) and one of similar age in the Vatican collections.

These early collections consisted of specimens pasted into bound volumes and were used in very much the same way as a book of illustrations.

By the 18th century, herbaria began to be kept on loose sheets. This had a number of advantages. Specimens could