

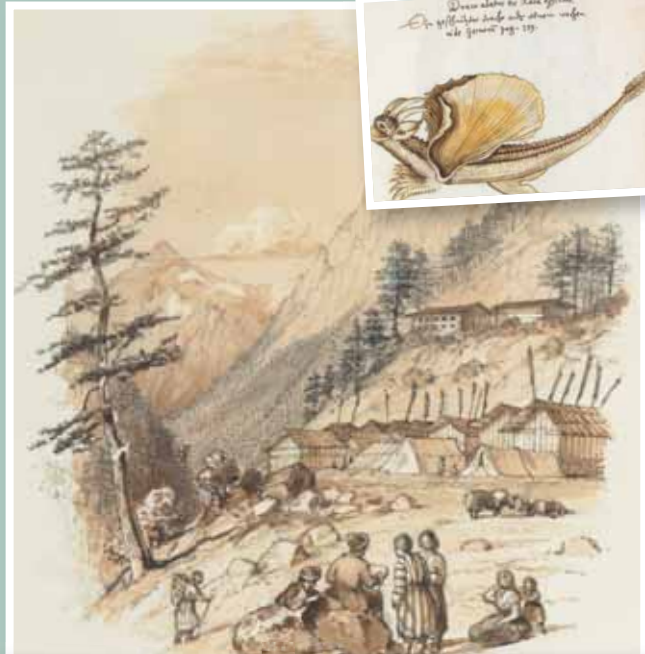


Newsletter

Diary

**Anchoring Biodiversity
Information: From
Sherborn to the 21st
Century and beyond**
Natural History Museum
London
Friday 28 October 2011
See Item 13

**Mark Catesby's third
centennial in America –
celebrating his impact
on our world**
USA
4–9 November 2012
See Item 14



Contents

First and Foremost	1
Society News & Announcements	2
Society Events News	8
Forthcoming Society Events	10
Other Events	12
A Good Read	13
News & Information	14
Notes & Queries	15
Publishers' Announcements	19
New & Recent Publications	19

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SHNH 75th Anniversary Meeting at Chester Zoo

Photos by Gina Douglas, Malgosia Nowak-Kemp and Elaine Shaughnessy



First and Foremost

1. President's message

I take this opportunity of introducing members to our new *Newsletter* editor. Elaine Shaughnessy has kindly volunteered to take over this responsibility *pro tem* (as well as doing a splendid job in looking after our website). So, first and foremost, a big 'thank you' to Elaine. Members will be pleased to know that our erstwhile editor, Julia Bruce, was very touched recently to receive your thanks and a cheque from all the donations received.

So, what's new? Well, we have a magnificent next issue of *Archives* due – the most colourful ever – including the inaugural Patron's Review. Also newly published is Charles Nelson's fascinating compilation of materials from earlier *Newsletters*. *History & mystery* celebrates our Diamond Jubilee (1936–2011), and it is also intended to help replenish funds, especially of the Alwyne Wheeler bursary that supports travel by scholars to meetings of the Society so they can make original contributions to the study of the history of natural history. This is a fund-raising project, so we are asking subscribers to please donate as much as they can to help us achieve our aims.

My plea to members, as ever, is please participate in Society affairs, contribute to *Archives* (members pay no page charges) and the *Newsletter*, follow us on Facebook or Twitter (www.shnh.org.uk) and come to meetings. This is your Society; it is what *you* make of it. Tell your friends about us, and get them to join-up as members. I know that times are hard but membership of SHNH is a truly life-enhancing experience. Enjoy your reading.

Geoff Moore,
SHNH President

2. From the Editor



First, a warm thank you to Julia for her wonderful editorship of the *Newsletter* for the last 15 years. Gina Douglas, Kathie Way and I had a lovely evening with Julia and her daughter Ellie to present her with her gift from the membership. Julia has written a note to you all below.

It has been a pleasure to take over the *Newsletter* editorship and I should like to thank everyone for their kindness, help and contributions. As we are beginning a new era for the *Newsletter*, we have updated the cover and our thanks to Sally Seeley for the new design.

Sachiko Kusukawa has written a short piece describing receiving her letter from Sir David Attenborough on writing the Patron's Review. The beautiful cover of *History & mystery* features paintings by the artist Rebecca Jewell and Rebecca describes her fascination with birds and feathers. In 'A Good Read'. Isabelle Charmantier, our Book Reviews Editor, has described what first attracted her to natural history.

Congratulations to Isabelle and Brian on the arrival of their new son Eoin on 9 September. Our next meeting is on Charles Davies Sherborn and Leslie Overstreet, our North American Representative will be attending. I look forward to meeting up with many of you there.

Elaine
Elaine Shaughnessy

3. Message from Julia Bruce

I thought nothing of it when Gina Douglas, Elaine Shaughnessy and Kathie Way suggested we meet up for dinner one evening – we often like to get together when we are all in London. We met at *Brindisa* – an excellent Portuguese restaurant in South Kensington near the Natural History Museum and were joined by John Parmenter and my daughter, Eloise.

Over a very nice shared starter of olives, roast almonds and sautéed peppers, Gina suddenly produced an envelope explaining it was a little something from the membership to mark my fifteen years as Newsletter Editor. Inside was a beautiful card was a most generous cheque with a list of all of you who had contributed. I was astonished, delighted and touched in equal measure. Thank you all so very much. I haven't decided quite yet what to spend it on. But think it might be put towards an Apple iPad 2 – something that I will use every day, for work and play, and so will be reminded of the Society and everyone's kindness each time I use it.

People keep asking me what I will do now with my new 'spare time'! Well, I continue to work freelance as an editor which keeps me more than busy and am also dipping a tentative toe in the waters of children's fiction writing – so don't expect to be hanging up my quill for a little time yet.

So thank you all so very much once again – and I wish Elaine the best of luck in taking over the *Newsletter* pro tem. I am looking forward to opening my copy and not knowing what is going to be inside!

Julia

4. SHNH AGM 2011

The Society's AGM 2011 was held on Friday 20 May during the enjoyable meeting 'From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation: The History and Development of Menageries, Zoos and Aquariums' held at Chester Zoo.

The President opened the meeting, welcoming SHNH members and guests. Geoff thanked all involved with the running of the Society for their sterling work over the past year, noting especially the work of those retiring Council members: Les Jessop and Elaine Shaughnessy. Elaine will still be attending Council meetings as a co-opted member in her capacity as the Society's website coordinator. Geoff gave special thanks to Julia Bruce who has retired recently after 15 years as editor of the *SHNH Newsletter*, wishing her well.

Following the Society elections, Geoff was delighted to welcome to Council three new Councillors: Elizabeth Platts, Chris Mills and Professor Hugh Torrens whose nominations to Council were unopposed. The President nominated Professor Torrens as Vice-president of the Society for 2011–2012. The Society's Treasurer, Bill Noblett, presented the Society's accounts, which were accepted by the Members present. Discussion was held on the Society's publishers Edinburgh University Press and on membership fees, where the President canvassed the opinion of members present.

The President advised SHNH members that Council had unanimously agreed at its February 2011 meeting to award the Founders' Medal to the Society's Patron, Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS. Sir David was unable to accept the award on this occasion due to

his filming commitments so it is hoped that he will be presented with it in due course.

The 2010 SHNH Thackray Medal, given for an outstanding contribution to the history of natural history, was awarded to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The President presented the medal to Graham Higley of the Natural History Museum, London who accepted the award on behalf of the Biodiversity Heritage Library [BHL].

The President announced that the inaugural Patron's Review entitled "The role of images in the development of Renaissance natural history" had been written by Dr Sachiko Kusakawa of Trinity College, Cambridge.

The President thanked Chester Zoo, especially Claudine Gibson and Gordon McGregor Reid, for the excellent venue and the organisation of the event, and Gina Douglas, the SHNH Meetings Secretary for organising such a successful 75th anniversary meeting.

Geoff Moore
SHNH President

5. Council News

Council's most recent meeting was on 7 July 2011 at the Natural History Museum, London. Council welcomed the Society's newest councillors, Professor Hugh Torrens, Mrs Elizabeth Platts, and Christopher Mills (*in absentia*).

The President congratulated Gina Douglas on the splendid joint meeting at Chester Zoo 'From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation' and Council was pleased to learn that several new members joined at the meeting. The papers presented will be published by Chester Zoo under the joint editorship of Gordon McGregor Reid, Geoff Moore and Tim Brown.

Of especial interest to Council is that

of nurturing and expanding our membership. In that connexion, Miranda Lowe from the Natural History Museum has kindly agreed to be the first port of call for membership queries. Anyone wishing to notify changes of address, or experiencing difficulties, for example with subscription issues, is asked to contact Miranda (m.lowe@nhm.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Important in that regard are the Society's overseas representatives, coordinated by Malgosia Nowak-Kemp. Professor Francis Thackeray, a human palaeontologist, from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa has agreed to act as our South African representative. We wish him well in that position.

6. Patron's Review



A winged dragon fabricated out pieces of rays [fishes] from the Codex Kentmanus, 151r, Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar.

The Patron's Review is an invitation from the Society's distinguished Patron to an outstanding younger scholar to contribute a scholarly review to the journal *Archives of natural history*. The inaugural review, "The role of images in the development of Renaissance natural history", was written by Dr Sachiko Kusakawa of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Her essay appears in Volume 38.2 of *Archives of natural history*. Here Sachiko reflects on receiving the invitation from the SHNH Patron:

“On one gloomy day in November, I received a letter from Sir David Attenborough, inviting me to write a ‘Patron’s Review’. I cannot recall if the day felt gloomy because of the weather or because of some intricate administrative chore I was facing, but my spirits lifted instantly. I felt honoured to be asked. It is indeed heartening to know that other people find interesting the sorts of things I am fascinated with and love to write about. The illustrated books and drawings I study are mainly from the 16th and 17th centuries, and while there are some incredibly fine and accurate depictions of natural historical objects, there are also less accurate or accomplished representations. Nevertheless, they all offer a historian clues to the ways in which nature was studied and understood in the past and they certainly demonstrate the care, passion and money that had gone into producing them. I hope to have conveyed in my essay some of the main reasons why these pictures became an important part of the study of natural history.

Sachiko Kusakawa

7. William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize

We are inviting submissions for the 2012 William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize, awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the field of history of natural history. The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. Entry is not limited to members of SHNH. Entries will be considered by a panel of three judges appointed by SHNH Council. The winner will receive £300 and be offered membership of the Society for one year.

The winning essay will normally be published in the Society’s journal *Archives of natural history*. For full details and to download application form, please visit the Society’s website. Please download the poster from our website and circulate.

8. History & mystery



History & mystery, our new publication from Charles Nelson is now published! It is a delightful collection of notes and queries from past SHNH *Newsletters*. Naturalists, books, collections, works of art, societies, even a mermaid, are contained here. Some of the notes are witty commentaries. Some of the topics are unexpected, even bizarre. Some of the reprinted queries are still unanswered. *History & mystery* celebrates SHNH’s Diamond Jubilee.

The 208 page book is priced at £15 (post paid) for UK members, and £18 for the rest of the world (ROW). Non-UK subscribers will have access to a PayPal facility (see website www.shnh.org.uk). We hope you will avail yourself of this fascinating read (excellent Christmas present material!). Please do not be shy either about sending a donation as much in excess of the asking price as you feel

able to afford! Proceeds from the sale of this volume will help replenish the Alwynne Wheeler Bursary to support young scholars in attending SHNH conferences and meetings. The order form can be found on page 21.

The beautiful cover was designed by Julian Dams based on original artwork by Dr Rebecca Jewell. The images include the Greater bird of paradise (*Paradisaea apoda*) (watercolour of a specimen in the Natural History Museum, Tring) and a head ornament collected in New Guinea during the voyage of HMS *Rattlesnake* in 1849 (watercolour of an artefact in the British Museum); both painted 2004. Rebecca shares with us her fascination for birds and feathers:

“Birds have had a long cultural association with humans; there is a cave painting of an owl at Chauvet cave in France, dated to around 30,000 years ago. From the highlanders of Papua New Guinea to the milliners of America and Europe, people have made use of birds and their feathers. In 1982 I lived in Rulna, a village in the Western Highlands of New Guinea. Here I witnessed a sing-sing (or *moka*) and my own fascination with birds and feathers began. At the sing-sing both men and women dress in beautiful feather headdresses made from birds of paradise, eagles, parrots and cockatoos. They wear them to impress the opposite sex and the competing tribes, but also they dance and move like courting birds, taking on the beauty and qualities of the birds through wearing their feathers.

After studying social anthropology at Cambridge for my BA, I then decided to go to the Royal College of Art to do a PhD in the department of Natural History Illustration. My aim was to learn about the relationship between birds and humans through the study of their feather artefacts, focusing on Pacific

cultures. I was grateful to be given access to the British Museum collections of feather artefacts and bird skins from the Natural History Museum at Tring. I wanted to learn to paint and draw these wonderful ethnographic artefacts. I needed to learn, through careful observational drawing, how they were made, what birds the feathers came from, how the feathers were plucked, cut, tied, and their colours combined to make these elaborate objects. I also wanted to try to understand the significance of the birds to the people who lived with them. My PhD was ‘by project’ so I had to write both a thesis and make a body of artwork for an exhibition. In 2004 I graduated from the RCA and exhibited my work in the Clore Centre at the British Museum.

The feather head-ornament on the cover of *History & mystery* is one of the oldest pieces in the British Museum collection from New Guinea – collected in 1849 on the voyage of the *Rattlesnake*. Its image, together with the other watercolour on the cover, comes from the body of work made for my PhD research project. Greater bird of paradise feathers are still worn by the New Guinea highlanders, although they are only permitted to hunt the birds by ‘traditional means’ (bows and arrows, no guns).

My fascination with birds and feathers continues. I shall be exhibiting work this autumn in an exhibition to raise awareness about extinct and endangered species of birds (*Ghosts of Gone Birds*, at the Rochelle School Gallery in London, 1–23 November) and having recently perfected a method for printing onto feathers, I am now working on a new collection for an exhibition of ‘headdresses’ and artefacts at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, (23 November – 19 December).”

Rebecca Jewell

9. Book Reviews

The following book reviews will appear in *Archives of natural history* (2012):

SAM ALBERTI, *Morbid Curiosities. Medical Museums in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Oxford, 2011).

PIERRE BOAISTUAU, *Histoires Prodigeuses. (édition de 1561): Edition critique, introduction by Stephen Bamforth and annotated by Jean Céard* (Droz, 2010).

JILL BOUGH, *Donkey* (London, 2011).

PAUL D. BRINKMAN, *The Second Jurassic Dinosaur Rush: Museums and paleontology in America at the turn of the twentieth century* (Chicago, 2010).

LORRAINE DASTON and ELIZABETH LUNBECK, eds., *Histories of Scientific Observation* (Chicago, 2011).

KATHLEEN DONOHUE, ed., *Darwin's Finches. Readings in the Evolution of a Scientific Paradigm* (Chicago, 2011).

J. FLETCHER, *Gardens of Earthly Delight. The History of Deer Parks* (Oxford, 2011).

M. GRAHAM, J. PARKER and P. DAYTON, eds. *The Essential Naturalist. Timeless Readings in Natural History* (Chicago, 2011).

WINIFRED GENSCH and MUSTAFA HAIKAL, *Der Gesang des Orang-Utans: Die Geschichte des Dresdner Zoos* (2011).

ROBERT HERBERT and DARIA D'ARIENZO, *Orra White Hitchcock. An Amherst Woman of Art and Science* (Amherst, 2011).

ERIC JORINK (trans. Peter Mason), *Reading the Book of Nature in the Dutch Golden Age, 1575-1715* (Brill, 2010).

ADRIENNE L. KAEPLER, *Holophusicon: The Leverian Museum. An Eighteenth-Century English Institution of Science, Curiosity, and Art* (Altenstadt, 2011).

MARY KEENAN, *That Hard Hot Land. Botanical Collecting Expedition in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. 1933-1934* (2011).

RICHARD J. KING, *Lobster* (London, 2011).

WILLIAM B. KROHN and CHRISTOPHER

L. HOVING, *Early Maine Wildlife Historical Accounts of Canada Lynx, Moose, Mountain Lion, White-tailed Deer, Wolverine, Wolves, and Woodland Caribou, 1603-1930* (Orono, 2010)

JAMES LANDER, *Lincoln and Darwin: Shared Visions of Race, Science, and Religion* (Carbondale, 2010).

M. MAHOOD, *The Poet as Botanist* (Cambridge, 2008; paperback 2011).

HARRIET RITVO, *Noble Cows & Hybrid Zebras* (Virginia, 2010).

FRANK RYAN, *The Mystery of Metamorphosis. A Scientific Detective Story* (2011).

KEITH THOMSON, *A Passion for Nature: Thomas Jefferson and Natural History* (Charlottesville, 2009).

MAURITS H. VAN DEN BOOGERT, *Aleppo Observed: Ottoman Syria through the eyes of two Scottish doctors, Alexander and Patrick Russell* (Geneva, 2010).

I am looking for reviewers for the titles listed below. If you would be interested in reviewing any of them, could you contact me at I.Charmantier@exeter.ac.uk.

ANNEMARIE JORDAN GSCHWEND, *The Story of Süleyman: Celebrity Elephants and Other Exotica in Renaissance Portugal* (Zurich, 2010).

EDMUND RUSSELL, *Evolutionary History. Uniting History and Biology to Understand Life on Earth* (Cambridge, 2011).

THOM VAN DOOREN, *Vulture* (London, 2011).

Isabelle Charmantier
Book Reviews Editor

10. Archives News

The next issue of *Archives of natural history* (volume 38 part 2) will be published in print and online at the beginning of October. This issue includes the first Patron's Review written at the invitation of Sir David Attenborough by

Dr Sachiko Kusakawa. The contents are:
Patron's review. SACHIKO KUSUKAWA: The role of images in the development of Renaissance natural history.

K. FREDGA, T. STJERNBERG & I. SVANBERG: An early (1834) illustration of the wood lemming, *Myopus schisticolor* (Lilljeborg, 1844), from Finland.

S. G. SEALY & M. F. GUIGUENO: Cuckoo chicks evicting their nest mates: coincidental observations by Edward Jenner in England and Antoine Joseph Lottinger in France.

P. G. MOORE: Eric Fitch Daglish (1892–1966): naturalist, illustrator, author and editor.

R. B. WILLIAMS & P. G. MOORE: An annotated catalogue of the marine biological paintings of Thomas Alan Stephenson (1898–1961).

H. J. NOLTIE: A botanical group in Lahore, 1864.

D. G. MEDWAY: The contribution of Thomas Pennant (1726–1798), Welsh naturalist, to the Australian ornithology of Cook's first voyage (1768–1771).

P. G. MOORE: The background to the proposition that plankton be used as food in the United Kingdom during the Second World War.

H. O. CLARK, Jr: The history of arid-land fox discoveries in North America.

T. KINUKAWA: Natural history as entrepreneurship: Maria Sibylla Merian's correspondence with J. G. Volkamer II and James Petiver.

R. J. BERRY: John Ray, physico-theology and afterwards.

As usual there are book reviews, the annual volume indexes and the list of referees. There are four short notes:

C. H. SMITH: Alfred Russel Wallace notes 3: two early publications.

C. H. SMITH: Alfred Russel Wallace notes 4: contributions to *The garden*,

1875–1912.

G. C. CADÉE: Sea heart and nickar nuts in a Flemish painting of 1617.

E. C. NELSON & J. B. RISTAINO: The Potato Late Blight pathogen in Ireland, 1846: reconnecting Irish specimens with the Moore–Berkeley correspondence.



Vignette of hunter, from L. Debes, 1673 *Færoæ et Færoa reserata*.

The following papers have been accepted for publication (as of the end of August 2011) for publication in *Archives of natural history* volume 39 during 2012.

J. ADELMAN: An insight into commercial natural history: Richard Glennon, William Hinchy and the nineteenth-century trade in giant Irish deer remains.

D. BLOCH: Beak tax to control predatory birds in the Faroe Islands.

J. M. CAMARASA & N. IBÁÑEZ: Joan Salvador and James Petiver: the last years (1715–1718) of their scientific correspondence.

R. J. CLEEVELY: The collaboration of the French naturalist Charles De Gerville with the Sowerby family and its contribution to early nineteenth-century geology.

P. A. COCHRAN & R. F. ELLIOTT: Newspapers as sources of historical

information about lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens* Rafinesque, 1817).

M. J. DELANY: Mammal studies in Uganda 1878–1980.

C. D. WYLIE: Teaching nature study on the blackboard in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century England.

E. Charles Nelson
Honorary Editor

Society Events News



11. Joint Meeting

Visions from the Blind Seer of Ambon: A Celebration of Georg Everard Rumphius (1627–1702) and his Ambonese Herbal Linnean Society of London

12 May 2011

A joint one-day symposium between the Linnean Society of London, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (KNAW) and the Society for the History of Natural History, supported by the *Annals of Botany* and Yale University Press.

Professor Pieter Baas opened the event with a masterly résumé of the life and career of Georg Eberhard Rumphius including his military service, work as a “baumeister” or architect/builder and his eventual move in 1652 to Indonesia in the service of the Dutch VOC where he was eventually given facilities to pursue his work on the natural history of the area despite the onset of blindness due to glaucoma. With the focus being the new

complete translation of his *Herbarium Amboinense*, by the late Monty Beekman, we learnt of the difficulties encountered by Rumphius, in completing his manuscript. The first copy was destroyed in a fire and the second replacement manuscript was lost when the ship carrying it was sunk after an attack from the French. A third copy of was prepared, which eventually reached the Netherlands in 1696, but it was not published until 1741, thirty nine years after Rumphius’s death in 1702.

Other speakers included Professor Hal Cook, who highlighted the role of botanic gardens as early science laboratories, Professor Harm Beukers, giving us information on available manuscripts of the works the Netherlands, Dr Charlie Jarvis, on Linnaeus’s use of Rumphius’s work and the questions raised about Linnaeus’s possible access to pre-published material and Dr Jan Siemonsma on Wageningen University’s work in making available resources on the useful plants of South East Asia through the modern equivalent of Rumphius’s work, www.proseanet.org.

The last speaker, Professor Paul Jepson, of Oxford University, reviewed the future of the Molucca region in terms of biodiversity and conservation, arising from his own experience working with a Birdlife project in the area. Lastly, some of us had a glimpse of a video of Monty Beekman talking about his work on Rumphius.

During the meeting four volumes of the eventual six volume work of the English edition of the 17th century naturalist’s masterwork: *The Ambonese Herbal* were presented to the Linnean Society by Jean Thomson-Black, Yale University Press and Chipper Wichman, Director of the National Tropical Botanic Garden, Hawaii.

12. Joint Meeting

Chester

75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Natural History From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation: The History and Development of Menageries, Zoos and Aquariums, Chester Zoo, UK

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May 2011

This was a truly international event with 48 delegates from 9 countries representing or speaking about 30 organisations. It supposedly beat all records for the use of the maximum number of acronyms which include the letter “Z”, in one day!

This international symposium was held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of SHNH–The Society for the History of Natural History. It was a joint collaboration between SHNH, Chester Zoo and the Linnean Society of London, supported by The Bartlett Society and WAZA–The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The meeting was hosted by Chester Zoo close to the Roman town of Chester (Deva). The focus of the symposium was to provide a comprehensive overview of the history and development of living wild animal collections across the world. Symposium proceedings will be made available.

The first day began with an overview of some of the historical background, continuing with presentations on the growth of regional zoo organisations, the different roles played by zoos and the ways in which zoos were initiated and funded. The focus then moved to the development of zoo records and the eventual integration of this into conservation and breeding programmes. This gave us our high score on acronyms using “Z” but also triggered much lively discussion and exchange of information.

The day finished with talks on special aspects of zoo history, including the history of veterinary practise in a zoo context, archaeozoology and molecular analysis used in identifying potential source localities of menagerie lions and on the finances and history of a short-lived city zoo.

Just in case the excellent catering had not satisfied our needs, and to fill any gaps before delegates went to dine in the *1539* Restaurant at Chester Racecourse, Gordon McGregor Reid, past Director of Chester Zoo, arranged for all to have a sample of Cheshire cheese and a bottle of Darwin ale, explaining that the first came from a recipe brought to Cheshire by the Romans and the second commemorated the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin, who was born in Shrewsbury. An excellent dinner in a most interesting venue, with the Roman wall as backdrop one way and the former Roman port, now the racecourse, on the other, was concluded with a historical review of Chester’s history from the Roman fort back to prehistoric times, accompanied by relevant artefacts from Gordon Reid’s personal collection as well as toasts to all sponsoring partners.

The second day’s programme encompassed the history of zoos in Hungary, Dublin, Sofia and Bristol, travelling menageries, fairs and aquariums. Poster papers in an adjoining room gave additional coverage, and space for displays of related materials. The role of zoos and similar displays of captive wild animals in its wider cultural context was a recurring theme, often touching on elements discussed the previous day. Presentations on individual zoos and aquariums introduced us to zoo architecture, zoos in wartime and the role of zoos as part of a social network. We ending with an overview presenting a real life example

of a modern zoo's role in an integrated conservation strategy linking pioneering care of flagship species in a zoo to political action and practical field training and education.

The excellent lecture facilities provided by Chester Zoo and the North of England Zoological Society and all the practical arrangements made by Claudine Gibson ensured that we had no technical problems, found everything we needed on hand and had ample opportunity to meet fellow delegates. Discussions continued from the lecture theatre to refreshment breaks.

We left the meeting having made new friends and forged links which should result in better exchange of ideas between those working on the history of natural history, in museums, in conservation organisations and in zoo. We also had a first hand opportunity to see how George Mottershead's 1934 dream of a "zoo without bars" has come to fruition in much of the present Chester Zoo development.

Gina Douglas
Meetings Secretary

Forthcoming Society Events

13. Anchoring Biodiversity Information: From Sherborn to the 21st Century and beyond Flett Lecture Theatre Natural History Museum, London Friday 28 October 2011

Charles Davies Sherborn (1861–1942) was SHNH's first President (when it was founded in 1936 its name was Society for the Bibliography of Natural History). He provided the bibliographic foundation for current zoological nomenclature with his magnum opus *Index Animalium*. In the 43 years he spent working on this extraordinary resource of 9,000 pages in 11 volumes, he anchored our

understanding of animal diversity through the published scientific record. No work has equalled it since and it is still in current, and critical, use.

Articles on Sherborn published in *Archives of natural history* have been made freely available online as well as two biographical articles and can be found on the SHNH website under SHNH/About us/ Brief History/Charles Davies Sherborn (www.shnh.org.uk).

Until now, Sherborn's contribution has been recognised by professional taxonomists worldwide but he has escaped the celebration of his accomplishment that is his due. This symposium is being held in his honour in the 150th year of his birth at the NHM, with an international panel of experts on bibliography and biodiversity bioinformatics, linking a view of the past with an active debate on the future of the related fields.

The full programme and registration details are on the SHNH website: SHNH/Meetings/2011/ Anchoring Biodiversity Information. Invited speakers will be talking on:

- SHNH Annual Ramsbottom Lecture: Sherborn: Work history and impact of bibliography, dating and zoological informatics
- Sherborn's context: Cataloguing nature in the late 19th century

History of Taxonomic Literature, Indexing and Traditional Taxonomic Nomenclature

- Reinforcing the foundations: Filling in the bibliographic gaps in the historical legacy
- Systema Dipteriorum: Sherborn's critical influence in getting information control over a megadiverse group
- Unlocking the Index Animalium: From paper slips to bytes and bits

- Sherborn's Index Animalium integration into ION: access to all

Current taxonomic practises

- Digitising legacy taxonomic literature: processes, products and using the output
- BHL–Europe: Tools and Services for Legacy Taxonomic Literature
- Biodiversity Informatics: GBIF's role in linking information through scientific names
- LANs: Lists of Available Names – a new generation for stable taxonomic names in zoology?

Future of Biological nomenclature

- Preserving digitized taxonomic data: problems and solutions for print, manuscript, and specimen data
- New workflows for describing and naming organisms
- ZooKeys: Streamlining the registration – to – publication pipeline
- Towards an open taxonomy

Closing Keynote and wrap-up plenary discussion

- Towards a Global Names Architecture: The future of indexing scientific names
- The meeting will close with a panel and audience discussion on the history and future of animal names and followed by a reception.

The meeting has been sponsored by the BHL Europe–Biodiversity Heritage Library Europe, ICZN–International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, Linnean Society of London, SHNH–Society for the History of Natural History, NHM – Natural History Museum, Science Directorate and Pensoft Publishers (ZooKeys). Supportive organisations include Geological Association, ZSL–Zoological Society of London, NMNH Smithsonian Institution Libraries, NHM Libraries, NHM Centre for Arts and Humanities (CAH), The Ray Society, Aves

Press (*Zoological Bibliography*), Zoological Record, The Natural History Book Service and IAPT (International Association of Plant Taxonomy).

14. Joint Meeting

Mark Catesby's third centennial in America – celebrating his impact on our world
Richmond, Virginia; Washington DC; and Charleston, South Carolina, USA
 4–9 November 2012



The Parrot of Carolina, *The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*, Mark Catesby, 1729–47. © Courtesy of the Smithsonian Libraries, Washington DC.

In 1712, Mark Catesby (1683–1749), a 29-year old Englishman with an enigmatic past and an insatiable curiosity for the wondrous serendipity of nature, set sail on a three-month voyage to the colony of Virginia [the Low-country of South Carolina]. Much of his sojourn in the New World was taken under the auspices of the Royal Society of London. Catesby was to spend much of the next fourteen years exploring the natural habitat of the southeast colonies and the Bahamas, and the subsequent 20 years writing and illustrating his two-volume *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*.

This celebration is being organized by

the Catesby Commemorative Trust - you can view their website at www.catesbytrust.org for general background, with SHNH as a co-sponsor. Others involved include the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, US Botanic Garden, Wilton House Museum in Richmond, College of Charleston, Gibbes Museum, Charleston Library Society, Middleton Place Foundation and the Preservation Society of Charleston.

The program will include a broad array of speakers on diverse subjects with a connection to Mark Catesby as well as related art exhibits, colonial-era garden tours, and expeditions into areas of South Carolina little changed since Catesby was there. Among the speakers who have agreed to participate are several who have been active in our Society and its affairs, including Judith Magee at the Natural History Museum; Amy Meyers at the Yale Center for British Art; Leslie Overstreet at the Smithsonian; Florence Pieters at the University of Amsterdam, Henrietta McBurney Ryan at Eton College; and James Reveal at Cornell. More information will be provided on the SHNH website as details are confirmed.

15. 2013 Advance notice: Wallace 100

The Society hopes to commemorate the Centenary of the death of Alfred Russel Wallace with a UK meeting in late Spring 2013. Plans for this are still at an early stage but those interested in such an event are asked to contact the Meetings Secretary (meetings@shnh.org.uk). We will try and avoid any clashes with other Wallace events that may be planned for 2013, some of which will be closer to his death date in November 2013.

Other Events

**16. Wallich and Indian Natural History: Collection Dispersal and the Cultivation of Knowledge
Natural History Museum
London**

6-7 December 2011

This international conference will celebrate the collections of the Danish botanist Nathaniel Wallich (1786-1854) and Indian natural history and will be held jointly at The Natural History Museum and The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The conference will explore the challenges associated with exploiting such collections and the interesting opportunities they provide for interdisciplinary research. In particular, the conference will consider the experience of the recent "Wallich and Indian Natural History" project as an interesting exemplar. Details on registration are available at: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/cahr>.

**17. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker:
A Centenary Celebration
Botanist - Explorer - Champion of Darwin
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Friday 9 December 2011**



View in the Himalayas painted by J.D.Hooker.



Rhododendron falconi, print based on a drawing by J.D. Hooker.

A one-day conference jointly organised by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Linnean Society of London, the Kew Guild, and the University of Sussex.

In an age of great naturalists, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817–1911) was perhaps the greatest Victorian botanist. His reputation is based on his early travels in the South Pacific Ocean and India, his lifetime's work on the world's flora and biogeography, and twenty commanding years as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Sir Joseph's fame has continued to grow through his friendship with and staunch support for Charles Darwin.

All of these aspects of Joseph Hooker's long and remarkably productive life will be covered in a celebratory one-day meeting held, appropriately, at Kew Gardens. A varied programme includes five talks by leading scholars, private behind-the-scenes tours highlighting Hooker material in Kew's collections, and a reception in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery with a private view of a special exhibition about Sir Joseph's life and work. Speakers include: Stephen Hopper (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew); Anne Secord (University of Cambridge); Paul White (University of Cambridge); Peter Donaldson; and Jim Endersby (University of Sussex).

This meeting will appeal to anyone with an interest in botany and its history, in exploration, empire or, of course, Kew itself. Registration fees (£35/£15 students) include lunch and refreshments and early booking is advised. Booking: www.kew.org/jdhooker; Enquiries: jdhooker@kew.org.

A Good Read

18. Isabelle Charmantier talks about the books that have influenced her love of nature and natural history:

“Growing up with two parent biologists, it was impossible not to become interested in the natural world. I think the books which most influenced me and made me love nature as a child were the ones by Jack London. His books enthralled me with their depictions of the immensity and wilderness of nature. *White Fang* made a vivid impression on me. Although it is many years since I have read it, the passage at the beginning of the novel describing a man's night-time encounters with a pack of wolves whilst bivouacking in the woods, still stays with me. London powerfully evokes the feeling of the man's powerlessness in the face of such fierce creatures, and his acknowledgement of the supremacy of nature over man in general.

In time, I became much more interested in history, but my university years allowed me to reconcile these two interests. I discovered with delight sixteenth- and seventeenth-century natural history texts. Pierre Belon's work on birds (*Histoire de la nature des oyseaux*, 1555), for example, expresses a curiosity and a fascination for the natural world with great wit and a touch of naivety which I think we have lost in the course of time.”

Isabelle is a Research Fellow at the University of Exeter and SHNH Book Reviews Editor for *Archives of natural history*.

19. Centre for Arts and Humanities Research, Natural History Museum, London

The new Centre supports interdisciplinary research into the historical, cultural, social and economic significance of the library, archive and specimen collections of the museum. The Museum specimen collections are a rich resource for investigation in fields as varied as: history, philosophy, museology, anthropology, literary studies, economics, animal studies, cultural theory and area studies relating to South Asia, Africa, China and elsewhere. For more information, visit the Museum's website at: www.nhm.ac.uk.

20. John Ray's Cambridge Catalogue (1660)

Translated and edited by P.H. Oswald and C.D. Preston.

John Ray is the outstanding British natural historian of the 17th century. This 624-page book is the first complete translation from the Latin of his first publication, *A catalogue of plants growing around Cambridge* (1660).

This is famous as the first British County Flora, but it is a much more complex work than its title suggests. It includes a botanical catalogue as well as indexes of English names and places and hitherto untranslated chapters on the meanings of plant names and botanical terms. Ray's abilities as an all-round



Title page from Ray's *A catalogue of plants growing around Cambridge*.

naturalist are apparent from the numerous digressions in the text and his pioneer observations. The rare appendices, published in 1663 and 1685, are also translated for the first time.

The editorial commentary is included in nearly 2,000 footnotes which outline problems of translation, discuss the identity of some of Ray's more problematic species, identify his cited and some of his uncited sources and detail the treatment in his later works of some of the plant variants (such as colour forms) that he regarded as species in 1660.

The translated text is preceded by introductory chapters which draw upon unpublished manuscripts and recently published studies to present a new account of Ray's time in the University of Cambridge and the role that his collaborators might have played in the preparation of the Catalogue. They also analyse its structure and sources, provide brief biographical portraits of the botanists cited by Ray and discuss the problems of equating his names to modern taxa. The book ends with a vocabulary of the epithets in Ray's Latin plant names, a gazetteer and a bibliography.

The authors both live in Cambridge and are SHNH Members, Honorary Members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, and graduates of the University of Cambridge, Philip Oswald with a degree in Classics and Theology and Chris Preston with a doctorate in Botany, thus combining John Ray's principal interests. It is published by The Ray Society. ISBN numbers: 0-903874-43-1; 978-0-903874-43-4. Retail Price £75.00, concessionary price £45, which includes postage and packing. A flyer and order form for SHNH members to buy the book at the concessionary price will be included with the next *Newsletter*.

21. Alfred Newton's archive in Cambridge University Library

Most people connected with the University of Cambridge think that the Newton Library in the Department of Zoology is named after the illustrious Isaac Newton. This is a reasonable assumption to make for Newton, along with Darwin, is the most distinguished of Cambridge's scientists, but in reality the Library is named after Alfred Newton. "Alfred who?" you might ask. Alfred Newton was in fact the University's first Professor of Zoology who, on his death in 1907, bequeathed to the University his superb library, his collection of birds' eggs and skins, his stuffed specimens and skeletons, his vast offprint collection and his (and other naturalists') papers and correspondence. The papers and correspondence were later transferred from the Department to the University Library and a detailed catalogue has finally been completed. It has been compiled by Peter Meadows, one of the Keepers in the Library's Department of Manuscripts.

Although little known today, Newton was in his own day (he lived 1829–1907) a very influential zoologist. Primarily an ornithologist, his most enduring legacy was his championing of the 1869 Sea Birds Preservation Act, the very first piece of legislation dedicated to the preservation of nature. It would be an overstatement to say that he was responsible for its passage through Parliament, but there is no doubt he was very influential. He first mooted the idea of a 'close season' and in lectures, lobbying, articles and speeches, he promoted the ideas behind the Act ceaselessly.

This interest in conservation was

prompted by his studies of the extinct Great Auk and Dodo, and also the Great Bustard which had recently become extinct in Britain. (The archive contains Mss journals of his tours to Iceland in search of the Great Auk and numerous articles and lectures on all three birds.) At the same time he was interested in the wider history of ornithology and his "History of ornithology" in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* can still be read with profit. He was also fascinated by Gilbert White and there is a long correspondence with Thomas Bell who was working on a new edition of Selborne. At the same time he himself was busy on a new edition of Yarrell's *British birds* and compiling his influential *Dictionary of birds*. In between he found time to promote the British Ornithologists' Union (he was one of the founder members) and was a frequent and scholarly contributor to the Society's pioneering journal, *Ibis*.

All of these interests are reflected in separate sections within the archive (the Great Auk section for example holds no fewer than 289 items including letters, the aforementioned journals, photographs of eggs, skeletons and stuffed specimens, and offprints) but it is the extensive correspondence which is the massive heart of the Archive. There are no fewer than 13,072 letters in total. It seems he corresponded with everybody: fellow ornithologists; museum officials and librarians; publishers, booksellers, printers and engravers; and natural history dealers and taxidermists. A few names, with the number of letters and the dates covered will suffice to give a flavour of the archive:

- Philip Sclater, Secretary of the Zoological Society and editor of *Ibis*, 519 letters, 1857–93.

- Henry Stevenson, Proprietor of the Norwich chronicle and author of the *Birds of Norfolk*, 430 letters, 1854–86.
- Albert Gunther, Keeper at the British Museum and an expert on reptiles and snakes, 229 letters, 1859–89.
- Thomas Southwell, Norfolk banker and leading light in the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society, 344 letters, 1853–93.
- John Van Voorst, leading natural history publisher who published Newton's edition of Yarrell, 89 letters, 1867–70.

And last, but not least, there were the dealers. All told I have counted no fewer than thirty-three dealers represented in the collection by 234 letters covering the period 1851–87. Prominent among them was Edward Bartlett, who became Curator at the Maidstone Museum and who dealt in birds and animals from Madagascar. Also prominent was Robert Dunn who was based on Orkney & Shetland and who provided Newton with skins and eggs of, among other birds, Phalaropes although they were, according to a letter dated 22 March 1852, “about extinct in Orkney [and] there is none in Shetland”!

The catalogue of this archive is available on Cambridge University Library's Janus server. Janus was set up to provide a single point of access to catalogues of archives and manuscript collections held throughout Cambridge and is available at <http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk>.

Bill Noblett

22. The Royal Navy in pursuit of shells, 1827

In the spirit of *History & mystery*, which is likely to be available about the time you receive this newsletter, I have long wondered about this piece of

conchological gossip which I came across in a letter addressed from Connemara on 13 August 1832 by Robert James Shuttleworth to Professor William Jackson Hooker (English Letters vol. 6: no. 181 Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). Among snippets of botanical news, including some observations on the local sundews, Shuttleworth reported a conversation he had had about the Chile-based sail-maker and natural history collector Hugh Cumming.

... As I have the opportunity of a frank I enclose with this, specimens of each of the Drosera. – and also a leaf brought from Chili by Capt. Handfield R. N., where it is known under the name Matica – it possesses the most powerful [blank space] qualities, is universally used by the natives and has been applied by Capt. H. over & over again on the most / agravated / wounds and lacerations, with constant & almost instantaneous relief – In taste and appearance it is not unlike the leaf of a Salvia. Capt. H. think the leaves of the plant are much larger, & that these are only fragments. Capt. Handfield knew Cumming at Valpariso, and employed him to make a sail for his vessel. His account is curious and seems to throw some doubt on Cumming's localities – “A Naturalist dies at Sañ Blas, having left immense collections particularly of shells, which were appropriated by his servant – Capt. H. was sent to San Blas with order to buy up the collections at any price, if he could not obtain by other means. On arriving at San Blas, by the aid of the E[nglish]. Consul he found out that the collections had been shipped off for Valp, & even learnt the name of the vessel that conveyed them. Capt. H. immediately followed the vessel to Valp. and there found that the collections had all been disposed of by the servant to Cumming. such is the history as Handfield told it

me, but which I have written down from memory. The Naturalists's name I forget. Cumming thus did not live at Lima but at Valp. The shells were what Handfield was particularly enjoined to obtain. I merely mention this to you, as in all probability you will be able to ascertain and clearly the circumstances. Handfield was in the pacific in the years 1827-28-29. He now commands the coast guard of Cunnamara.

Is this gossip about Cuming or verifiable fact? It was not difficult (using *The Times's* online archive, and thanks to Cambridgeshire County Library) to confirm some of the account. Captain Edward Handfield was in command of HMS *Jaseur* (sometimes spelled *Jasseur*), a brig-rigged sloop built in 1813, from the beginning of August 1826 until he was paid off in March 1828. In 1826, on a passage rounding Cape Horn, in Le Maire Strait, Handfield had detected a reef, subsequently called the *Jaseur* Reef (see *Atlantic navigator*. Fourth edition. 1854) which "appeared to be about 1½ mile in extent, with a violent sea breaking over it." So he was probably not in the Pacific (or South American Station), at least on *Jaseur*, for as long as Shuttleworth suggested. In a report in *The Times* (copied from the *Hampshire telegraph*) of 3 September 1827, a despatch is quoted stating that the " ... *Volage* and *Egginton* transports were left at Callao on the 1st of April: the *Jasseur* had gone to San Blas". *The Times* reported on 7 February 1828 that the sloop had docked at Plymouth on 6 December 1827 having left Callao on 10 August 1827: *The colonist* of 27 December 1827 (no. 6: 43) had reported that "The *Jasseur*, Captain Handfield, was expected at Callao, on her way home, in the course of July". Thus it is possible to date the expedition (if that is what it can be called) to recover the naturalist's shells to

the period between April and July 1827. On her voyage back to England, HMS *Jaseur* left Valparaiso on 22 September and Coquimbo on 4 October, and called at Rio de Janeiro *en route*.

In 1832, Handfield was appointed Inspecting Commander of the Coast Guard in Ireland, and was based to start with in Connemara, which explains how he happened to meet Shuttleworth. *The gentleman's magazine* (167: 203. 1839) published his obituary; he died aged 46 at Bradford House, Belbroughton, Worcestershire on 12 February 1839. There is a short entry for him in J. Marshall's *Royal Naval biography* 4 (part 2): 339 (1835).

Therefore, there seems little reason to doubt Handfield's story, but I have not identified the naturalist who died in San Blas before about April 1827 whose "immense collection" was so remarkable that a Royal Navy sloop with 18 guns was despatched to acquire it by any means possible. Is it possible that it was this "windfall", and the thwarting of the Royal Navy, that launched Cuming's career as "Prince of collectors". Indeed, is there any cryptic message in Lieutenant John Frembly's "prophecy" of 1827 that Cuming's "zeal in the pursuit of this interesting science [conchology] will, I am persuaded, soon make a large addition to our present stock." (For more on Cuming, I commend Peter Dance's paper, Hugh Cuming (1791-1865 Prince of collectors. *Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History* 9 (4): 477-501 (1980) [available online <http://www.eupublishing.com/doi/pdf/10.3366/jsbnh.1980.9.4.477>].)

Matica or matico, by the by, is *Piper angustifolium*, used in South America as a medicinal herb; among its reputed properties is the capacity to heal wound and stop bleeding.

E. Charles Nelson

23. Leonard Upcott Gill (1846–1919)

In *SHNH Newsletters* 78, 79 and 93, David Allen sought, and then provided, some information on this forgotten publisher, and printer of Natural History Books, including his [British] *Naturalist's Directory*, which ran to at least ten editions between 1895 and 1906/1907. David's last notice added that the ornithologist Harry Kirke Swann (1871–1926), later of the natural history book-selling firm, Wheldon and Wesley, had been the editor of this periodical, between 1896 and 1906, implying this was the last one to be issued.

The recent purchase of another book published by Gill, at Bazaar Buildings, Drury Lane, one of his last in 1910; entitled *War Medals and Decorations* by De la Cherois Hastings Irwin (1855–1920) (of 536 pages, fourth edition) led me to re-examine Gill's career. This book is a manual for his brother-collectors of such material, and carries at the end a 20 page *Catalogue* of Gill's current *Practical Handbook* publications. One of these is an advert for the magazine *The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, which I remember well as a youngster, and from whose pages I purchased the much loved 1929 SD 12/50 Alvis sports car in 1960, in which I did all my PhD field work (it having enormous ground clearance).

Gill had managed, and edited, this highly significant magazine, which was "THE Amateur's Paper for Practical Articles and Advice on all Useful Subjects", from 1868. Gill was thus a publisher, printer, author and a patentee. When he died in 1919, *The Times* awarded him a long obituary notice (11 March 1919, p. 13, col. e) calling him "the builder of one of the most extensive printing and publishing concerns in London". His uncle had been Edward William Cox (1809–1879), lawyer and publisher, who had founded *The Law*

Times in 1843, revived *The Field* in 1854, and who was also the proprietor, from 1862, of *The Queen* (see *ODNB*), on both of whose early staff lists Gill was included. Gill was also, from 1868, the manager of *The Country*, a cheap edition of Cox's more expensive *The Field*, so publishing was in Gill's blood. *The Times* suggested that *The Bazaar* was perhaps Gill's most important achievement, noting that "most of the many books published by Mr Gill were first published in serial form in *The Bazaar*. Popularity and practical utility were the essential features of all these articles". Gill, above all, seems to have catered for the late Victorian and Edwardian collector. His is also a respected name in stamp collecting www.abps.org.uk/Home/Who_Was_Who.

His *Naturalist's Directory* was similarly aimed at "students, and collectors, of natural history". It gave separate alphabetical listings for zoology, microscopy, botany, geology and palaeontology, and miscellanea, and also listed "societies, field clubs and museums", with a Trade Directory of suppliers and a list of natural history magazines. In addition, it carried many advertisements within it, which are of equal interest to today's historians. It is time a list was prepared of where copies of all known editions can be found. The problem seems to have been how it was classified. It did not get listed by R.B. Freeman, as David Allen has noted, or in *BUCOP*, or in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*, probably because the British Library (BL) had classified it as only a Directory. If we number all known editions from 1 to 10 (see *The Geological Curator*, volume 4, no. 9, page 573, 1987) the BL set (at Shelfmark P.P 2488 ffd) lacks nos 1, 2, 8 and 9. [Gavin Bridson's wonderful 2008 bibliography has added confusion by recording this

reached 12 editions (with additional, and separate, editions in 1901, 1902 and 1903). But that for 1906-1907 is clearly noted as being the 10th (and last?), while the seventh, conjoint for 1902-1903 (in my collection) states that this one had been issued "after a lapse of nearly two years", ruling out any in between. Of those missing at BL, the NHM library has no. 8, and Oxford's set claims to run from 1897 (no. 3) to 1906 (so perhaps to no. 9). So 1, 2, and perhaps 9, still remain unlocated. Any additions will be welcomed... Gill seems unlucky to have missed being entered in either the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* or that of *Business Biography*.

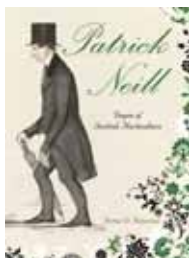
Hugh Torrens

Publishers' Announcements

24. Patrick Neill, doyen of Scottish horticulture

By Forbes W. Robertson
Whittles Publishing
144pp + 4pp colour
ISBN: 9781849950329,
£16.99 (softback)

Patrick Neill made an important contribution to the development of horticulture and gardening in Scotland and this very readable book chronicles the activities of one of the most important Scotsmen of the 19th Century. His publications are of considerable historical importance and provide a revealing picture of contemporary events and attitudes.



25. The South Polar Times

Started in 1902, this monthly magazine was produced on Captain Scott's expeditions to Antarctica on the *Discovery* and *Terra Nova* - the latter being "Scott's Last Expedition". The monthly periodical was written, illustrated and

edited by expedition members and gives a fascinating insight into the life and work of the polar explorers. The original issues were published on the return of the expeditions (Smith, Elder, 1907 & 1914) and edited by Shackleton, Bernacchi and Cherry-Garrard. Midwinter 1912 was excluded as there were no reports from Scott or illustrations by Dr Edward Wilson.

The fourth volume of *The South Polar Times* (midwinter 1912) has now been published in a limited edition of 500 copies by the Scott Polar Research Institute and John and S.L. Bonham. It includes commentary and biographical notes by Ann Savours, author of *Voyages of the "Discovery"* (2005). For more information, please contact Mr John Bonham at: T. 0207 4027064; E. bonbooks@pipex.com or write to: 84 Westbourne Terrace, London W2 6QE.

New & Recent Publications

- Alberti, Samuel J. M. M.** (2011) *Morbid curiosities: medical museums in nineteenth-century Britain*. Oxford UP. 256 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0199584581 (hb).
- Bough, Jill** (2011) *Donkey*. Reaktion Books. 198 pp. ISBN: 978-1861898036.
- Bleichmar, Daniela & Mancall, Peter C.** eds (2011) *Collecting Across Cultures: Material Exchanges in the Early Modern Atlantic World*. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. 392 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0812243055 (cloth).
- Calcott, Brett & Sterelny, Kim**, eds (2011) *Major transitions in evolution revisited*. MIT Press. 400 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0262015240 (cloth).
- Chandler, David** (2011) *Barn Owl*. New Holland Publishers Ltd. 128 pp. ISBN: 978-1847737687 (pb).
- Daston, Lorraine & Lunbeck, Elizabeth** eds (2011) *Histories of Scientific Observation*. Univ. of Chicago

- Press. 480 pp. ISBN: 978-0226136783 (pb).
- Denny, Mark & Mcfadzean, Alan** (2011) *Engineering Animals: How Life Works*. Harvard UP. 400 pp. ISBN: 978-0674048546 (hb).
- Donohue, Kathleen**, ed. (2011) *Darwin's Finches. Readings in the Evolution of a Scientific Paradigm*. Univ. of Chicago Press. 512pp. ISBN: 978-0226157702 (cloth).
- Fletcher, J.** (2011) *Gardens of Earthly Delight. The History of Deer Parks*. Windgather Press. 296 pp. ISBN: 978-1905119363 (pb).
- Gordh, Gordon & Headrick, D. H.** (2011) *A Dictionary of Entomology*. CABI Publishing/ CSIRO Press. 1,536pp. ISBN: 978-1845935429 (hb).
- Graham, M., Parker, J. & Drayton, P.** eds (2011) *The Essential Naturalist. Timeless Readings in Natural History*. Univ. of Chicago Press. 552 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0226305691 (cloth).
- Harris, Stephen** (2011) *Planting Paradise: Cultivating the Garden 1501-1900*. The Bodleian Library. 142 pp. ISBN: 978-1851243433 (hb).
- Harrison, Peter, Numbers, Ronald L. & Shank, Michael H.** eds (2011) *Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science*. Univ. of Chicago Press. 432pp. ISBN: 978-0226317816 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0226317830 (paper); ISBN 978-0226318035 (E-book).
- Herbert, Robert & D'Arenzio, Daria** (2011) *Orra White Hitchcock. An Amherst Woman of Art and Science*. Mead Art Museum, Amherst College. 114 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0914337232.
- Kaeppler, Adrienne L.** (2011) *Holophusicon: The Leverian Museum. An Eighteenth-Century English Institution of Science, Curiosity, and Art*. Museum für Völkerkunde & ZKF Publishers. xii +308 pp., illus. ISBN 978-3981162042. €39.90.
- King, Richard, J.** (2011) *Lobster*. Reaktion Books. 216 pp. ISBN: 978-1861897954.
- Klein, Nicole, Remes, Kristian & Gee, Carole T.** eds (2011). *Biology of the Sauropod Dinosaurs: Understanding the Life of Giants (Life of the Past)*. Indiana UP. 344 pp. ISBN: 978-0253355089 (hb).
- McCosh, David & Rich, Time** (2011) *Atlas of British and Irish Hawkweeds: (Pilosella L. and Hieracium L.)* BSBI. 496 pp. ISBN: 978-0901158444 (pb).
- Morris, Pat** (2011, 2nd rev edn) *Dormice: A Tale of Two Species*. Whittet Books Ltd. 144 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-1873580820 (pb).
- Reed, Marcia & Demattè Paola** eds (2011) *China on paper: European and Chinese works from the late sixteenth to early nineteenth century*. Getty Research Institute. 248 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0892368693.
- Russell, Edmund** (2011) *Evolutionary History. Uniting History and Biology to Understand Life on Earth*. Cambridge UP. 230 pp. ISBN: 978-0521745093.
- Ryan, Frank** (2011) *The Mystery of Metamorphosis. A Scientific Detective Story*. Chelsea Green Publishing Co. 320 pp. ISBN: 978-1603583411.
- Russell, Roslyn** (2011) *The business of nature: John Gould and Australia*. National Library of Australia. 224 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0642276995 (hb).
- Steel, Emily** (2011) 'He is no loss': Robert McCormick and the voyage of HMS *Beagle*. *BSHS Monographs volume 14*. 74 pp. ISBN: 978-0906450185. £10/ US\$20/ €20.
- Thompson, Robert & Faulkner, John** (2011) *The natural history of Ulster*. National Museums Northern Ireland. 616pp. illus. ISBN: 978-1606060681. £25.
- Van Dooren, Thom** (2011) *Vulture*. Reaktion Books. 192pp. ISBN: 978-1861898067.

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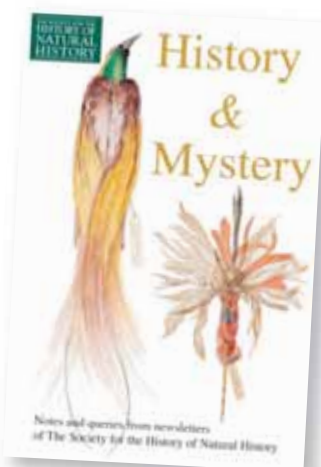
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William T. Stearn Prize 2012

... which is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the field of the history of natural history.

The winner receives £300 and one year's free membership of the Society.

The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students in full or part-time education.

The winning essay will normally be published in the Society's prestigious journal *Archives of natural history*.

Submission deadline is 30 June 2012.

The Prize's rules and an entry form are available for download as Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files from the SHNH website www.shnh.org.uk

Entry is not limited to members of SHNH.

* The 2007 prize-winning essay by Heather Brink-Roby was entitled *Siren canora: the mermaid and the mythical in late nineteenth-century science*.

Society for the History of Natural History

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 and South America, Europe, South Africa, Asia and the Antipodes organise local meetings. An International Meeting is held at regular intervals, the next being in the United 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 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.

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Newsletter 101 September 2011

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COPY DATE

The copy date for the next *Newsletter* is 15 October 2011

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