DIARY

Women in the History of Natural Science
Ambleside Campus
University of Cumbria
15–16 June 2017
See Item 8

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The prospect for 2017 opens with news of a project of quite exceptional significance, centred on a figure of enduring importance in the history of collecting. A major challenge in forming an understanding of Sir Hans Sloane’s collections – famously the cornerstone of the British Museum’s foundation – has always been their sheer size, diversity and complexity: some 70,000 objects and natural history specimens as well as 50,000 manuscripts and drawings, and a vast library only now being reconstructed in the British Library’s Sloane Printed Book Project. Keeping track of the collection was a major problem for Sloane himself and for his successive amanuenses – a task they achieved with the aid of over forty volumes of manuscript catalogues in which each specimen was recorded, many of them cross-referenced in a dizzying cat’s cradle of strands of information. Myriad accretions of codes and symbols potentially refer to sources, prices, storage or display locations. The sheer volume of information appended to the objects themselves or enshrined in the catalogues is such that it has formed until now a deterrent and a barrier to all but the most basic forms of analysis.

Now, with the aid of a major grant from the Leverhulme Trust, a team has been assembled under the joint leadership of Kim Sloan of the British Museum – already a prolific author on aspects of the collection – and Julianne Nyhan, associate professor of digital information studies at UCL, which promises to show the way to overcoming these difficulties and rendering the catalogues universally useful and accessible. Titled ‘Enlightenment Architectures’, the project aims to transcribe and digitally index six of Sloane’s catalogues, chosen as exemplars of the range of collected materials, and then to apply to them the most advanced techniques of textual analysis developed in the Digital Humanities. Crucially, the resulting machine-readable (and machine analysable) databases will include not only the relevant texts, but also associated annotations, holding out the promise of at last revealing the underlying structures – the ‘Architectures’ of the title – that governed the Sloane collection and indeed reflected their view of the structure of the world it encapsulated. A whole new era of research is promised for historians, naturalists and others for whom the wood will no longer be obscured by the trees.

For anyone who might have felt that the future scope of the SHNH membership was doomed to ever-closer scrutiny of a shrinking pool of increasingly minute detail, the prospect opened up by ‘Enlightenment Architectures’ must be an enthralling one. Digital analysis here carries no implication of redundancy for the traditional skills of the historian or the naturalist, but rather provides a key with which to unlock entire dimensions of existing data that to date have hitherto proved impenetrable. All those involved deserve our admiration and our gratitude, for it is not only students of Sloane himself who will benefit: the Leverhulme project will undoubtedly provide a template for a whole new approach to the study of not just natural history but of the information science that underpinned its early development.

Arthur MacGregor
SHNH President
2. From the Editor

Firstly, all good wishes for 2017. It will be interesting to see what this next year will bring after the upheavals of 2016.

You have me as a guest editor for this issue. It seems a long time since I last edited the Newsletter, so it’s nice to catch up with everything and everyone again.

Thank you to all contributors, especially those I have pressed to provide copy – sometimes with very tight deadlines. I couldn't have compiled the Newsletter without you! Please do keep your contributions coming in.

In this issue there are some particularly intriguing Notes and Queries and lots of meetings to consider, as well as a note about long-time Society member and former Council member Kathie Way’s retirement from the Natural History Museum after a truly impressive 50 years’ service.

As always, do keep an eye on our website and Facebook and Twitter feeds for up-to-date information, news and other items of interest.

Julia
Julia Bruce

3. News from our Representatives

Malgosia Nowak-Kemp has sent reports to Council from SHNH representatives in Poland, Austria, Spain, North America, Argentina and Italy. Some highlights can be found below.

Alicja Zemanek, Poland reports that on 20 May 2016 the History of Botany section of the Polish Botanical Society organised a meeting in the old Polish town of Sandomierz. One of the highlights of the meeting was a visit to the reconstructed Renaissance garden of Polish herbalist Marcin of Urz dów. The reconstruction was undertaken thanks to the efforts of Anna Suchecka and Tomislaw Giergiel.

The 57th meeting of the Polish Botanical Society (founded in 1922) under the title ‘Botany – tradition and modernity’ was held in Lublin in June/July 2016.

Members of the History of Botany Section, Polish Botanical Society, visiting reconstructed Renaissance garden of the Polish herbalist Marcin of Urz dów in Sandomierz. Third from left Ludwik Frey (Section chairman), fourth Izabela Krzeptowska-Mowszowicz (Section secretary). © Łukasz Mowszowicz.

Christa Riedl-Dorn, Austria reports that:
• The Bauer online exhibit done in association with the State Library of New South Wales was due to go online in November 2016.

Return from Jaupery’ watercolour by Richard Payer from Olhares Cruzados Austria-Brasil.
• On the anniversary of the **Bicentennial of the Austrian Brazil Expedition 1817** the Austrian Embassy and the State of Brazil published *Olhares Cruzados Austria-Brasil* (Brasil, 2016) about the relations between Austria and Brazil.

**Margarita Hernandez Laille, Spain** recently became a member of the Scientific and Artistic Committee of ECOARTE, a Science, Art and Environment Project [http://ecoarte.org](http://ecoarte.org) [http://ecoarte.org/ECOARTEdireccion.html](http://ecoarte.org/ECOARTEdireccion.html)

**Sergio Zagier, Argentina** reports on the one hundredth anniversary of a leading birding and conservationist organisation in Argentina, the Aves Argentinas, established in 1916 as Sociedad Ornitológica del Plata. The founding fathers of the society, including E. Holmberg, J. Ambrosetti, A. Gallardo and William H. Hudson, were renowned pioneers and experts in the concepts of conservation and popularisation of natural history in Argentina. The society has been publishing its journal *El hornero* (named after the national bird that builds a mud nest like an oven) ever since.

Additionally, Sergio reports that the Argentine Congress assigned Gerardo Bartolomé the task of following one of the earliest scientific itineraries of the country – the route that Robert FitzRoy and Charles Darwin took when trying to find the sources of the river Santa Cruz in Patagonia. It is planned for November 2016.

**Leslie Overstreet, Northern America** reports that she gave a panel talk at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) conference in Paris this past summer and used the opportunity to add to her census of Catesby’s ‘Natural history’ in libraries there: the Bibliothèque national de France, the Muséum national d’histoire naturelle, and the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève.

**Carlo Giovanni Violani, Italy** reports that he is studying an interesting document dated 1786 and signed by the famous Italian biologist Lazzaro Spallanzani. It is the detailed bill of various works done by a professional restorer and painter working in the University Museum of Natural History in Pavia. The painter was also asked to retouch the damaged skin of a stuffed zebra. This specimen is still extant and indeed shows the black-and-white paint on its rump. The document is very interesting because it gives current prices asked for each piece of work and the order and contents of the museum cabinets in their original location in the Palazzo Centrale dell’Università di Pavia.

### 4. Archives News

The following papers and short notes have been accepted for publication in *Archives of natural history* Volume 44 (1) due to be published in April 2017.


N. MORLEY: Richard Owen: an over-
looked parasitologist.
G. WALLER: An annotated checklist of mesoplodont whale species (Cetacea, Ziphiidae) discovered after the nineteenth century.
N. P. HELSTRÖM, G. ANDRÉ & M. PHILIPPE: Life and works of Augustin Augier de Favas (1758–1825), author of “Arbre botanique” (1801).
R. M. SELLERS: Birds and mammals preserved by R. & G. W. Raine Brothers, the Carlisle taxidermists, 1918–1943.
E. A. HOWLETT, W. J. KENNEDY, H. P. POWELL & H. S. TORRENS: New light on the history of Megalosaurus, the great lizard of Stonesfield.
M. TAYLOR: A memoir of Hugh Miller (1802–1856) attributed to his son Hugh Miller FGS (1850–1896).
F. COOKE & T. R. BIRKHEAD: The identity of the bird known locally in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Norfolk, United Kingdom, as the Spow.
A. PADFIELD: Charles Waterton (1782–1865) and wourali.
P. DASZKIEWICZ: The decline and closure of Maison Verreaux as indicted by Władysław Taczanowski’s letters.
D. MIERZWA-SZYMKOWIAK & A. S. H. BREURE: Inside and outside the Neotropics: three Polish naturalists during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
W. J. TENNENT & D. K. MITCHELL: A brief historical account of an endemic swallowtail butterfly first collected a century ago on Goodenough Island (D'Entrecasteaux group) in Papua New Guinea.

Short notes
E. G. HANCOCK & M. REILLY: Possibly the oldest stuffed tuna in the world: Scouler’s Glasgow fishmarket find.
S. STREKOPYTOV: Wolfgang Helmgard von Hohberg (1612–1688) and John Woodward (1665–1728): first records of using arsenic and mercury for the preservation of natural history collections.
E. C. NELSON: Robert Henry Fernando Rippon: some additional biographical notes.

Members’ News

5. Kathie Way retires from NHM

Kathie Way has recently retired from the Natural History Museum, London, having served for an exceptional 50 years. Kathie started work at the Museum straight after leaving school and her career culminated with her appointment as Senior Curator of Mollusca in the Department of Life Sciences. She advised on the museum’s exhibition content, and provided identifications for CITES clearance and interpretations of historical material in the collections. For 22 years she was also Honorary Curator of Fish, Shells and General Zoology at the Linnean Society of London, where her expertise was fundamental to the building of the Society’s online database of Linnaean specimens. Her publications include chapters on molluscan material for Sir Hans Sloane, Collector, Scientist, Antiquary
(1994) and *The Cobbe Cabinet of Curiosities* (2015), both edited by A. MacGregor. Kathie has always been a very active member of the Society serving on Council on several occasions. We wish Kathie a very long and happy retirement.

6. Inspirational book of the year

Paul Henderson’s book *James Sowerby. The Enlightenment’s natural historian* published last year by the Royal Botanic Gardens, has been given the prestigious *Inspirational Book of the Year* award by the Garden Media Guild. The award ceremony was held at the Savoy Hotel on 24 November. It is interesting that at least some aspects of the history of natural history can cut across many other disciplines and subjects.

Paul writes: An additional point of interest is that in my research on Sowerby I used, with much benefit, the work of John Thackray, who had helped systematise and write on the Natural History Museum’s collection of Sowerby manuscripts, etc. John had a remarkable knowledge of natural historians of the Enlightenment.

7. Heather Society recognises Dr Charles Nelson

Congratulations to Dr Charles Nelson FLS VMM, Trustee of the Catesby Trust and co-editor of *The Curious Mister Catesby*. In September, Charles was recognised by Britain’s Heather Society with their rare Award of Honour. Only the third such award ever granted by the Society, it was presented on the occasion of Charles’s retirement from his positions as Yearbook Editor, Administrator and Registrar over the course of 35 years of horticultural distinction.

Forthcoming Society Events

8. Women in the History of Natural Science

Ambleside Campus
University of Cumbria
15–16 June 2017
Call for Papers

This year the Society for the History of Natural History’s annual conference will be on the theme of *Women in the History of Natural Science*, and will take place at the University of Cumbria Ambleside Campus on Thursday 15th June and at the Freshwater Biological Association at Far Sawrey on Friday 16th June.

The focus of this meeting will be the historical contributions of women to the earth and life sciences. The aim is to recognise the contribution of some of the lesser known amateur women, as well as that of the early professional women scientists working in all aspects of the environmental sciences.

The two-day programme will be divided between the University of Cumbria campus at Ambleside, at the head of Lake Windermere, and the Freshwater Biological Association, on the west side of Lake Windermere, opposite Bowness on Windermere. The AGM will be included in the afternoon programme on Friday 16th June.

It is hoped to include a visit to the Armitt Museum at Ambleside in the conference programme.

Accommodation will be available at Ambleside through the University of Cumbria: information is available from the Meetings Secretary. Bookings can be made by contacting amconferences@cumbria.ac.uk

Please contact Gina Douglas, Meetings Secretary, meetings@shnh.org.uk,
or by post: 23 Jeffreys Road, SW4 6QU, if you wish to contribute as a potential speaker, present a poster or receive information on the event. A registration form can be found at the back of this Newsletter.

We are particularly interested in hearing about the lives, work and stories of less well-known figures.

We invite papers on:

- Women who have made significant or interesting contributions to the earth and life sciences, in any time period, and from any country, but excluding those still extant.
- Women as collectors, taxonomists, biologists, writers, publishers, artists, ecologists, curators, travellers, conservationists.
- The uses of terms such as ‘predisciplinary’, ‘amateur’, ‘female virtuosi’ or ‘professional’ to describe the work that women did.

9. ‘A cabinet of rarities’

The curious collections of Sir Thomas Browne Royal College of Physicians of London London

30 January–27 July 2017

This exhibition explores the RCP physician, philosopher, collector, and polymath Thomas Browne’s curious approach to the world through his writing and his collection. Browne (1605–1682) saw the extraordinary in the ordinary, and introduced over 700 new words to the English language, while inspiring literary greats such as Virginia Woolf and Edgar Allan Poe. His collection reveals a fascinating perspective on 17th-century scientific and medical research.

Originally housed at Browne’s home in Norwich, the collection included animal and plant samples as well as books, paintings, and artefacts. The collection will be partially reconstructed at the RCP using his manuscript letters and notebooks, shedding light on his diverse interests – including science, medicine, and literature.

This exhibition is part of a larger project, led by Queen Mary University of London, to edit the entire works of Thomas Browne.

For more information, see: www.rcplondon.ac.uk/events/cabinet-rarities-curious-collections-sir-thomas-browne.

10. British Society for the History of Pharmacy lecture

Syon Abbey Herbal (before AD 1517), the last monastic herbal in Britain by John Adams, Syon Abbey Research Associates.

UCL School of Pharmacy

29–39 Brunswick Square

London WC1N 1AX

Monday 6 February 2017, 5:30pm

The Syon Abbey Herbal, written by their last known librarian, was also the last herbal to be compiled before the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, and gives an insight to the common ailments, their treatment, and healthcare in general in the Tudor period. The library at Syon, almost completely lost, was one of the best in Europe, and contained a wide range of up-to-date printed medical and astrological-medical books unavailable elsewhere in Britain, as well as rare medical texts in English.

No admission charge, all welcome. Refreshments from 5pm.
11. So many Celestial animals so vividly drawn: Birds and their images in pre-Linnaean Italy

NATURE READER

18:00–19:00 Thursday 9 February 2017

Please note change of date from 7 February

The Paper Museum, formed by the collector and patron Cassiano dal Pozzo (1588–1657), contains more than 200 watercolours of birds, ranging from song-birds, caught locally in the environs of Rome, to exotic species from Africa, America and the Indies. The majority of images were made from living, freshly dead or preserved birds, and many of the drawings are of exceptional quality. Henrietta McBurney Ryan FLS and Carlo Violani FLS will address how the corpus of drawings, together with the texts which were written to accompany some of them, provide a fascinating insight into the collecting and keeping of birds in early 17th-century Rome; as well as into the state of ornithological knowledge a century before Linnaeus. Following the lecture Arthur MacGregor and Ian Rolfe will make brief presentations on ‘Other animals’ and ‘Minerals and natural curiosities’ in the newly published Cassiano Catalogue Raisonné.

12. Maria Merian’s Butterflies

The Queen’s Gallery

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Edinburgh

17 March–23 July 2017

In 1699, the German artist and entomologist Maria Sibylla Merian set sail with her youngest daughter for Suriname in South America. There she would spend two years studying the animals and plants she encountered, leading to the publication of the lavishly illustrated *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* (*The Metamorphosis of the Insects of Suriname*), which brought the wonders of Suriname to Europe.

* Maria Merian’s Butterflies tells the artist’s extraordinary story through her works acquired by George III and now in the Royal Collection. These include the luxury versions of the plates from the *Metamorphosis*, partially printed and then hand-painted on vellum by Merian herself.

13. British Society for the History of Pharmacy 50th anniversary conference

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

1–2 April 2017

The British Society for the History of Pharmacy is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. To mark this milestone, it is holding a special conference in London on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, open to all. The Saturday programme, hosted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, features talks on the Society of the Apothecaries (celebrating its 400th anniversary), the UCL School of Pharmacy (celebrating its 175th anniversary), the National Pharmacy Association (approaching its centenary) and BSHP itself, with an afternoon of talks and tours featuring
the RPS’s fantastic museum and library. Attendance for these sessions is FREE for students and BSHP members, £50 for non-members. The BSHP’s birthday will then be toasted at a celebration dinner in the evening at the conference hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton, Marble Arch.

On Sunday, following the AGM, the Burnby Memorial Bursary Lecture will be given by Katey Logan, ‘Hearing the voices of Boots pharmacists: an investigation of identity 1930–2000’. This will be followed by Dr Axel Helmstadter speaking on ‘From Kew to the world: Botanical explorers’ ethnopharmacological heritage.’

14. Memorial
A Tribute to Taxidermy
Horniman Museum
London
Until 1 May 2017

Ethical taxidermist Jazmine Miles-Long challenges ideas and perceptions with pieces inspired by the Horniman natural history collection.

15. Making Nature:
How we see animals
Wellcome Collection
London
Until 21 May 2017

This exhibition explores our relationship with nature, examines what we think, feel and value about other species and the consequences this has for the world around us. It brings together over 100 fascinating objects from literature, film, taxidermy and photography to reveal the hierarchies in our view of the natural world and consider how these influence our actions, or inactions, towards the planet.

Organised around four themes: ‘Ordering’, ‘Displaying’, ‘Observing’ and ‘Making’ the exhibition questions

the approach of ‘learning through looking’, charts the changing fashions of museum displays alongside society’s changing attitudes to the world around us, examines the search for an authentic encounter with nature, and looks at how humans have intentionally altered other organisms.

16. British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference 2017
July 6–9, 2017. University of York

The BSHS is 70 this year, an anniversary that will be marked at the annual conference. Participation is welcomed from all historians of science, medicine and technology and the wider scholarly community. Please see: http://bshsconference.org.uk/

17. IX Alexander Von Humboldt International and Interdisciplinary Conference
November 19–24, 2018. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico
Call for papers.
Deadline: May 29, 2017

The Peninsular Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (CEPHCIS) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in collaboration with Humanities Coordination of the UNAM and the Humboldt State University of California, are pleased to invite the national and international academic communities to this call for papers. The conference will promote interdisciplinary debate on Humboldt and others who toured the Yucatan from the Spanish conquerors to the present day. Please see: https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/156246/ix-alexander-von-humboldt-international-and-interdisciplinary
In a career spanning more than 50 years, Sir Joseph Banks became one of the most influential figures in European science. With the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, a collaborative partnership between the National Maritime Museum, University College London, the Royal Society, and the National Portrait Gallery, will be holding an open two-day conference at the Royal Society in September 2017 to explore the intersections of Enlightenment science, culture, commerce and empire through the figure of Joseph Banks, his correspondents, circles and networks.

For more information, see: www.rmg.co.uk/work-services/what-we-do/learning-partnerships/joseph-banks-science-culture-and-remaking-indo-pacific-world.

These conferences aim to analyse the exploration of the different ‘local natures’ (natural history) and the discovery of ‘local inhabitants and their history’ (ethnography and antiquarianism) from a comparative perspective in a period marked by an increase in scientific travels and expeditions around the world. It also wants to question the periodisation of this ‘discovery of the indigenous’. To do so, the conferences will bring together historians of natural history, ethnology and archaeology engaged in studying sources generated in different political contexts (republics, monarchies, colonial rule, etc.). For more information, see: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/cfp-mapping/552575.html.

Meetings News

20. Commemorative Symposium for Professor Oliver Rackham

Professor Oliver Rackham PhD OBE FBA, who died unexpectedly aged 75 on 12 February 2015, was a figure of national and indeed international fame for his research into and publications about the history and ecology of woods and the landscape as a whole.* He had been a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, since 1964 and its Master for a year in 2007.

A commemorative symposium for Oliver was held in Cambridge on 13 and 14 August 2016, with over 250 participants. The talks on the first morning were by the Master, Stuart Laing, on Oliver’s varied contributions to Corpus, by the College Archivist, Dr Lucy Hughes, on his archive now being curated there, and by Christine Bartram of the University Herbarium, where his plant specimens are preserved alongside those of Darwin and Henslow. Richard Mabey, the writer and broadcaster on the natural world, gave the keynote address entitled Woodland: the community archive, paying tribute to Oliver’s great influence in the cultural debate concerning the value of ancient woodland and describing his own experiment in managing a community wood.

The afternoon featured talks inspired by Oliver’s work in Britain and the Mediterranean region, by Professor Adrian Newton, Dr Louise Bacon,
Professor Emeritus Peter Warren and Professor Diego Moreno, followed by an international panel discussion chaired by Professor William Sutherland. Participants then enjoyed displays in the Parker Library of silver, manuscripts and Oliver's notebooks and herbarium specimens, a short recital in the College Chapel and a delicious dinner, including a main course of ‘Rackham of lamb’. Next day Professor Peter Carolin spoke about Oliver's research on the construction of Old Court in Corpus, the 19th-century glass in the Hall and the crypt below the Chapel, where Oliver is interred. There were also tours of Hayley Wood, which held a special place in the development of Oliver's understanding of woodland ecology, led by a local team orchestrated by Professor Emeritus Peter Grubb.

* Oliver's major works include Ancient Woodland: its history, vegetation and uses in England, The History of the Countryside, The Illustrated History of the Countryside and Woodlands, the hundredth volume in the New Naturalist series. He was also joint author of The Making of the Cretan Landscape and The Nature of Mediterranean Europe: an ecological history.

Philip H. Oswald

**21. Agasse paintings sold by ZSL to fund conservation work**

A total of four paintings belonging to the Zoological Society of London were sold at Christie's last year to help raise funds for ZSL's global conservation work. The organisation runs wildlife conservation projects in more than 50 countries around the world to protect endangered species and their habitats. The paintings, by renowned Swiss animal and landscape artist Jacques-Laurent Agasse, have raised £860,000. ‘Lion and a Lioness in a Rocky Valley’ and ‘Bengal Tigers in a Savannah Landscape with a Man in a Tree’ fetched £300,000 each, while ‘Giraffes with Impala in a Landscape’ and ‘Elk in a River Landscape’ sold for £210,000 and £50,000 respectively.

The works were commissioned in the 1820s by Edward Cross, a dealer in exotic animals. They were passed down through his family and bequeathed to ZSL in 1950 by Mrs F. E. Emerson.

ZSL's Development Director James Wren said: ‘ZSL has been privileged to be home to a number of wonderful pieces of art. Money raised from the sale of these pieces will help us continue our efforts to conserve and protect some of the most endangered animals in the world, such as the Sumatran tiger of which only 300 remain in the wild.’

**22. Hunt Institute Director**

Director of Carnegie Mellon University’s Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Robert W. Kiger, retired in June 2016 after 39 years in post. Assistant director T. D. Jacobsen, has been appointed as the new director and principal research scientist.
Jacobsen joined the Hunt Institute staff in 1979 and is an authority on the systematics of the native North American species of the genus Allium (onions and their relatives).

The Hunt Institute is a research division of CMU that specialises in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science.

23. Suzanne J. Levinson Prize

Nick Hopwood has been awarded the History of Science Society’s Suzanne J. Levinson Prize for his book *Haeckel’s Embryos: Images, Evolution, and Fraud* (University of Chicago Press, 2015). The Levinson Prize is awarded biennially for the best book in the history of the life sciences and natural history.

*Haeckel’s Embryos* tells the story of an alleged forgery that became a textbook classic. The prize committee called the research ‘formidable, yet expressed with an enviable lightness of touch’ and ‘a pleasure to read.’ They predict ‘Haeckel’s Embryos will be appreciated as a model for work which considers controversy, images, reproduction and transmission of all kinds.’

For more about the book, see: http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/H/bo18785800.html

24. Alfred Russel Wallace photographs

An illustrated catalogue of the surviving photographs of the co-discoverer of evolution by natural selection, Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913), plus all drawings and paintings of him made during his lifetime, was recently produced by George Beccaloni, Director of the Wallace Correspondence Project. It contains a total of 77 different photographs, 1 painting and 11 drawings of ARW, plus variants of these images. A pdf of the catalogue (4MB) can be downloaded from the A. R. Wallace Memorial Fund’s website here: http://wallacefund.info/content/just-released-first-ever-catalogue-photographs-and-other-portraits-alfred-russel-wallace

25. Hugh Cleghorn

Henry Noltie, curator at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and noted expert on Indian subcontinental flora, has just published two books on Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie, who was one of the key figures in the RBGE’s history, and a most important figure in the history of forestry in India. Cleghorn’s middle name Clarke was for Richard Clarke, who was for many years the Royal Asiatic Society’s treasurer.

The Royal Asiatic Society hosted the launch for *Indian Forester, Scottish Laird: the Botanical Lives of Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie*, and *The Cleghorn Collection: South Indian Botanical Drawings, 1845 to 1860*, on 21 November 2016. The latter was featured in Newsletter 110.

If you are interested in finding out more about Cleghorn, do visit the RBGE website – www.rbge.org.uk/science-major-floras/henry-noltie/cleghorn
26. Announcement of Joseph Banks AHRC-funded Network Project

The National Maritime Museum, together with University College London, the Royal Society, the National Portrait Gallery and other project partners, is delighted to have been awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council Network Grant on ‘Joseph Banks, Science, Culture and the Remaking of the Indo-Pacific World’, which commenced on 1 June 2016.

The Network will bring together interdisciplinary and international groups of scholars from universities, libraries, museums and galleries to build on recent scholarship and to discuss new avenues for research in the build-up to the 200th anniversary of Sir Joseph Banks’s death in 2020.

A programme of events will include three academic workshops: the first will take place at University College London, focusing on the historiography of Banks; the second workshop, at the National Portrait Gallery, on Science, Self-fashioning and Representation in Joseph Banks’s Circle; and the third, at the National Maritime Museum, will focus on Banks and the Maritime World. A larger, open conference at the Royal Society, will form the culmination of the network project in September 2017.

More details on the project including the steering committee, research outline, and the event programme, including dates of the workshops and lists of workshop speakers, can be found at www.rmg.co.uk/josephbanksnetwork. More details, including paper abstracts and blog posts, will be added to the webpage as the project develops.

27. Henry Seebohm

I am writing a full biography of Henry Seebohm (1832–95). I have been researching his life and achievements for over 30 years and aim to produce the final biography next year.

Seebohm was a successful steel manufacturer, traveller and noted ornithologist during the late Victorian period. He was a feisty character who made good friends as well as antagonising a number of the elite ornithologist of the time. His notebooks are scattered across a number of institutions, but there are a number missing, such as the ones covering the years 1866–69 and prior to 1860.

On his death his correspondence largely disappeared, though letters do exist from him in a number of archives, such as that of Alfred Newton.

I am looking for any information regarding Henry, his ornithology and his travels, particularly letters. If any members have any information on this they could share with me, I would be most grateful.

Any help will be acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

I will be self-publishing the biography and it is a not-for-profit project.

Paul Hobson
Paulhobson999@gmail.com

28. Italian botanical watercolours

I am in possession of two botanical watercolours, which were sold as a pair. One is labelled ‘amarillis stellata’ and numbered 88 on the back. The other is labelled ‘metrosideros’ and numbered 87. They are not necessarily by the same hand but the ‘metrosideros’ (Callistemon) is signed ‘Giuseppe Troni
dipinse’. The ‘amarillis’ (Nerine) does not have such fine detail. The paper is the same for both and there are no watermarks. From what I can gather, it seems these were done between 1820 and 1850. (See also inside front cover for colour illustration)

‘Amarillis stellata’

What I am interested to know is if these watercolours were part of a series documenting the plants of the Botanic Garden of Naples and if there are other such watercolours known to exist. Were they ever printed for publication? Can anyone provide any information?

Ray Lampert
yya.aki@gmail.com

29. Unknown Inuit

In 1663 the crew of a whaling vessel Heartsease encountered an exhausted Inuit in his kayak off the coast of Greenland. They rescued him, but the unfortunate man died three days later. On their return to England an effigy of the man, together with his kayak, were displayed at Trinity House, Hull. A poor black-and-white photograph of the man and his kayak appeared in volume 1 of Arthur Storey’s Trinity House of Kingston upon Hull, published in 1967. I am looking for a black-and-white drawing or engraving of this man in his kayak and I would be grateful to anyone that can tell if they know of one.

Tim Birkhead
t.r.Birkhead@sheffield.ac.uk

30. How did Canadian fleabane cross the water?

Canadian fleabane is an invasive plant that is well established in Britain and in other parts of Europe. Authorities seem to agree that it arrived in Britain in or about 1690. According to a recent newspaper story, its accidental transport was in the stuffing used to fill some bird skins imported from North America. A search on the internet finds this tale repeated in several places, mentioning ‘stuffed birds’. The only formal reference source being offered is Hanf 1970 Weeds and their Seedlings a book that is actually more of a recognition guide
and says nothing about its origin or manner of arrival in Europe.

The 1600s would be very early for taxidermy as we know it today. Before the mid-1700s preservation relied heavily on evisceration and drying, not packing out with wads of soft material as we understand ‘stuffed birds’ to mean today. However, some simple study skins could have been filled with hay, fluffy seeds or similar material, so the story could actually be true.

Please can anyone offer a reliable source which provides actual evidence that Canadian fleabane arrived in Britain inside some preserved bird skins?

Pat Morris
pat.morris5@outlook.com

31. Andrew Smith

Andrew Smith was a surgeon from Scotland who went to South Africa with the army. He was interested in the fauna of the region and was chosen as the first superintendent of the South African Museum in Cape Town. He became famous through a five-volume illustrated work describing a variety of animals, but he had published many items earlier, unfortunately largely in newspapers and journals which have become very rare indeed.

I have expanded his bibliography and tried to reconstruct how many animals he described for the first time, and how many of his names are still in use. My researches on this were published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa on 17 November 2016. The zoological contributions of Andrew Smith (1797–1872) with an annotated bibliography and a numerical analysis of newly described animal species http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0035919X.2016.1230078

Kees Rookmaaker

32. Bibliography of Natural History Travel Narratives

Anne S. Troelstra
KNVV, The Netherlands, 2016
472pp.
ISBN: 978-9050115964 (hb)
€225

This comprehensive work brings together information on all important books relating to natural history travel narratives, with their editions and translations. Also provided are bibliographies and travel summaries for each work, spanning a period of four centuries. The travel narratives encompass all aspects of the natural world in every part of the globe, but are especially concerned with its fauna, flora and fossil remains.

Author, Anne Troelstra, author of several books on natural history travel narratives, has produced an indispensable reference book for museums, universities, auction houses, collectors and for everyone interested in natural history and travel narratives.

33. The Natural History of Edward Lear

Robert McCraken Peck
Foreword by Sir David Attenborough
ACC Art Books, 2016
224pp., 200 colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781851498307 (hb)
£27.99.
Edward Lear (1812–1888) is best known today for his witty limericks and endearing nonsense verse (‘The Owl and the Pussy-cat’, etc.). Less well known is his early immersion in the field of natural history during which he created some of the most beautiful paintings of birds, mammals and plants of the nineteenth century. A new book by SHN member Robert M. Peck (published by the Antique Collectors Club in the U.K. and by David R. Godine in the U.S.) explores this important aspect of Lear’s life.

Despite fragile health, Lear was blessed with a sanguine disposition and a gift for making friends and attracting supporters. He was incredibly prolific, producing an impressive number of illustrations for scientific publications and countless detailed and delicate drawings for private collectors. His stunning monograph on parrots, begun at the age of only 18, earned him international recognition long before his nonsense appeared in print. His depictions of ‘species hitherto unfigured’ of that gaudy group of birds dazzled the world and established Lear as the artist of choice for many of the leading ornithological publishers.

In that golden age of colour-plate books, an era still celebrated for the great volumes created by John James Audubon and John Gould, Lear created some of the most spectacular natural history illustrations ever published. He did so without the benefit of any formal training in art, and with neither independent funding nor institutional support. The original watercolours for his scientific paintings – many reproduced here for the first time – confirm Lear’s place among the greatest natural history painters of all time.

*The Natural History of Edward Lear* is the first book to thoroughly explore Lear’s talents as a natural-history artist. Augmented by over 200 full-colour illustrations and a foreword by SHN patron Sir David Attenborough, this book provides a fascinating look at one of England’s greatest natural history artists. Peck’s well researched, lively writing provides much new information about Lear’s natural history career. It includes stories of Lear’s relationships with other naturalists, his extensive travels in Europe, Africa and Asia, and his influence on many other artists including Beatrix Potter, Maurice Sendak, Edward Gorey, Tony Foster, Philip Hughes, William Cooper, Elizabeth Butterworth, James Prosek, and Walton Ford. This book will provide a delightful read and a stunning visual treat for anyone with an interest in natural history, children’s literature, colourful personalities, exotic travel, and fine art.

**34. Ice Bear: A cultural history of an Arctic Icon**

*Michael Engelhard*

288 pp., 170 illus., 145 in colour, 8 x 10 in.

$29.95 paperback

November 2016

Prime Arctic predator and nomad of the sea ice and tundra, the polar bear endures as a source of wonder, terror, and fascination. Humans have seen it as spirit guide and fanged enemy, as trade good and moral metaphor, as food source and symbol of ecological crisis. Eight thousand years of artefacts attest to its charisma, and to the fraught relationships between our two species.

*Ice Bear* traces and illuminates this intertwined history. From Inuit shamans to Jean Harlow lounging on a bearskin rug, from the cubs trained to
pull sleds toward the North Pole to cuddly superstar Knut, it all comes to life in these pages. With meticulous research and more than 160 illustrations, the author brings into focus this powerful and elusive animal. Doing so, he delves into the stories we tell about Nature – and about ourselves – hoping for a future in which such tales still matter.

35. Tools of the Trade

Douglas Palmer
Sedgwick Museum 2016
48pp. ISBN: 9780992727017
August 2016

The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge has recently published an illustrated booklet about geological hammers, called Tools of the Trade which includes information about the history of use, the Museum’s unique collection of hammers and the geologists that owned them, such as Buckland, Sedgwick and Conybeare.

Arguably, the geological hammer is by far the oldest trade tool and was first used by our extinct human relatives over 3.3 million years ago. These ancestors also must have also been the first geologists. They evidently had enough knowledge of rock materials to select the best rocks available for making the stone tools upon which the evolution of human culture depended.

The hammer is still a basic tool for any geologist doing field work, which requires the investigation and sampling of Earth’s rock materials. And, human culture still depends upon rock-based Earth materials to a far greater degree than is generally appreciated.

The booklet is available from the Museum shop.

New & Recent Publications

Many thanks to everyone who contributes material to this section. A special thank you goes to Herman Reichenbach for, among others, the German titles. May I just remind you to forward details of your own publications as well as those of general interest. Please include as many details as possible, such as publisher, date and ISBN.


Harrison, P. (2016) What was historical


**Nelson, E. C.** (2016) *Sources of plants for, and distribution of plants from, the Royal Dublin Society’s Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, 1795–1879: an annotated checklist*. *Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Trust Occasional Paper*, No. 7. [The Gardens received material from all over the world, and from important collectors including John Tweedie (South America), G. W. Webb (South Africa and Western Australia) and Edward Madden (India and Himalaya), as well as sister institutions such as the botanical gardens in Sydney, Kew and Edinburgh. Donations were also made by significant horticulturists and private gardens in Ireland, Britain and elsewhere.]


**Ratcliffe, J.** (2016) *The East India Company, the Company’s Museum,*


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“Anyone who loves the history of natural history will find a warm welcome”
Professor Janet Browne, Harvard University

“An excellent society; a compulsively readable journal and wonderfully informative, friendly meetings”
Professor Tim Birkhead, University of Sheffield

SHNH – The Society for the History of Natural History welcomes as members everyone with an interest in the history of natural history, natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography, for all period and cultures.

The Society publishes an internationally respected journal *Archives of natural history*. It is published for the Society by Edinburgh University Press, a highly respected, independent voice. Members have free online access to all issues of *Archives* published since 1936.

The Society also produces an informative newsletter which announces forthcoming events, provides a forum for notes and queries, offers notice of new publications, and much more.

We design meetings for wide audiences and provide time for discussion, social events and ‘behind the scenes’ visits. Recent venues include Norwich (2016), Oxford (2014), Exeter (2013), Charleston, Washington and Richmond, USA (2013), London and Cambridge (2012). We also co-sponsor special conferences.

Our international network of representatives connects the Society with local events and provides regional contacts. Their contact details are provided on our website.

**How to join**

SHNH has three categories of membership: Individual, Dual and Associate. Subscriptions are managed by Edinburgh University Press. Institutions and Libraries are invited to enquire about print and online subscriptions from EUP.

- **Individual:** receives the printed copy of *Archives* and the *Newsletter* as well as free online access to all issues of *Archives*. UK: £33; ROW £45; North America US$76.50.

- **Dual:** for two people at the same address who receive one printed copy of *Archives* and the *Newsletter* as well as free online access to all issues of *Archives*. UK: £43; ROW £55; North America US$93.50.

- **Associate:** for full or part-time students (under 30) who receive free online access to all issues of *Archives* and the *Newsletter*. UK: £11; ROW £23; North America US$39.

**To join the Society, please**

- call the EUP Subscriptions Department on +44 (0)131 650 4196, or
- email journals@eup.ed.ac.uk. We do not recommend sending credit card details by email.

www.shnh.org.uk
The Society for the History of Natural History is a friendly international society for everyone who is interested in natural history in the broadest sense. This includes botany, zoology and geology as well as natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography. Everyone with an interest in these subjects – professional or amateur – is welcome to join.

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, now the Natural History Museum, which contains the national collections of natural history specimens and has a strong tradition in the historical study of these collections.

Since its modest beginnings, the Society has grown in membership and international standing. It is known for its friendliness and provides a focal point for the history of all aspects of natural history. The Society also has a thriving international membership and representatives in North America, Europe, Asia and the Antipodes organise local meetings. An International Meeting is held at regular intervals, the most recent being in the Unites States in November, 2012.

The Society’s main publication is *Archives of natural history*, produced twice a year, and distributed free to all members. It contains refereed, illustrated papers and book reviews and is published for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. All volumes published since 1936 are now available online. A more informal *Newsletter* is published two or three 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.

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.
E-mail: journals@eup.ed.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)131 6 506207.

**Newsletter 111 January 2017**

**Editor:** Julia Bruce  
**Email:** webmaster@shnh.org.uk

**COPY DATE**  
The copy date for the next *Newsletter* is 1 May 2017.
Women in the History of Natural Sciences

The Society for the History of Natural History’s summer conference will be on the theme of Women in the History of Natural Sciences, to take place in the Lake District, at the University of Cumbria Ambleside Campus on Thursday 15th June and at the Freshwater Biological Association, at Far Sawrey, on Friday 16th June 2017.

This meeting will focus on the lives, work and stories of less well-known women who have made significant contributions to the life and earth sciences, whether as female virtuosi/amateurs or as pioneering professionals. It is hoped to include a visit to the Armitt Museum in the meetings programme (see http://armitt.com/armitt_website/beatrix-potter/).

Participants can register for both one or two days. The Society’s AGM will take place at the FBA on the afternoon of Friday 16th June. Accommodation can be booked by conference participants on the University of Cumbria Ambleside campus by contacting amconferences@cumbria.ac.uk. A list of hotels, B&B and other accommodation is available from the Meetings Secretary (meetings@shnh.org.uk).

REGISTRATION FORM
Please complete and return this form, with payment, to G. Douglas, Meetings Secretary, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU, UK. (meetings@shnh.org.uk) (cheques payable to The Society for the History of Natural History)

The closing date for registration will be Monday 5th June 2017

The Conference fees include tea/coffee breaks, & lunch both days*

- Members of SHNH, University of Cumbria staff and FBA members (also, any partners attending the meeting):
  I/We wish to attend on Thursday 15th June and/or Friday 17th June
  one day @ £35 each £ __________ two days @ £60 £ __________

- Student members
  one day @ £25 £ __________ two days @ £50 £ __________

- Non-members
  one day @ £50 each £ __________ two days @ £80 £ __________

If you wish to stay for dinner on Thursday 15th June please indicate below:
Yes ☐ (Number of people _______ ) No ☐

* Please let us know if you have special dietary requirements:

Name(s)(Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
______________________________________ POST CODE ________ Country __________

Contact Telephone Number ____________________________________________

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