

THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
HISTORY OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY



# History & Mystery



Notes and queries from newsletters  
of The Society for the History of Natural History

## Celebrating 75 years of The Society for the History of Natural History

*History and mystery* is an anthology of notes and queries from *Newsletters* of the Society for the History of Natural History. Naturalists, books, collections, works of art, societies, even a mermaid, are contained here. Some of the notes are witty commentaries. Some of the topics are unexpected, even bizarre. Some of the reprinted queries are still unanswered.

*History and mystery* celebrates the Diamond Jubilee (1936–2011) of the SHNH, and it is also intended to help replenish funds, especially of the Alwyne Wheeler Bursary which supports travel by scholars to meetings of the Society so they can make original contributions to the study of the history of natural history.

Professor Geoff Moore, the Society's current President, writes:

As a more ephemeral publication than the Society's journal *Archives of natural history* and not being available online (except for the most recent issues), the *Newsletter* is much less readily available for consultation; few are likely to have access to the full run since 1977. If you've ever wondered what Broadwood pianos, criminals, wrapping paper, forged wills, the Secret Service, bad lighting, or Blandings Castle have ever had to do with natural history, then read on. There is erudition aplenty in the contributions made by stalwarts of the Society to the *Newsletter*. It seemed a shame that the scholarship encapsulated in its back-numbers had so limited a present circulation.

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