

THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
HISTORY OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY

# Newsletter

## DIARY

Number 99  
October 2010

Joint Meeting  
The First  
English "County Flora"  
Cambridge University  
Library  
3 November 2010  
See Item 8

Spring meeting 2011  
From Royal Gifts to  
Biodiversity Conservation:  
the history and  
development of  
menageries, zoos and  
aquaria  
Chester Zoo  
19–20 May 2011  
See Item 9

WEBSITE  
[www.shnh.org.uk](http://www.shnh.org.uk)  
EMAIL  
[info@shnh.org.uk](mailto:info@shnh.org.uk)

CORRESPONDENCE  
ADDRESS  
c/o The Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London SW7 5BD, UK  
Registered Charity No. 210355



## Contents

First and Foremost	I
Society News and Announcements	I
Forthcoming Society Events	4
Other Events	5
News & Information	7
Notes & Queries	8
Publishers' Announcements	12
New & Recent Publications	13
In Memoriam	15
Notes	16

Above: A portrait of John Gerard  
See Item 19

## Society for the History of Natural History

The Society was founded in 1936 by a small group of scientists, librarians and bibliographers centred on the British Museum (Natural History) in London. The Society is still closely associated with the Museum, which contains the national collection of natural history specimens and has a strong tradition in the historical study of these specimens.

Since its modest beginnings, the Society has grown in membership and international standing. It is known for its friendliness and its meetings combine intellectual excellence with opportunities for informal exchange of ideas. It is a focal point for the history of all aspects of natural history. This includes biographical accounts and bibliographic reviews of literary and artistic aspects of natural history, as well as more extensive and investigative historical studies.

Although it maintains strong links with the Natural History Museum, London, the Society also has a thriving international membership. Representatives in North and South America, Europe, Asia and the Antipodes organise local meetings and an International Meeting is held every other year, the most recent being in Edinburgh, in May 2008.

The Society produces two regular publications: *Archives of natural history*, a refereed journal, and the more informal *Newsletter* which is published three or four times a year.

For more information contact the Secretary, Society for the History of Natural History, c/o the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK or search on [www.shnh.org.uk](http://www.shnh.org.uk)

All subscription matters are handled for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. For subscription enquiries, including payment methods, please contact the Subscription Administrators at Edinburgh University Press – [journals@eup.ed.ac.uk](mailto:journals@eup.ed.ac.uk) or phone 01316 506207

Editor: Julia Bruce  
5, St Anne's Road  
Headington  
Oxford OX3 8NN

Tel: 01865 762118  
email: [newsletter@shnh.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@shnh.org.uk)

### COPY DATE

The copy date for the next Newsletter is 1 January 2011

## First and Foremost

To mark our 75th anniversary in 2011 the Society is putting in place several new initiatives to entice new members and inspire existing ones. Do, for instance, visit the Society's new Facebook page (Item 4) and investigate accessing past issues of *Archives* online (Item 7).

The next Newsletter will be our 100th edition. I'd like to mark this with contributions about what the Society means to you. Please do send me any thoughts or reminiscences you may have about the Society for this special issue, which will also be the first to come out in our 75th year.

Finally, a reminder to please now use the new official email addresses for correspondence with officers and post holders. I'd be particularly grateful if all email correspondence for the Newsletter could now be directed to: **newsletter@shnh.org.uk**.

A full list of email addresses can be found on the inside back cover.

## Society News & Announcements

### 1. President's note

The Society is looking forward to 2011 being its 75th Anniversary. Established in 1936, SHNH has firmly established itself as the only international society devoted to the history and bibliography of natural history in the broadest sense. We treasure our reputation for consistently maintaining a high standard of scholarship. The last year has seen exciting developments in terms of the election of Sir David Attenborough as our inaugural Patron, the coming together of our new website, our presence now on Facebook and the availability of the full run of back numbers of our journals online.

Without giving too much away, Council has various exciting plans for next year to mark

what we shall be referring to as our Diamond Jubilee (watch this space and our website for announcements). The Spring meeting in 2011 'From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation: the history and development of menageries, zoos and aquariums' will be an exciting event that will be one of the highlights of our Diamond Jubilee. It is a joint meeting, the co-sponsors being SHNH, the North of England Zoological Society (NEZS), the Linnean Society of London, the Bartlett Society and The World Society of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), to be held at Chester Zoo on Thursday and Friday 19–20 May 2011.

Geoff Moore  
President

### 2. Stearn Prize – winner announced

The Society for the History of Natural History is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2010 W. T. Stearn Student Essay Prize is Nils Petter Hellström, who has recently completed his M.Phil. in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge.

His essay, entitled 'The tree as evolutionary icon: Tania Kovats's TREE in the Natural History Museum', was praised by the judges as fascinating and innovative, and a revised, illustrated version of it will be published in *Archives of natural history* volume 38 in 2011.

The 2010 panel of judges comprised Professor Katherine Anderson, Professor Brian Ogilvie and Dr Anne Secord.

The Society now invites entries for the 2011 competition; the closing date for receipt of essays is 30 June 2011. Further information may be obtained from [www.shnh.org.uk](http://www.shnh.org.uk).

### 3. Council meeting 29 July 2010

Council welcomed four new councillors: Professor John Edgington, Ms Miranda Lowe, Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Mr Julian Wilson.

In order to obtain a new, and younger, perspective on the business of recruitment and retention of members to the Society, Julian, Isabelle and Miranda were given the task of reporting to Council how best to take these issues forwards, particularly among younger people. We are aware that, for the most part, young people interact electronically these days and the Society needs to take this into account.

In that connection, the Society has now also put procedures in place to submit manuscripts to *Archives* by email. For further details on this see Item 6.

Members should be alert to the fact that back numbers of the Society's journals are now up-loaded onto the Edinburgh University Press website (see Item 7) (<http://www.eup-publishing.com/journal/anh>). We would welcome feedback from members who avail themselves of this magnificent resource and we hope to make a different paper available each month to encourage people who are not yet members to join the Society.

Council was also delighted to appoint Dr Margarita Hernández Laille as our new Representative for Spain. A SHNH member and Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, Margarita is a Doctor cum laude on Sciences of Education with Extraordinary Prize, Degree in Philosophy and Sciences of Education, and MSc on Advanced Studies on Theory and History of Education. She has been awarded a four years post-doctoral grant at the National University of Distance Education (UNED) to develop her thesis in Spain and England on 'Darwinism in the History of Natural Science and Secondary schools textbooks during the last third of the nineteenth century in Spain and England'. She is the author of the book *Darwinism and textbooks in Spain and England in the nineteenth century (1870-1902)*.

Geoff Moore  
President

#### 4. Become a fan on Facebook

The Society now has a Facebook page. We aim to provide regular updates on the life and events of the Society, and in this way attract new members. At the moment, we have 50 fans on Facebook, but we hope that with regular updates, the number will continue to grow, and that this will increase our membership.

To see our page, log into or join Facebook and just search for Society for the History of Natural History.

#### 5. Editor's news

The next issue of *Archives of natural history*, volume 37 part 2, is in press and printed copies should be mailed to members in late September or early October. The online version became available on 7 September and members who have registered with EUP (see Item 7) can access all the papers and book reviews.

The following papers and short notes have been formally accepted for *Archives of natural history*, volume 38 (listed alphabetically by (first) author's surname)

**R. A. Baker and R. A. Bayliss:** The Valencia Harbour Survey (1895 and 1896) in Ireland, with special reference to the work of Edward Thomas Browne (1866–1937).

**P. A. Cochran:** On the identity of Champlain's gar.

**C. E. Jackson:** The painting of hand-coloured zoological illustrations.

**C. E. Jackson:** The materials and methods of hand-colouring zoological illustrations.

**J. J. F. J. Jansen:** Sale catalogue of Adriaan Vroeg's collection in the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

**G. Manganelli, A. Benocci and V. Spadini:** Biagio Bartolini's "Catalogo dei corpi marini fossili che si trovano intorno a Siena" (1776).

**P. G. Moore:** Briefly befitting breffits.

**B. Morton:** The Great Barrier Reef Expedition's "Coral Corroboree", Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 10 July 1928: an historical portent.

**E. C. Nelson:** "A botanical encampment at the foot of Ben Voirlich June 22d. 1821" by Robert Kaye Greville, and a Scottish beetle.

**E. C. Nelson and D. M. Porter:**

Archibald Menzies on Albemarle Island, Galápagos archipelago, 7 February 1795.

**T. W. Pietsch:** Charles Plumier's "Manicou Caraibarum" (c. 1690): a previously unpublished description and drawing of the common opossum, *Didelphis marsupialis* Linnaeus. The issue is not yet completed and other papers will be included before it is sent to press at the end of 2010.

Charles Nelson  
Honorary Editor

## 6. Submitting papers to *Archives of natural history*

We have decided to allow authors to submit papers by email\* as well as by post.

**By post:** As always as in the past, papers may be submitted on paper: two (2) copies of the text, tables and photocopies of any illustrations should be sent by (air)mail to The Honorary Editor, Society for the History of Natural History, c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Instructions for authors are available as a pdf from the Society's website or may be requested from the Hon. Editor (editor@shnh.org.uk).

**\*By email:** Please note this is not an automated system and does not entail any complicated registration process or uploading system. A dedicated email address is available for submitting papers and we ask you not to send papers to any other address. This dedicated email address, with simple instructions on how to prepare files for electronic submission, is available on the Society's website: go to

<http://www.shnh.org.uk/publications/archive-s-of-natural-history.html>. Authors are also requested to pay very close attention to the size of the files submitted by email, ensuring that they are as small as possible to keep download times to a minimum.

The Honorary Editor and the Associate Editors reserve the right to request hard copy of each paper submitted by email.

It is not possible to use fax for submitting papers.

Charles Nelson  
Honorary Editor

## 7. *Archives available online*

Members will be pleased to hear that the back numbers of the Society's journals are now available, in full, online at the Edinburgh University Press website. It has been a rocky road getting to this point and there are still some 'issues' with what is posted. We are working with EUP to iron out problems as we become aware of them. Should any member experience difficulties or see any problems, please contact Ann Vinnicombe (Managing Production Editor) at:

Ann.Vinnicombe@eup.ed.ac.uk.

Members should have received instructions in a letter from EUP sent out with their last issue of *Archives* giving instructions on how to access this material free of charge via EUP Journals Online ([www.eupjournals.com](http://www.eupjournals.com)). But in case anyone has mislaid this, then follow these instructions.

- Log into [www.eupjournals.com](http://www.eupjournals.com)
- Select 'My Account'
- Click on 'Access Tokens' and key in SHNH2010-09-06
- Click 'Submit'
- Click the 'Journals' tab to browse

*Archives of natural history*.

Charles Nelson  
Honorary Editor



## Forthcoming Society Events

### 8. Joint Meeting

350th anniversary of John Ray's  
Catalogue of Cambridge Plants, 1660: the first  
English "County Flora"

Cambridge University Library

Wednesday 3rd November 2010

The Society for the History of Natural History will be hosting a joint meeting at Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, UK on Wednesday 3rd November 2010 to celebrate the publication by the Ray Society of the English translation of John Ray's *Catalogus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium*, originally published by John Field in Cambridge in 1660. This is the first English 'County flora' as well as being the first of Ray's many published works.

For the first time, this publication will include the entire 1660 Catalogue and the short 1663 and 1685 Appendices, giving a complete text and with the addition of the modern equivalents to Ray's plant names.

Philip Oswald and Chris Preston have been translating and editing the *Catalogus* and it is hoped that their book will be published in time for the meeting.

This will be a one-day event including lunch, with an associated exhibit.

Programme: (as at 9 September 2010).

10.00 – Welcome, announcements

10.05–10.35: P.H. Oswald and C.D. Preston: Reassessing Raven's Ray

10.35–10.40: Discussion, questions

10.40–11.00: Coffee break

11.00–11.30: Mark Hill: John Ray's mosses and liverworts

11.30–11.35 Discussion, questions

11.35–12.05 Dr Karen Reeds: Ray's use of 16<sup>th</sup>-century herbal/travel literature (to be confirmed)

12.05–12.10 Discussion, questions

12.10–12.40 Alexander Wragge-Morley: Force, Signification and Ethics in Ray's *Natural History*

12.40–12.45 Discussion, questions

12.45–13.45 Break for lunch and viewing of exhibition

13.45–14.15 Prof. Tim R Birkhead: John Ray – Zoologist

14.15–14.20 discussion, questions

14.20–14.50 Paul Foster: From County Flora to Parish Flora – Gilbert White's debt to Ray's *Catalogue* (1660)

14.50–14.55 Discussions, questions

14.55–15.25 Prof R. H. Berry John Ray, Physico-theology and Afterwards

15.25–15.35 Conclusions, general discussion

15.35–16.00 Tea and close

The meeting begins at 10.00 am and will finish by 4.00 pm. Arrangements have also been made for participants to meet up at early dinner in Cambridge.

For further information please contact the Society for the History of Natural History Meetings Secretary, Gina Douglas, via e-mail: [meetings@shnh.org.uk](mailto:meetings@shnh.org.uk) or by post to G. Douglas (SHNH), 23 Jeffreys Road, SW4 6QU.

### 9. From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation:

the history and development of menageries,  
zoos and aquariums

Chester Zoo

19–20 May 2011

This is a joint meeting with the North of England Zoological Society (NEZS), the Linnean Society of London, the Bartlett Society and The World Society of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

All those interested in contributing are asked to contact the Meetings Secretary, Gina Douglas, via e-mail: [meetings@shnh.org.uk](mailto:meetings@shnh.org.uk) or by post to G. Douglas (SHNH), 23 Jeffreys Road, SW4 6QU

## Other Events

10. **Bats**  
**Le Havre Natural History Museum**  
**Place du Vieux Marché**  
**76600 Le Havre**  
 June 15–October 24

This public exhibition provides an insight into the biology of the bat through photographs, preserved specimens and drawings by Charles Alexandre Lesueur

Admission free

[www.ville-lehavre.fr](http://www.ville-lehavre.fr)

11. **Sir Joseph Banks Society Annual Dinner**  
**Horncastle Residential College.**  
 Saturday October 16th 2010  
 7.00pm

Main speaker Neil Chambers, Director of the Banks Archive at Trent University.

Tickets (£23.00) are available at the Banks Centre, Bridge Street, Horncastle, Mon–Sat 10.00–4.00, 01507 526065.

Anyone interested in joining the society can get further details from the Centre or by visiting: [www.joseph-banks.org.uk](http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk)

12. **Exhibition of Books on Natural History**  
**at the Redwood Library,**  
**Newport, Rhode Island**  
 July 21–November 18, 2010



Many of the founders of the Redwood Library, including Abraham Redwood himself, were naturalists, so it is not surprising that a number of natural history books were acquired for the library early on. Numerous later gifts built on this foundation, and as a result the Library has an excellent collection of early books on natural history. This exhibition showcases some of these books. The idea for the exhibition came about when the guest curator discovered that the Redwood owned a copy of Thomas Say's book on entomology. It is the first American book on this subject, it is beautifully illustrated, it is very rare, and the Redwood's copy was in pristine collection. By looking through the card catalogue and the online catalogue, many more great natural history books in the library were discovered.

Included in the exhibition are some books by naturalists who were born in Newport or who settled there later in their lives. Among them are Benjamin Waterhouse, the 18th-century physician and naturalist whose portrait hangs in the Redwood Library and who was born and raised in Newport, and Alexander Agassiz, the son of Louis Agassiz, founder of Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. The exhibition includes books by both Waterhouse and Agassiz as well as some of the most beautifully illustrated books in the library.

13. **Medieval Animal Data Network**  
**Animals and Otherness in the Middle Ages**  
**Departamento de Historia del Arte**  
**Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain**  
 7–8 February 2011

Conference organised by Departamento de Historia del Arte I (Medieval), Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain in collaboration with The Department of Medieval Studies at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary and the Department of Archaeology at the University of Reading, UK

This meeting aims to bring together scholars from a range of disciplines to consider the diverse use of animals in constructions of otherness. It encompasses not only conceptualised difference, but also physical societal differences expressed in the varied treatment of real and imagined animals. The meeting also encompasses the use of animals to emphasise contrast more broadly, such as the juxtaposition between good and evil, or positive and negative features. Key topics include, but are not restricted to:

- \* Animals as paradigms for the known and unknown.
- \* Animals used to define the normative and the forbidden/deviant.
- \* Animals used in defining alternative world views.
- \* Breaching and enforcing societal boundaries through specific forms of animal exploitation (e.g. the consumption of horses and dogs in Christian contexts; the consumption of pork in Jewish and Muslim contexts).
- \* Animals as symbols of oppressors and the persecuted.

Data and approaches may come from analyses of medieval art, material culture (zooarchaeology) and texts. The aim of the conference is to create an interesting cross-discipline forum for exploring a fundamental dimension of medieval European society.

14. Collecting ideas  
Conference on Geological Collectors  
and Collecting  
Flett Theatre  
The Natural History Museum  
London  
4–5 April 2011

‘To find out the truth of this question [the origin of fossils] nothing would conduce more than a very copious collections of shells, of the skeletons of fish, of corals, pori &c and of

these supposed petrifications.’ wrote Edward Lhwyd, naturalist and second keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford in 1690 to his colleague John Ray. For Lhwyd collecting provided ‘data’ to use to gain an understanding of fossils. But not all geological collectors have the same motivation. For some collecting is an educational hobby. For others, it’s all about the pleasure of owning and learning about interesting objects.

Whatever your geological collecting interests, the Conference on Geological Collectors and Collecting will be of interest. The conference – sponsored by the History of Geology Group (HOGG), a group affiliated with the Geological Society of London is timed coincide a major sale at Christies of natural history artefacts.

This two day event will include talks, exhibitions, workshops and behind-the-scenes tours on topics of interest to collectors of geological material of all kinds, including books, maps, minerals, and fossils. It will also include discussions about historical collections and policy issues related to collections and care of collections.

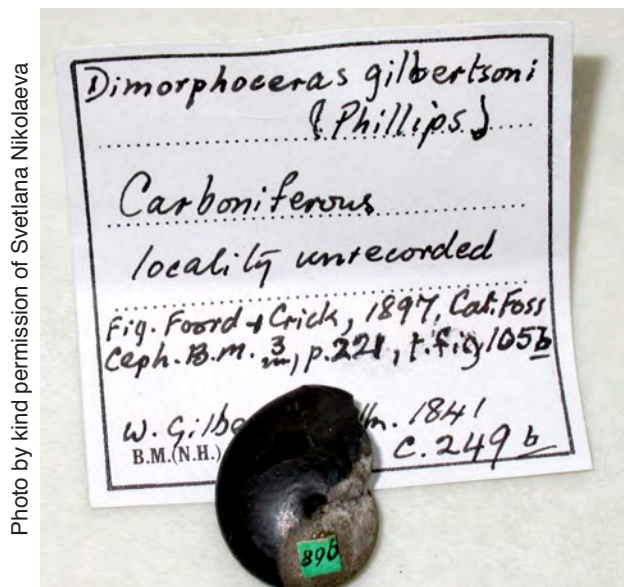


Photo by kind permission of Svetlana Nikolaeva

To receive further information and notices about the conference, e-mail Nina Morgan on [ninamorgan@lineone.net](mailto:ninamorgan@lineone.net)



### 15. Discovered! Audubon's first engraving of a bird



In 1824, three years before he began to publish his famous ‘double elephant folio’ *The Birds of America*, John James Audubon (1785–1851), the eminent artist of American birds and animals, created a drawing of a running grouse for use in the design for a New Jersey bank note. Although the artist mentions the drawing and the resulting engraved paper money in two separate diary entries, no one has ever been able to locate or identify the illustration.

Now, after a decade-long search by an Audubon scholar from Philadelphia’s Academy of Natural Sciences and a numismatic historian from St Louis, Audubon’s first published illustration of a bird has been found.

In an article in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, Robert M. Peck, curator of art and artefacts and senior fellow at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the article’s lead author, and Eric Newman, an authority on American money, reveal their discovery and explain how Audubon’s fledgling entry into the visual world of commerce took place. The find is important not only for solving the puzzle of the missing engraving, but also because it illustrates Audubon’s development as an artist of American subjects. It also provides a rare, contemporary view of the Heath Hen, a subspecies of running grouse that has become extinct since Audubon portrayed the bird in the early 19th century.

### The search for the missing engraving

In 1955, Audubon biographer Alice Ford began a decade-long search for the lost engraving in both the U.S. and Great Britain, but without success. In 1960, William H. Dillistin, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and a noted numismatic scholar, made his own systematic search for the Audubon bank note. Dillistin was no more successful than Ford.

Several of Audubon’s more recent biographers also have searched in vain for the bank note Audubon mentioned. Unable to find the evidence of Audubon’s claim, some scholars have dismissed it as a red herring, invented by Audubon (a frequent embellisher of his own achievements) to burnish his reputation in the lean years before publishing his landmark book, *The Birds of America* (1827–1838).

Now, research by Peck and Newman on the 19th-century American banking and engraving companies that furnished paper money at the time confirm the reliability of the artist’s assertion and explain how forces beyond his control denied Audubon the numismatic immortality he craved.

By tracing the graphic offerings of the bank note engraver Gideon Fairman (1774–1827), to whom Audubon gave his drawing of a Heath Hen (a subspecies of the Pinnated Grouse or Greater Prairie Chicken), the authors successfully identified the lost Audubon image and provided two possible explanations for the elusiveness of Audubon’s first published bird illustration. The ill-fated Audubon grouse image, which the authors found on engraved bank note sample sheets in a private collection, did eventually make its way onto proof bank notes made for at least two independent banks. But because these banks were in Connecticut and Ohio and were made years after the artist’s initial contact with Fairman, they were not detected as being by Audubon, until now.

16. Garima Gospels:  
oldest surviving Christian illustrated  
manuscripts

Radiocarbon testing has revealed that a pair of illustrated gospels kept in a remote monastery in Ethiopia may have been made as early as the 4th century and are perhaps the oldest surviving illustrated Christian works in existence. They contain images of over twenty different birds. The Garima Gospels have been kept in the dry and the dark, which has helped preserve the colours of the illustrations.

You can read more about the Garima gospels at:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garima\\_Gospels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garima_Gospels)

## Notes & Queries

17. More on the *Flora of Britain*  
by Thomas Beddoes

Spurred by my note in the May Newsletter (Item 11) about this elusive work, Charles Nelson has succeeded in running to source the statement about it that I quoted. It turns out to have come from page 9 of the biography of Beddoes by John Edmonds Stock, published by John Murray in 1811. The relevant passage reads: ‘Of his love for botany he has left a striking proof behind him, in a manuscript *Flora Britannica*, which he appears to have written while at Oxford. The elegance and beauty of the penmanship of this little volume would excite both admiration and surprise in every one acquainted with the extreme carelessness of his written character in after life.’

The puzzling absence of this title from the standard bibliographies on British botany is thus explained: the work never attained print – and in all probability was never intended to. Beddoes went up to Oxford University in 1776 and graduated three years later, whereupon he moved to London to study anatomy. Suggestively, it was 1776 that saw the first appearance

of William Withering’s long-selling *Botanical Arrangement* . . . which, under several modifications to its title, did more than any other work to make the identifying of wild plants by means of Linnaean classification a fashionable pursuit in Britain.

Stock goes on to say that Beddoes spent his vacations at that period generally in his native Shropshire and implies that the observations contained in the notebook in question were the product of ‘his long morning rambles with his gun’, during which he roamed the countryside round about with great inventiveness. Thus, despite the much more ambitious title the volume was found to bear – perhaps the choice of a printer-cum-stationer who hopefully placed on the market a bound set of blank pages with a view to tempting budding field botanists? – it rather looks as if it amounted to no more than just a local list, the equivalent of the ‘*Flora Selborniensis*’ that Gilbert White had spend the summer of 1766 compiling into a notebook.

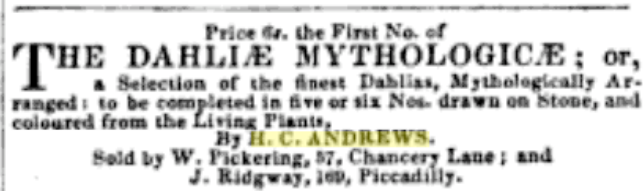
David Allen

18. Henry Andrews’s *Dahliae mythologicae*

Andrews’s publications are famous for their hand-coloured plates: *The botanist’s repository; Coloured engravings of heaths* and the ‘compact edition’ entitled *The heathery; monographs on Roses and Geraniums*. His life story, however, is enigmatic and we know neither his place and date of birth nor when and where he died – for a paper on Andrews, see *Archives of natural history* 29 (2): 245–264 (200). ‘E.L.’, in *The biographical dictionary of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* (volume 2, part II: p. 671. London 1843), described him in the past tense as ‘originally educated as an artist ... [who] lived in London during the chief part of his life, and died there.’

Recently by chance I came across a series of advertisements for Andrews’s works which suggest he was still alive and active in 1832, and,

most remarkably, that stock of all his works, in complete runs ready for sale, was to be had in London from William Pickering of Chancery Lane as late as 1834. The advertisement caught my attention because it was advertising an entirely unknown work: *Dahliae mythologicae*.



It is interesting on other counts too. The images were to be lithographed, rather than engraved on copper plates, and the phrase ‘coloured from living plants, by H. C. Andrews’ implies he was alive and well and at work. The advertisement seems to have first appeared in *The literary gazette, and journal of belles lettres ...* (no. 806: p. 413) on Saturday 30 June 1832 – but it was not in *The Athenaeum* of the same date.

Pickering used almost identical wording, including *Dahliae mythologicae*, when the firm devoted entire pages to advertisements for the ‘Splendid Botanical Works by Mr. H. C. Andrews’ inserted into some of its books; for example, at the end of volume 1 of *The poetical works of John Dryden* issued in 1832. However *Dahliae mythologicae* was not included in those lists inserted at the front of Charles Bell’s *The hand: its mechanism and vital endowments ...*, issued in 1833, Peter Mark Roget’s *Animal and vegetable physiology* (volume 1) or William Trollope’s *A history of the royal foundation of Christ’s Hospital*, both issued in 1834. It was also excluded from an ‘Advertising sheet of the Magazine of natural history’ dated September 1833. Had Andrews just died and so the mythological arrangement of dahlias was necessarily curtailed?

Another puzzle is the ‘C.’ that succeeds Henry. Andrews’s himself used ‘H. Andrews’ (engraved title-page of *The botanist’s repository*; wrapper for fascicles of ‘Engravings of

heaths’), or ‘Henry Andrews’ (printed title-page of *The botanist’s repository*) or, most commonly, ‘H. C. Andrews’ when ‘signing’ his own publications, but we do not know of any instance where he expanded the ‘C’ and revealed his middle name. The earliest source (apart from his own works) to mention him by name is, perhaps not surprisingly, Jonas Dryander’s *Catalogus bibliothecae historica-naturalis Josephi Banks*, volume 5 (p. 139. London 1800) – he is plain ‘Henry. Pictor Londin’. In *A biographical dictionary of living authors of Great Britain and Ireland* (p. 6. London 1814), by John Watkins, Frederic Shorberl and William Upcott, the entry on Andrews also gives his name as Henry, adding ‘of Knightsbridge, Botanical Painter and Engraver’. John Claudius Loudon repeated the same formula ‘botanical painter and engraver in London’ in the first edition of his monumental *An encyclopaedia of gardening* (p. 1282. London 1822). In fact, plain ‘Henry’ is what British botanical authors also used: Robert Sweet, for example, Sir James Edward Smith and George Don, when they distinguished Andrews by more than his initial(s). William Savage’s *A dictionary of the art of printing* (London 1841) had ‘Henry’ alone, whereas the *Catalogue of printed books in the British Museum* (volume 1, pp 247–248) also published in 1841, used ‘Henry C’. But what does the ‘C’ stand for? There is no contemporary source that confirms it was ‘Charles’. Using ‘Andrews, Henry Charles’ in a ‘Google Books advanced search’ yields nothing for that exact sequence of names before items in *The lancet* and *The medical times and gazette* during 1855: the person named was certainly not the botanical artist. In fact, there is apparently no botanical, horticultural or bibliographic publication before 1900 that names the botanical Andrews as ‘Henry Charles’.

E. Charles Nelson  
 e-mail editor@shnh.org.uk

19. A portrait of John Gerard  
and other items:  
the Walpole collection

The second part of the library of our late member Michael Walpole was sold at auction on 23 September. Printed catalogues, well illustrated in colour, are available from Bloomsbury Auctions (see p. 9 of Newsletter 98 May 2010). Browsing the second catalogue, I am struck by how many copies of some works Mike had squirreled away. He was always very generous in answering questions about variants and editions (for example, see *Archives of natural history* 30 (2) 2003 on the issues of George Bentham's *Handbook of the British flora*) and the catalogue often refers to letters that Mike received from like-minded individuals. On the other hand, I wonder what the 'market's' reaction will be when no fewer than five copies of, for example, James Townsend Mackay's *Flora hibernica* (1836) suddenly become available (there is only one listed today, 6 September on <http://used.addall.com/>).

The second catalogue cover highlights one of the more astounding items, an Elizabethan portrait, supposedly of the herbalist and author John Gerard, which seems to be unrecorded and certainly is not mentioned among the accepted portraits listed under the entry for John Gerard in *Oxford dictionary of national biography*. The Bloomsbury catalogue has: 'This is the only known painting of John Gerard (1543–1612) ...', and points out that when it was painted in 1586 the herbalist was 41, not 31 years old as stated on the portrait's inscription: 'JOHN GERARD ÆTATIS SUÆ 31'.

Curiosity sent me to the National Portrait Gallery's excellent on-line catalogue, to find there a portrait of the same person – the Gallery catalogue has it listed as 'Unknown man, formerly known as John Gerard by Unknown artist oil on panel, 1587'. There are striking similarities in the NPG portrait and

the Walpole one, as well as differences. The Walpole portrait is full-length with Gerard standing by a table, whereas the NPG's is a head and shoulders only. The sitter's hairline and beard are the same, although the ruff in the NPG portrait is very plain, not exceedingly lacy as in Walpole's. The sitter holds a red and a white double carnation (or gillyflower) in the NPG portrait (presumably mirroring the colours of his coat-of-arms) while in the Walpole version he holds three different flowers (one is a double white carnation) and his right hand rests on a herbal.



The most obvious direct link between the two pictures is in the coat-of-arms, depicted beautifully in the NPG version but rather less well done in Walpole's: they are identical. The NPG version being dated 1587 was painted a year after the Walpole one, and has the sitter's age as 32.

Several questions arise. Does this pair of clearly linked oil portraits portray John Gerard 'Cestreshyrii civis et chirurgi Londinensis', the man whose portrait was printed in his herbal ten years later, and who was then said to have been 55? If they do, is one of these oil paintings the original for the portrait in Gerard's Herbal? Again, if they are, how did Gerard obtain a coat-of-arms and why has it been overlooked? This Tudor coat-of-arms surely can be identified. Yet, if the John Gerard of the oils is not the herbalist, who was he and why was he depicted with gillyflowers and a herbal? (See front cover for full image)

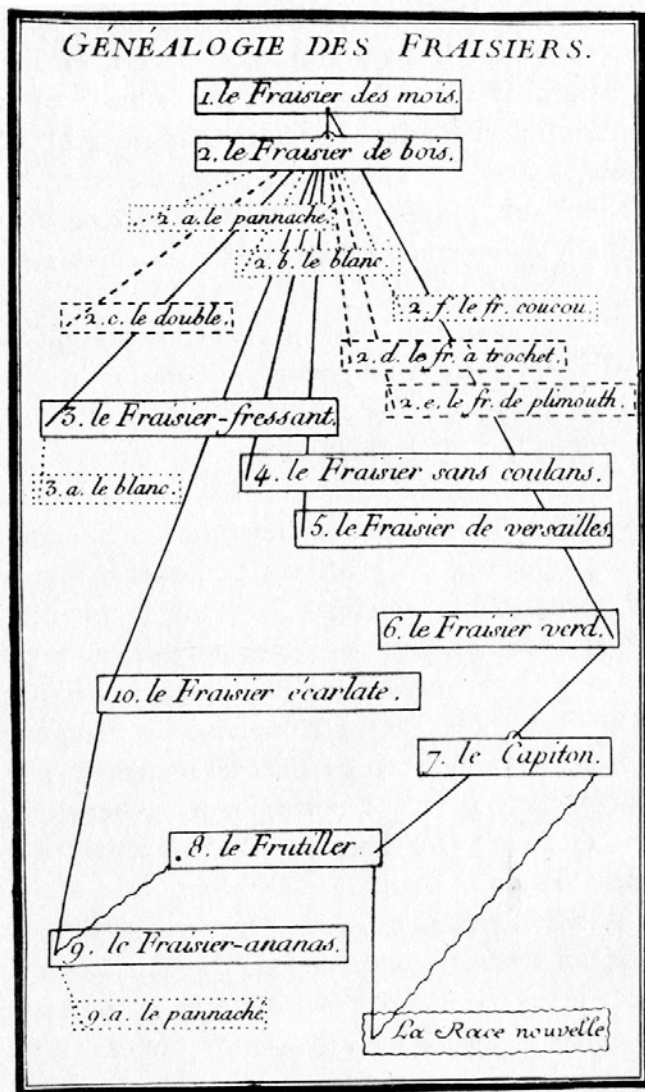
I wonder did Mike Walpole ponder these questions? Alas, we will now never know.

E. Charles Nelson



## 20. Trees of Life

For a book tentatively titled *Trees of Life: A Visual Guide to Evolution*, currently in preparation for Johns Hopkins University Press, I am searching for interesting and/or beautiful branching diagrams, evolutionary or not, that have appeared over the centuries. While there are many that depict the relationships of animals, botanical trees seem particularly hard to find. If anyone can provide some good sources or examples of their favourites, I would be most grateful.



Genealogy of the strawberries published by Antoine Nicolas Duchesne in his *Histoire Naturelle des Fraisiers*, 1766.

T. W. Pietsch  
twp@uw.edu

## 21. History of botany programme

BBC Scotland is preparing a three-part series on the history of botany, an early segment of which will examine William Bateson and his group of Mendelians. I've been talking with a couple of producers about the historical background of the Bateson group, but I'm rather stumped by one of their questions. They want to know whether botany was itself advanced as a science by the new knowledge coming from early Mendelian genetics. While certainly Bateson's group was able to provide a factorial explanation of the genetics of flower coloration in several ornamental plants, among many other cases of alternative inheritance they studied, I'm not sure that their work significantly impacted botany. More generally, this same question could be expanded to include zoology and even early Morganian genetics. That is, in general, did early genetics significantly impact botany and zoology? And the reverse: How did botany/zoology advance early genetics? I'll be very interested to hear what others have to say about these questions, and will pass the responses along to Declan Healy of BBC Scotland.

Marsha L. Richmond  
Department of History,  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202  
marsha.richmond@wayne.edu

## 22. Henry Seebohm

I am preparing a book on the ornithological achievements of Henry Seebohm (1832-95). If any members have Seebohm manuscripts, including letters, books or papers interleaved with comments by Seebohm, or annotated copies of his works, and would be willing to share the information that these items contain, I would very much like to hear from them. Please contact Dr Tim Milsom by email at [tpmilsom@btinternet.com](mailto:tpmilsom@btinternet.com) or write to: Orchard House, Flawith, YORK, YO61 1SF

## Publishers' Announcements

### 23. The Curious Death of Peter Artedi: A Mystery in the History of Science

by Theodore W. Pietsch

Published UK: October 2010

Scott & Nix, New York

ISBN: 9780982510285

Early modern biologists wage a vicious struggle for survival in this piquant historical novel. Ichthyologist Pietsch (Fishes, Crayfishes, and Crabs), imagines the relationship between Peter Artedi, an ichthyologist who drowned in an Amsterdam canal in 1735, and the pioneering botanist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus.

In Pietsch's telling, the two are friends – perhaps lovers – and also rivals: Artedi a diffident genius, Linnaeus a scheming striver trying to appropriate his friend's brilliant insights as his own. (Chief among them is a system of classifying plants by their sexual organs, which Linnaeus elaborates with over-ripe conjugal metaphors.) The novel is mainly a fictionalised portrait of a toweringly narcissistic Linnaeus. ('Of all my wondrous works, it was the very first that...made me equal to the immortals,' runs one auto-encomium.)

Through Linnaeus's florid, insecure, pedantic voice Pietsch illuminates a science being born from myth and dogma – Linnaeus daringly classifies man as just another primate while dismissing the notion of evolution – and the ruthless, possibly lethal, competition between its adherents for preeminence and patronage. The result is both a sprightly tour of 18th-century biology and a twisty tale of a scientist trying to rationalise his own darker nature.

(From: *Publishers Weekly*, 31 May 2010)

The Kindle edition, the publisher's first, came out in August. Both electronic and print editions are available on Amazon.

### 24. Georgiana Leake's Wildflower Album: Western Australia's First Botanical Artist

By Margaret J. Love, Bryan R. Sherwood and Alex S. George

ISBN: 9780955074080

Size: 189x246 – 292 pp – paperback



This book looks at the surviving botanical drawings of Georgiana Mary Leake, one of Western Australia's earliest settlers. The painting of the area's profusion of wild flowers were done during Georgiana's short marriage to George Leake, one of the colony's most influential settlers. On her husband's death Georgiana and her mother returned to England, bringing with her at least the one collection of paintings that now survive.

These found their way back to the Royal Western Australian History Society in the 1930s as a gift from one of Georgiana's descendants, making it the first collection of Australian botanical paintings made by a resident artist.

This book tells the story of Georgiana's early life, her time in the Swan River, and return to England. It also reproduces the entire collection of surviving illustrations, with notes on their provenance. It will be of interest to botanists, art historians and all those interested in the early history of Western Australia.

It is in stock at Summerfields and NHBS.

## New & Recent Publications

Many thanks to everyone who contributes material to this section. May I just remind you all to please include as many publication details as possible, such as the publisher, date and ISBN.

**Baglione, Gabrielle and Cedric**

**Cremiere** (2009) *Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, peintre voyageur, un trésor oublié*. Editions de Conti.

**Boalch, Gerald T.** (2010). Frederick Stratton Russell, FRS (1897–1984): a distinguished scientist and stimulating leader. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*, **90**, pp 1073–1077

**Boylan, Patrick.** 2010. *Exchanging Ideas Dispassionately and without Animosity: The Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society 1835–2010*. [With chapters on Natural History by Anthony Fletcher and on the Society's Museum and on Geology by Patrick Boylan]. ISBN 978-0-9565400-03. Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. pp. iv + 120. £20.

**Carroll, Victoria** (2008) *Science and eccentricity: collecting, writing and performing science for early nineteenth-century audiences*. Pickering & Chatto, ISBN: 9781851969401 (hbk.)

**Clark, P. F. & Schram, F. R.** (2009) Raymond B. Manning: an appreciation. *Journal of Crustacean Biology* **29**: 431–457

**Dawson, Gowan** (2007) *Darwin, literature and Victorian respectability*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge studies in nineteenth-century literature and culture; **57**. ISBN: 9780521872492 (cased)

**Dorr, L. J., and Wiersema, J. H.** (2010) Names of American vascular plants published in Loeffling's *Iter Hispanicum* (1758) and its German translation (1766). *Taxon* 65(4):

1245–1262. [Primarily nomenclatural, this paper also describes the various translations, editions, issues, and facsimiles of the *Iter Hispanicum*, which was edited and published posthumously by Linnaeus following the death in Venezuela of his student and disciple Pehr Loeffling (1727–56)].

**Dorr, L. J., Pilz, G. E. & Boggan, J.**

(2009) The transfer of types from the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana to the U.S. National Herbarium in 1956 by Louis O. Williams. *Taxon* **58**: 993–1001. [Type specimens of c. 200 vascular plants described from Central America and originally deposited in a herbarium in Honduras were removed to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.]

**Dugatkin, Lee Alan**, (2009) *Mr Jefferson and the giant moose: natural history in early America*. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226169149 (cloth: alk. paper)

**Dunn, Rob R.** (c2009) *Every living thing: man's obsessive quest to catalog life, from nanobacteria to new monkeys*. Preface by E.O. Wilson. Collins. ISBN: 0061430307

**Finnegan, Diarmid A.** (2009) *Natural history societies and civic culture in Victorian Scotland*. Pickering & Chatto, 2009. ISBN: 9781851966585

**Fisher, C. and John Calaby** (2009) *The Top of the Top End: John Gilbert's manuscript notes for John Gould on vertebrates from Port Essington and Cobourg Peninsula (Northern Territory, Australia) with comments on specimens collected during the Settlement period 1838–1849, and subsequently*. Edited by Richard C. Willan, 240 pp., 143 figs., some col. Supplement 4, December 2009, *The Beagle, Records of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territories* ISSN 1833-7511



**Hansen, Lars** (Ed.) (2009a) *The Linnaeus Apostles: global science and adventure*. Vol. 4, Europe, Middle East, North East & West Africa, transcribed by Birgit Nilsson and Vivekar Hansen; translated from the Swedish by Eivor Cormack; editor-in-chief Lars Hansen. IK Foundation.  
ISBN: 9781904145219 (hbk.)

.....(2009b) *The Linnaeus Apostles: global science and adventure*. Vol. 7, Europe, Southern Africa, Oceania, South America, East, Southern & Southeast Asia.  
IK Foundation.

**Houston, C. Stuart** (2010) Chapter 7, John Richardson's Contributions to North American Ornithology (pp. 285 to 317), and Chapter 8, Early Saskatchewan Bird Banders (pp. 319 to 354), in: Davis, William E. Jr. and Jerome A. Jackson (Eds) *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club No. 17, Contributions to the History of North American Ornithology*, Volume III. Nuttall Ornithological Club, c/o Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

**Hsia, Florence C.** (2009) *Sojourners in a strange land: Jesuits and their scientific missions in late imperial China*. University of Chicago Press.  
ISBN: 0226355594 (cloth)  
ISBN: 9780226355597

**Johns, J. R.** (2010) *Doctor by Nature, Jonathan Couch: Surgeon of Polperro*. Polperro Heritage Press.  
ISBN 9780955954122 (Hbk)  
ISBN 978095595413-9

**MacGregor, A.** (2010) Edward Lhuyd, museum keeper *Welsh History Review Volume 25/1*

**McCalman Iain and Nigel Erskine** (2010) *In the wake of the Beagle: science in the southern oceans from the age of Darwin*. UNSW.  
ISBN: 9780007302567 (hbk.)

**Moore, P. G.**, (2008) An appreciation of Richard Elmhirst, JP, FLS (1884–1948) the 'other' Cumbrae naturalist. *The Scottish Naturalist* **120**: 5–43.

**Petit, R.E.** (2009) 'George Brettingham Sowerby, I, II, & III: their conchological publications and molluscan taxa,' *Zootaxa* **2189**: pp 1–218.

**Raat, Alexander J.P.** (2010) *The life of Governor Joan Gideon Loten (1710–1789). A personal history of a Dutch virtuoso*. (Hilversum: Verloren Publishers) pp. 830.  
ISBN 9789087041519

**Reiss, John O.** (c2009) *Not by design: retiring Darwin's watchmaker*. University of California Press.  
ISBN: 9780520258938 (cloth: alk. paper)

**Sauer, Gordon C.** (2006) *John Gould the bird man: correspondence, 1852–1857* (Martino Publishing, Mansfield Center, CT)pp. 458. [This is the 5<sup>th</sup> (and last) volume of Gordon Sauer's compilation of the correspondence of John Gould. The price is around £55.00.]

**Turney, Jon** (Contributing Ed) (2010) *Seeing further: the story of science & the Royal Society*. Edited & introduced by Bill Bryson. Harper-Press.  
ISBN: 9781921410949 (pbk.)

**von Sachs, Julius** (2010) *Histoire de la Botanique du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle à 1860*. In French with a preface by Nicolas Robin. Sens Editions.

**Wilkins, John S.** (c2009) *Species: a history of the idea*. University of California Press.  
ISBN: 9780520260856 (cloth: alk. paper)

**Yoon, Carol Kaesuk** (c2009) *Naming nature: the clash between instinct and science*. W.W. Norton.  
ISBN: 9780393061970



## In Memoriam

I have received notice of the sad deaths of the following SHNH members. Our sincere condolences go out to their family and friends.

**Prof. Dr Alfred Wehrmaker**  
**Dr Ilse Jahn: biology historian**

I have also received this brief note about the life of SHNH member, Jürgen Haffer (1932–2010), German ornithologist, biogeographer, and geologist who died in April of this year.

Haffer is most remembered for his theory of Amazonian forest refugia during the Pleistocene that would have contributed to speciation and the diversification of the biota.

Haffer wrote the first book-length biography of Ernst Mayr and co-authored a biography of Erwin Stresemann, Mayr's teacher and

friend. In 1975, he was awarded the William Brewster Memorial Award.

Haffer majored in geology and palaeontology at the University of Göttingen, obtaining a Ph.D. degree in 1957. As an exploration geologist in the petroleum industry, he lived in South and North America, Iran, Egypt, and Norway. During this time he studied the bird faunas of Amazonia and Iran. In close communication with evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr since the early 1960s, Haffer formulated his ideas on the diversification of birds and the effects of barriers.

From his studies on the Amazonian avifauna, he authored several papers on neotropical ornithology and devised his Amazonian refugia theory to explain the rapid diversification of the neotropical fauna in Pleistocene times.



## Officers and Council of the Society 2010

### Patron

Sir David Attenborough OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS, FZS, FSA

### Officers

President: Professor GEOFF MOORE +  
Vice-president: Professor T. BIRKHEAD FRS\*  
Secretary: Ms LYNDA BROOKS \*  
Treasurer: Mr W. NOBLETT\*  
Meetings Secretary: Ms GINA DOUGLAS  
Editor: Dr CHARLES NELSON

### Council

Professor T. Birkhead FRS\*  
Dr Les Jessop#  
Ms Elaine Shaughnessy#  
Mrs Malgosia Nowak-Kemp\*  
Mr W. Noblett\*  
Ms Kathie Way \*  
Miranda Lowe +  
Dr Isabelle Charmentier+  
Julian Wilson+  
Professor John Edgington+

# elected 2008 \* elected 2009 + elected 2010

Associate Editor: Book reviews: Diarmid Finnegan

Website Co-ordinator: Elaine Shaughnessy

Representatives Co-ordinator: Elaine Shaughnessy/Malgosia Nowak-Kemp

### Email addresses

president@shnh.org  
meetings@shnh.org.uk  
editor@shnh.org.uk  
webmaster@shnh.org.uk  
newsletter@shnh.org.uk  
books@shnh.org.uk  
info@shnh.org.uk

### Representatives

**Australasia:** Ms Kathryn Medlock, **Central Europe:** Ms C. Riedl-Dorn  
**Ireland:** Dr Patrick Wyse-Jackson, **Italy:** Dr C. Violani, **Spain:** Dr Margarita Hernández Laille  
**South Africa:** Dr Leigh Bregman, **North America:** Ms L. Overstreet  
**Scotland:** Dr J. Gibson, **South America:** Mr C. Sharp

## Thackray Medal



The Thackray Medal is awarded for a significant achievement in the history of those areas of interest to the Society. The award can be made to an individual or a team. Recognition may be for any completed piece of work (e.g. the cataloguing of an archive collection), a publication (book or journal article), an exhibition, etc.

Nomination letters should be sent to the Honorary Secretary by **1 June 2011**. Nominations must indicate the item and the producer to be nominated. They also must provide the name and contact details of the person submitting the nomination, as nominations can only be accepted from members of the Society. They should include a brief statement on the nature of the significant achievement involved and describe how the prize committee can obtain supporting evidence, such as publication details or photographs of exhibitions, etc. We may ask for a loan of such evidence for use by the prize committee. Self-nomination is discouraged.

Nominations and queries should be sent to:

The Honorary Secretary  
c/o The Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London SW7 5BD  
[secretary@shnh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shnh.org.uk)

Past recipients include:

- 2009: **Dr Charlie Jarvis** for *Order Out of Chaos*. A comprehensive guide to the typifications of the plant names described by Carl Linnaeus.
- 2008: **The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online**, University of Cambridge
- 2006: **Peter Marren** for *The New Naturalists* – a revised and expanded second edition of this seminal work about the *New Naturalist* book series.
- 2005: **Dr David Allen and Gabrielle Hatfield** for *Medicinal plants in folk tradition: an ethnobotany of Britain and Ireland*.
- 2004: **American Philosophical Society** for the exhibition: "Stuffing Birds, Pressing Plants, Shaping Knowledge: Natural History in North America, 1730–1860," together with website, catalogue, accompanying educational materials, and programme of school events.