

**THE
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF NATURAL HISTORY**

Special General Meeting

and

Annual General Meeting

TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021

To be held at 15.00 BST by Zoom

c/o The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK
Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 210355

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History will be held by Zoom at 3pm on Tuesday 29 June 2021. The AGM will be preceded by a brief Special General meeting to consider the adoption of the Byelaws following their approval by the Charity Commission. The formal business will be followed by presentations by those persons awarded the Founders' Medal and the President's Award.

The meeting is open to all members in good standing. Please send apologies to the Secretary (secretary@shnh.org.uk)

Agenda for the SGM and AGM 29 June 2021

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence
3. A Word from the President
4. Special General meeting to consider the adoption of the Byelaws approved at the Special General Meeting of the Society on 23 March 2021, following their approval by the Charity Commission.
 - a. Minutes of the SGM 23 March 2021 (available on the SHNH website)
 - b. Vote to adopt the Byelaws
5. Minutes of the AGM held 26 June 2020 by Zoom.
6. Report of Council for 2020
 - a. Objects
 - b. Membership
 - c. President's Report
 - d. Publications and Communication
 1. Editor's Report
 2. Book Reviews Editor
 3. Newsletter
 4. Social Media
 - e. Meetings Report
 - f. International Representatives Report
 - g. Treasurer's Annual Report
 - h. Small Research Fund and Stearn Essay prize
7. Trustees' Annual Report and Treasurer's financial statements for 2020
8. Elections to the Portfolios of Council.
9. Welcome to the Incoming President
10. AOB

Short break, to be followed by:

11. Presentation of the Society's Awards:
 - a. An Introduction to the Society's Awards (Helen Cowie)
 - b. Founders' Medal (Citations to be read by Gina Douglas and Jack Ashby)
 - c. President's Award (Citations to be read by Malgosia Novak-Kemp and Jo Hatton)
12. Short talks/presentations by Founders' Medal winners Bob Peck and Geoff Hancock.
13. Short talks/presentations by President's Award winners Miranda Lowe, Subhadra Das and Felix Driver.
14. Vote of Thanks and end of meeting.

4. Special General Meeting.

This brief Special Meeting is called to formally adopt the Byelaws approved at the Special General Meeting of the Society on 23 March 2021, following their submission to, and approval by the Charity Commission. The Minutes of the SGM of 23/3/21 and the Byelaws are available on the Society's Website.

5. Minutes of the AGM held by video-conferencing (Zoom) on 26 June 2020

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Isabelle Charmantier, Miranda Lowe, Stanislav Strekopytov, David Lowther and Charles Nelson. There were 37 members in attendance.
2. Welcome and Introduction by the President

Attendees were welcomed and the President outlined recent Council activities. Positive advances had been made with the Strategic Plan 2018–2021 and the aims were being gradually delivered. Details of the strategic plan have been published in the Newsletter and are available on the SHNH Website. Attention was drawn to the marvellous promotional work of our International Representatives and the support given to them by Malgosia Novak-Kemp. It was noted that the significance of social media is growing; an important contribution is being made by Elle Larsson and Ann Sylph to Facebook, Twitter and jiscmail feeds that are markedly increasing SHNH profiles. The pandemic had indicated the potential of holding web-based seminars as a means of reaching out to the membership. A key element for progressing the strategy will be devising a Constitution fit for purpose to replace our now much-outdated Rules, and will be a major target for Council next year. Constructive meetings with Edinburgh University Press continue to improve membership recording systems and recruitment mechanisms. Although we now have a better idea of numbers and names, we know very little about members' interests and what they want from the Society; consequently, with the help of Ray Williams, Elaine Shaughnessy and the communications team we will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to all members – this will be vital information to feed into our strategic planning. Finally, the President referred to the hard work done by our Meetings Secretary, Jo Hatton, for the Cambridge Conference, and hoped that next year the theme of Pioneering Naturalists will bring the Society together again, in person.

3. Minutes of 2019 AGM held in York, 4 June 2019

There were no comments or corrections and so after being proposed by Geraldine Reid and seconded by Gina Douglas the minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record.

4. Report of Council for 2019

This was accepted unanimously after being proposed by Elle Larsson and seconded by Arthur Lucas.

5. Trustees Annual Report including the financial statement for 2019

The financial future was raised in relation to the lockdown and effects of the pandemic virus on membership. Two issues might have an effect. Firstly, non-renewals or lapsed members will be more difficult to follow up. For example, many staff furloughed by employers who supply their internet access cannot receive emails, making contact difficult. Secondly, recruitment of new members via meetings and conferences has not been possible and opportunities will continue to be diminished for some time. To balance these kinds of lack of income the Treasurer pointed out that expenditure has been minimal this year during which few meetings have been held where claims for travel might have been made.

Apart from notice of a typo in the date on line 4 (201 should be 2019) the Trustees Report as circulated was accepted unanimously after being proposed by Jo Hatton and seconded by Maggie Reilly.

6. Election of Officers

The following have agreed to stand for a further year:

Treasurer – Bill Noblett

Editor – Herman Reichenbach

Meetings Secretary – Joanne Hatton.

Secretary Geoff Hancock is stepping down this year. Ann Sylph (a member of SHNH Council and Librarian at the Zoological Society of London) has been proposed as Secretary by Felicity Roberts and seconded by Peter Davis, and is willing to stand. There had been no nominations for the vacancy on Council. The President confirmed that Bill Noblett is willing to act as Vice-President for the coming year.

This composition of Council was proposed *en bloc* by Elaine Shaughnessy, seconded by Gina Douglas and carried unanimously.

7. Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership had been proposed at Council for Dr E Charles Nelson in recognition of his singular contribution to SHNH over many years. The President outlined Charles' role as Editor (1999-2012), and copy editor (2013-2019) of *Archives of Natural History*; Charles continues to act as an Associate Editor. He also edited the anthology in 2011 entitled *History & Mystery* which marked the Diamond Jubilee of the Society, and has contributed many articles and notes to *Archives* in addition to a considerable academic output (some 24 books and 150 research papers) as part of his career as a horticultural botanist. The President asked the AGM to confirm Honorary Membership on Charles; this was carried with acclaim by all those present after being proposed by Robert Peck and seconded by Arthur Lucas.

8. Vote of thanks by the President

The contribution of Isabelle Charmantier to the work of Council was acknowledged; her resignation was consequent to taking a new post at the Linnean Society. The out-going Secretary was also thanked for the support given to the President during his first two years of office and for providing excellent supervision and administration of Council

business and procedures. The President also thanked those members who had enthusiastically joined this somewhat unusual AGM.

9. Any Other Business

Gina Douglas reported the demise of Ray Desmond, an important and well-known contributor to the history of botany and herbaria. An obituary of his work is in preparation.

6. Report of Council for 2020

a. Objects

The Society is instituted for the historical and bibliographical study of all branches of natural history, including their social and cultural aspects, across all cultures.

The Society achieves its mission, and serves its membership, by:

- The publication of a journal, *Archives of Natural History*
- The circulation of a *Newsletter* to members
- Utilising electronic communication effectively to promote our interests and values
- Holding an Annual Conference and other meetings on relevant themes
- Funding relevant research as finances allow
- Encouraging younger scholars through the presentation of dedicated awards and prizes
- Giving a range of public awards to recognise scholarship, reward excellence and to promote the history of natural history to a wide constituency
- Partnering with relevant organisations to further our mission
- Monitoring and responding to new opportunities to further the Society's mission

Further details of each of these activities can be found below.

Members of Council, as Charity Trustees, have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, especially as it relates to the charitable purpose "the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science" specified in the Charities Act 2011.

b. Membership

The Society had 326 individual subscribers at 31 December 2020, including 10 Honorary Members and the Patron. The Society has 88 institutional subscribers, with *Archives of Natural History* being made available in 2020 to an additional 34 institutions through subject collections and consortia, and a further 581 via EBSCO. As the database is continually updated final figures are not available at time of writing.

Miranda Lowe, who has co-ordinated all our membership activities for several years, working closely with EUP on the Membership Database, is stepping down from Council at this AGM, and we extend our thanks and gratitude to her for all she has done for the Society.

a. President's Report

The focus for much of the year continued to be the development of our strategic plan, carried out with the support of Council and the special assistance of a small team (Jack Ashby, Ann Sylph, Felicity Roberts and Bill Noblett). My sincere thanks go to the four of them for their support and invaluable contributions as we explored ways to make the Society more focussed as well as more inclusive. Governance became a particular focus as we developed ideas to streamline Council to improve our efficiency; this included a detailed examination of our current 'Rules' and the decision was made by Council to re-draft these to take into account the changed environment in which the Society now operates. A revised version of our Byelaws was prepared for Council to consider, recognising that approval from the Charity Commission would also be required to be able to adopt the proposed changes. As part of the revisions we re-considered the roles and responsibilities of the Officers and Councillors, deciding to abolish that distinction, and to create detailed role descriptions for all Council portfolios. With the help of Helen Cowie we also revised the criteria and processes associated with the Society's Awards and Prizes, and our thanks go to Helen for the careful way she managed the changes needed. It was also decided to launch a new award - The President's Award - to recognise an individual or team's contribution to promoting and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of

natural history. The winner will receive the President's Medal, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. SHNH members and non-members can be nominated for this prize, which is open to nominees based in the UK and internationally; individuals and teams can be nominated.

One key factor that emerged from our strategic review was just how little we knew about the profile and interests of our members. Ray Williams, a long-term Society member, was instrumental in proposing a membership survey. Elle Larsson kindly took on the responsibility of developing and circulating the survey to members, and analysing the results. The survey was conducted between 31st August and 13th November 2020 and received 152 responses (148 online, 4 via post), an approximate 40% response rate, showing that we have an engaged membership. There is a huge amount of information available from the survey that can be used to set priorities for the future. However, we need to recognise that as a relatively small organisation run by volunteers and with no paid staff we are limited in what we can achieve. It is interesting to note that the composition of the current Council does not reflect that of the (older, predominately male) membership of the Society. Our thanks go to Elle for managing the membership survey, and her detailed analysis.

In terms of our other key strategies we continue to make good progress on all fronts, but especially so in relation to Promotion, PR and Membership; our profile, especially on social media continues to grow. The team at Edinburgh University Press have given sterling support in revising processes to the management of our membership lists, and indeed for their input and energy to promoting the Society in so many ways. The Council's "International Representatives" team has, as always, been very active in promoting the Society in their respective countries.

Inevitably, much of our efforts in 2020 were dedicated to finding ways of dealing with the implications of the C-19 pandemic. Like many other organisations we had to resort to virtual meetings, holding our Council meetings using Zoom to avoid unnecessary travel and personal contacts. However, beacons of light this year were provided by the *Newsletter* and *Archives of Natural History*, which despite difficulties provided enjoyment for members. Our special thanks go to Elaine Shaughnessy for her work on the *Newsletter* and to Charles Nelson for providing unstinting support for *Archives* and assisting other members of the editorial team.

I recognise that this 'Digital AGM' is a poor replacement for a social gathering and the enjoyment of listening to a variety of speakers. Once again I must extend my thanks to the small team of people who have helped to deliver this initiative and enabled our AGM to take place. My thanks go also to all Society members who have joined this AGM. You have enabled us to make some important decisions in addition to hearing about the continuing progress and achievements of the Society.

Peter Davis, President

d. Publications and Communications

d.1 Editor's Report.

In 2020, parts 1 and 2 of *Archives of Natural History* volume 47 was published (April and October). Despite concerns relating to the pandemic, the issues were published close to schedule, with thanks to our journal publisher, Edinburgh University Press. The journal's pagination has been increased to 224pp per part and the Editors have moved to electronic proofing, which has had a positive impact on delivery schedules. In 2020, 27 articles, 2 short notes, 2 obituaries and 32 book reviews (open access) were published. The Editorial Board Meeting with Edinburgh University Press was held in October. It was reported that there had been a welcome increase in digital downloads and that the open access book reviews and virtual issues had proved very popular. The SHNH Communications Team has significantly increased promoting articles to a wider readership through social media channels.

In 2020, Herman Reichenbach retired as Editor and was thanked for his contribution to the Society and the journal. For the remainder of the year, the journal was managed by the Associate Editors Dr E. Charles Nelson (past Editor of *Archives*), Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Elaine Shaughnessy, who also became the Receiving Editor. We also welcomed a new Associate Editor, Ingvar Svanberg. The book reviews continued to be managed by the Book Reviews Editor Maggie Reilly. All the editors are thanked for their work in preparing *Archives of Natural History* for press.

Elaine Shaughnessy, Receiving Editor on behalf of the Editorial team

d.2 Book Reviews

Thirty-one book reviews were published in *Archives of Natural History* volume 47 and as noted elsewhere, these are open access and enjoy increased digital use. A number of publishers offered e-books or pdfs instead of hard copies which is understandable in the limiting current circumstances. However and equally understandable is that there is little enthusiasm amongst our reviewers and readers for e-books, other than as a stopgap pending the arrival of a hard copy. I

would like to thank the publishers for sending books out to our reviewers; give many thanks to the reviewers themselves for their reviews and their timely submission of copy; and ongoing thanks to Council members and especially the editorial team for their suggestions of suitable titles and good advice. Council is exploring running a wider range of reviews on non-English language publications, to widen our scope.

Maggie Reilly, Book Reviews Editor

d.3 Newsletter.

Two issues of the Society's newsletter were produced in 2020, one appearing in March (54pp.) and the second in November (54pp.). Council wishes to express its thanks to Elaine Shaughnessy for editing the *Newsletter* in addition to continuing to manage the Society's website (<https://shnh.org.uk>). The newsletter editor would like to thank SHNH members for their many contributions.

Elaine Shaughnessy, Newsletter Editor and Website Co-ordinator

d.4 Social Media.

The SHNH Communications Team (Elle Larsson, Ann Sylph and Elaine Shaughnessy) have worked throughout the year to increase the Society's outreach digitally, as meetings have not been possible due to the pandemic restrictions. Use of the blog on the Society's website has been reinvigorated (<https://shnh.org.uk/blog/>) and four new contributions, namely articles on Lear's painting of "Water Shrews," Catesby's new memorial window in London, and the fate of the bird collections from the 1905 ascent of Mt Tahan (Malaysia), and a guide on how to write a blog for SHNH. These have also been publicised through the SHNH Twitter and Facebook accounts. Our email discussion list (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hist-nat-hist>) continues to be a great vehicle for sharing Society news and for fielding enquires among members. Our Twitter following on @SHNHSocNatHist has increased to 3,818 and the team have focussed on promoting the Society's activities – this includes the medals and competitions, *Archives of Natural History* and the *Newsletter*. In particular, Ann Sylph has worked tirelessly to promote articles – both recent and older ones – from *Archives* and we have also encouraged authors to promote their articles. We believe this approach contributed to a strong response to nominations for the President's Award and Founder's Medal. Council thanks the Communications Team for their work and successful initiatives to widen the society's outreach and engagement.

Elle Larsson, Social Media Co-ordinator

e. Meetings Report

The seriousness of the Coronavirus outbreak and subsequent pandemic had a severe impact on our meetings programme during 2020. Our Annual Conference and AGM, to be held in Cambridge in June was postponed and Council eventually took the decision to hold a Digital Annual General Meeting instead, in order to fulfil our obligations to the Charity Commission for the year. This was duly held at 2pm on the 26th June using the video conferencing platform Zoom. Thirty seven members were in attendance, including a number of overseas members who were able to participate in the AGM for the first time. The meeting incorporated the formal business of the AGM, followed by an informal Natural History based quiz, compiled by Elle Larson and Ann Sylph, for which we express our thanks.

Joanne Hatton, Meetings Secretary

f. International Representatives Report

As the only international society devoted to the history of botany, zoology and geology, natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography, the SHNH draws its membership from several countries across the world. The Society's International Representatives (IR) are appointed to facilitate the flow of information between the Society and its overseas members, to promote the aims and objectives of the Society, and to encourage growth of the Society's membership in their region.

We are very aware that in many parts of the world the subject of the history of natural history does not exist as an academic discipline, and it is difficult to recruit members and representatives who are engaged professionally in this subject. Most of our existing IRs are professionals, variously engaged in teaching, research or caring for collections of museum specimens and archives, spanning all fields of natural history. Others are deeply committed amateurs, who also possess the knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment to contribute to the wellbeing of our Society. They are all well positioned to interact with people to stimulate interest in the history of natural history thanks to their publications, public speaking, and displays. From mounting exhibitions, through meetings and their research work they communicate

with a wide audience of people and encourage interest in and thus the aims of the Society for the History of Natural History.

Leslie Overstreet, North America

Last year Leslie continued to telework full-time as the Smithsonian was being very cautious during the Covid pandemic. The museums and libraries prepared for re-opening in three phases: Phase 1 which allowed access by the collections management staff on staggered work shifts. Phase 2 allowed additional staff to enter, all completing a written health assessment beforehand, and submitting a contact report afterwards. The Libraries are scheduled to be part of Phase 3. There's a limit to the work that can be done without access to the collections, and Libraries' staff have had to work on various digital projects. Leslie has been kept busy with reviewing/revising the seven Special Collections policies and procedures, preparing PowerPoint presentations to instruct relevant staff about these. She has also written various reports, attending Zoom meetings and lectures, has researched and written up books for acquisition, answered reference questions when possible, and peer-reviewed articles for publication. She has worked with Henrietta McBryan to finalize her Catesby book with the Paul Mellon Centre, and has inched forward on her own Catesby research. Inevitably Leslie finds it very frustrating in being unable to get on with the much needed work in the collection, where projects were stopped in mid-stream, and being unable to access files, reference books, and other resources (for all those reports and reference queries).

Margarita Fernandez-Laille, Spain

Margarita reports that due to the pandemic most Spanish cultural institutions, including the museums and libraries, were closed. However, there some activities took place between the intermittent strict lockdowns. During 2020 the Spanish Association for the Advancement of Science (AEAC), (Margarita is a member of the Advisory Council and a founding partner), is organizing events on "Great People in the History of Science". Margarita was put in charge of coordinating and moderating the first meeting which was dedicated to Charles Darwin. The meeting was held on 21st April 2021. Margarita has been asked to be a member of the panel for the defence of a doctoral thesis on the teaching of the works of Lucretius and Epicurus in the 19th century through textbooks. She has accepted this task, believing that Lucretius, as the author of *De rerum natura*, could be considered the precursor of evolutionism.

Alicja Zemanek, Poland

Kraków was mostly in partial or total lockdown, with Jagiellonian University and other institutions mainly working on-line. On 5 November 2020 the History of Botany Section of the Polish Botanical Society together with W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, organized a webinar "Władysław Szafer (1886-1970) – organizer of science, botanist, and co-creator of nature protection, on the 50th anniversary of his death", in which various areas of activity of this titan of Polish botany were presented. Nine lectures were delivered, on his biography, achievements in botany (paleobotany, phytogeography and taxonomy), as well as the history of biology and nature protection. In addition, he was an organizer of the nature conservation movement, a teacher, and a populariser of science. The session was 'virtually' well-attended and was a great success. The Jubilee of the Centenary of the foundation of the Polish Botanical Society (PBS) (created in Warsaw in 1922) will be celebrated and events are being already planned, including a ceremonial session. There will also be a book with short biographies of all the members of PBS (1922-2021). Several different publications are being prepared of interests to SHNH. The members of the History of Botany Section of the Polish Botanical Society, together with other botanists are preparing the "Dictionary of Polish botanists", under the editorship of Piotr Köhler, the Head of the Section. Alicja is one of the authors in a book covering the history of mathematical and biological sciences at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius between 1919 and 1939, which will be published soon.

Elizabethanne Boran, Ireland

Due to COVID 19, museum tours and many activities were curtailed for much of the year. The focus shifted online and focused on preparing the following activities for families and children during lockdown: Birdsong Challenge activity; make your own Giant Irish Deer Antlers; my secret garden activity sheet; Signs of spring nature word search; make your own Polar Bear mask; make your own brown bear mask; and a natural history colouring sheet. All these are available online by following links to: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn/Learning-Resources> and <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn/Museum-at-Home>

The Natural History Museum has a strong schools programme and continued a Primary School Programme online, exploring extinction, celebrating Earth Day, and promoting an activity 'Wonders of Winter'. These resources are available online at [https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Events/202104/Earth-Day-2021-Cool-Fossils-Hot-\(Climate\)-Facts](https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Events/202104/Earth-Day-2021-Cool-Fossils-Hot-(Climate)-Facts) and <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn/> For older children the museum organised an Irish coast climate change virtual visit: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn/Schools-Educational-Visits/Post-Primary/Classroom-Activity-The-Irish-Coast-Climate-Change>

The Ellen Hutchins Festival, which focuses on 'Ireland's first female botanist', could not take place in 2020 and is scheduled for 14-22 August 2021: details are available at <https://www.ellenhutchins.com/ellen-hutchins-festival/>

Events of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club (<http://www.dnfc.net/>) are normally held every month (such as plant identification workshops and walking tours of urban geology). These had to be curtailed during the pandemic. Committee meetings were held via Zoom and a DNFC WhatsApp Group was established by the President, which proved to be an invaluable means of maintaining communications between Club Members during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Christa Dorn, Central Europe

Christa, since her retirement has become an associated scientist at the Natural History Museum, Vienna, and before the Covid pandemic worked in the Museum two to three times a week. Due to the pandemic many events and exhibitions had to be postponed or cancelled. However, there were a few exhibitions in Vienna and other Austrian towns. At the Museum in Vienna a photography exhibition 'Wild' shows the work of the wildlife photographer Michael Nichols, and the photography/art installation 'Löss a woman in the Landscape' by Elisabeth von Samsonow. Outside Vienna the exhibition 'Donau – Menschen, Schätze, Kulturen' (Danube – Men, Treasures and Cultures) at the Schallaburg Castle deals with the cultural History of the Danube Region and features natural history specimens on loan from the Natural History Museum Vienna. The Inatura in Dornbirn has an exhibition about Human and animal relations 'Weiß der Geier! Was die Tiere uns bedeuten', and the Haus der Natur in Salzburg has a special exhibit about historical teaching boards 'Masterpieces of Natural History. Historical teaching boards around 1900'. In Berlin the Museum für Naturkunde has an exhibition about Parasites 'Parasites - Life Undercover'. Unfortunately, a new exhibition about Austrian scientific expeditions at the Schallaburg had to close. Several projects are being conducted in collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy, with some of them featuring the Austrian Expedition to Brazil in 1817, to celebrate the bicentenary of the Brazilian State in 2022.

Carlo Violani, Italy

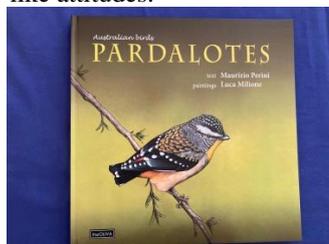
Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, Museums and libraries in Italy continue to be closed, so research activities are almost impossible and Carlo spent most of his time in 2020 completing scientific papers or improving drafts of manuscripts about museum historical collections based on his notebooks or using information available online. He has also continued his work of writing special data labels for the Salvadori ornithological collection in the Fermo Museum in Central Italy (about 300 stuffed birds), which will be eventually attached the specimens. Carlo reports the happy news that some of his zoological friends have named a new species of comb jellyfish (Ctenophora) after Sir David Attenborough, our Patron.

Good news came also via email from the Zoological Museum of Pavia University, where the staff have found more subfossil skeletal material of the dodo and solitaire of the Mascarene Islands, dispersed in the drawers of the old geological collections. Carlo hopes to take these bones to Cambridge University Museum in the near future. He has also discovered new data about research on South American monkeys (1812) drawn by Alexander von Humboldt and later republished with interesting iconographical variations in a little known Italian edition of the book.

During the last few months Carlo has received some books which have been recently published and which he recommends to SHNH members. They are:

"L'incredibile mondo dei rapaci notturni" [The incredible world of night predators] by Antonio Massimo Marchitelli, edited by Parco Adda Sud, Lodi, 2020, text in Italian and English, 275 pages with spectacular colour photos. It deals extensively with owls and nightjars mainly from North Italy, looking at their distribution, natural history, ecology, behaviour, survey techniques and conservation.

'Australian birds/ Pardalotes' by Maurizio Perini with paintings by Luca Milione, published by The Oliva, Schio, March 2019, text in English, 168 pages deals with the biology, taxonomic history, discovery and early illustration of a remarkable group of tiny passerines from Australia, the pardalotes, closely related to the honeyeaters; all the known species have been illustrated by the lavish artwork of Luca Milione, displaying bright colours and variegated plumage patterns in life-like attitudes.

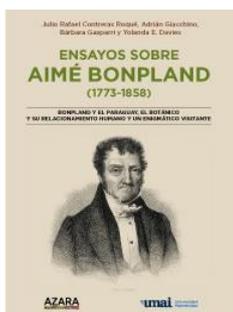


Sergio Zagier, Argentina

Since March 2020 Argentina has been put under various restrictions. Schools, cultural institutions and events were cancelled and closed. In March 2021 the new school term began but from April everything was under complete lockdown again, at least in Buenos Aires and its surroundings (a third of the country's population). Some museums are beginning to reopen after almost a year of closure and schools and universities will soon have non-virtual classes. However, the National Natural History Museum remains closed. Shows and performances continue to be suspended. A

complete year (and perhaps more) has been lost for education and culture. For several reasons it is widely considered a disaster in terms of education and people are strongly opposing governmental measures.

In his previous reports Sergio mentioned the Azara Foundation which for the last year had to cancel all its field work and expeditions, due to the lack of resources from paid visits to natural rescue stations, excursions, natural reserves, etc. The blow that the pandemic and the government has inflicted on the cultural life of Argentina is indeed great. On a happier note, Sergio was made an "Honorary Member" of the Azara Foundation as a recognition of his work to promote the knowledge of exploration in Patagonia. The Fundación Azara has recently published a book in Spanish with essays about the naturalist Aimé Bonpland and some of his letters. It includes hundreds of bibliographical references and footnotes. This is a welcome publication honouring the dramatic life of a travel companion of Alexander von Humboldt. *Ensayos sobre Aimé Bonpland (1773-1858)* by Julio Contreras, Adrián Giacchino, Bárbara Gasparri & Yolanda Davies was published by Fundación Azara / Universidad Maimónides, Buenos Aires in 2020



Jiang Che, China

Che reports that the **5th Natural History Culture Forum (NHCF)**, originally scheduled for fall 2020, was postponed to fall 2021 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This conference is annually organized by the Natural History Culture Committee, the Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature/Philosophy of Nature, Science and Technology (CSDN/PNST), and is also open to a wide audience. NHCF 2021 is supposed to be held in Beijing with the aid of the magazine *Natural History* (博物).

The Advanced Institute of Confucian Studies, Shandong University held a symposium entitled “Nature and Culture: A Conversation between Natural History and Folklore Studies” on December 12, 2020. This symposium brought together 23 scholars (mostly PhD students) from different institutions in China, Japan and Europe, and about 200 delegates participated in the symposium online. Professor Liu Zongdi from Shandong University planned and organized this event. (<http://www.rxgdyjy.sdu.edu.cn/info/1017/7162.htm>)

New Publications include the 5th volume of the *Chinese Journal for Natural History* (中国博物学评论) published in January, 2021 by the Commercial Press, a leading academic press in China. This volume comprises 14 articles on the history and philosophy of natural history as well as 3 book reviews. Listed below are the research articles (English titles are from the authors’ own translation with minor modifications):

1. YUAN Jian: The Royal Natural History Practice and Imperial Imagination in the Qing Dynasty: Also on a Time-Space Approach to Understand China’s Natural History.
2. WANG Yangyi: The Connection between Rorty’s Philosophy and Bowu.
3. ZHANG Xiaotian: Fine Vision: Victorian Natural History with Optical Microscopy.
4. YANG Xueni: The Continuity of Gessner’s Textual Practice in Bibliography and Natural History.
5. LIU Congkang: Thingological Study of the Book of Songs on Vegetation.
6. ZHANG Jifeng: Dimensions: Image, Metaphor and Cognition.
7. ZHOU Jintai: “History of Natural History” and “Material History”: To Clarify a Misunderstanding.
8. WANG Zhao: From Holy to Lure: Natural History of Spice in Antiquity.
9. HAN Jingyi: An Outstanding Naturalist: Ernst Haeckel in Die Welträtsel.
10. LUO Xiaotu: Duplication of Nature: A Historical Survey on the Nature Printing.
11. JIANG Che: V. L. Komarov’s Botanical Expeditions to Northeastern China.
12. LI Fei & ZHOU Zhou: Natural History Societies in Republican-era China.
13. LI Ruijie: A Textual Research on Chinese Society for Natural History, 1914–1928.
14. YU Jiehong. Viewing the Publication of Natural History Books from the “China’s Good Book of Nature Award”. *Natural History in Chinese Herbalism* by Wang Jiakui, Beijing: Peking University Press, 2020. [王家葵. 本草博物志. 北京: 北京大学出版社, 2020.] was published in November 2020. It is a collection of 81 essays by Professor WANG Jiakui from Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Botanical Illustrations in Ming China by Zhang Fang. Nanning: Guangxi Science & Technology Publishing House, 2021. [张钊. 草木花实敷：明代植物图像寻芳. 南宁：广西科学技术出版社，2021.] was published in March 2021, this monograph is a revised version of the author’s doctoral dissertation, and constitutes the first book in the series “Studies on Chinese Traditional Natural History” edited by Professor LUO Guihuan (Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences). ZHANG Fang is a lecturer at China University of Political Science and Law. Her main research interest is the history of biology in ancient China.

Picturing the Book of Nature: Image, Text, and Argument in Sixteenth-Century Human Anatomy and Medical Botany by Sachiko Kusukawa has been translated into Chinese and published in February, 2021 by Zhejiang University Press. The translator is WANG Yanzhi. This book is a part of the series “Science and Society” edited by LIU Dong (Tsinghua University), Dagmar Schäfer (MPIWG) and Angela N. H. Creager (Princeton University).

Malgosia Nowak-Kemp
International Representatives Co-ordinator

g. Treasurer’s Annual Report

The financial position of the Society is reasonably healthy, and our reserves are within appropriate Charity Commission guidelines which are to hold reserves equivalent to nine months expenditure. The Statement of Financial Activities in the Trustees Report provides full details of income and expenditure. The income from Edinburgh University Press breaks down as follows:

15% of total royalties for volume 35 onwards	5643.49
25% of member subscriptions	4335.24
60% of total income for volumes 1-34	1093.24
Editorial support	1000.00
Total	£12071.97

Those features of the accounts that require explanation are given as footnotes to the Statement of Financial Activities. As the Statement shows there was one very unusual item of expenditure which will not occur again, namely the acquisition of the domain **shnh.org** which came up for sale during the year. It was bought in order to consolidate and protect the Society’s digital assets (which include the domains shnh.org.uk; shnh.info; shnh.co.uk, and shnh.uk). Council is confident that the Society’s assets are safe with our current bankers, the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank.

William Noblett, Treasurer

h. Small Research Fund and Stearn Essay prize

The receipt of few applications to the Small Research Fund encouraged Council to increase the maximum amount of the award to £500 and make conference organisation and travel to conferences eligible for funding. Every effort is being made to advertise the Fund and encourage applications.

The submission deadline for Stearn essays in 2020 was 30 July and judging was completed by early October. There were 4 entries this year, from applicants at University College Dublin, the Australian National University, Université de Paris and University of Cambridge. The winning essay, by unanimous decision, was ‘Hearsay, Gossip, Misapprehension: Alfred Newton’s second-hand histories of extinction, by Amelia Urry, a postgraduate at the University of Cambridge. The number of entries was slightly disappointing, particularly given the excellent work done by the communications team and other members of Council in publicising the competition. We will try to promote this competition more strongly on social media in future, and are considering extending it to include postdoctoral students within 2 years of their PhDs. The deadline for submissions this year is 31 July 2021.

I would like to thank my fellow panellists, Jan Freedman and Phil Rainbow, for their assistance in reading and judging the 2020 entries. I would particularly like to extend my thanks to Phil, who is retiring from the Stearn essay panel after many years of valued service. He will be replaced by Geraldine Reid, who has very kindly agreed to join the panel in 2021.

Helen Cowie, Chair of the Stearn Essay Prize Panel

7. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS 31 December 2020

REGISTERED CHARITY NAME: The Society for the History of Natural History
CHARITY NUMBER: 210355

c/o The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London
SW7 5BD

TRUSTEES:

Professor Peter Davis
Ms Ann Sylph
Mr William Noblett
Ms Jo Hatton
Ms Gina Douglas
Mr Jan Freedman
Ms Eleanor Larsson
Dr Geraldine Reid
Ms Margaret Reilly
Ms Felicity Roberts
Dr Stanislav Strekopytov
Mr E Geoffrey Hancock (resigned as Secretary, AGM 2020)
Mr Herman Reichenbach (resigned as Editor, September 2020)

Reference and administrative details

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers above.

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the year are the Officers and Council members as listed above. E. Geoffrey Hancock resigned as Secretary at the AGM in 2020; Mr Herman Reichenbach resigned as Editor in September 2020; both consequently served as trustees for only part of the year 2020.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Society for the History of Natural History requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Society's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will not continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and the Society's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Conferences and Meetings	5732.78	
EUP	11361.07	12071.97
Other incoming resources ¹	15.00	19.12
	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources	17108.85	12091.09
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Archives	2496.36	540.99
Awards and Prizes ²	581.70	468.00
Bank Charges	62.00	60.00
Conferences & Meetings	6606.40	
Council Administration	1063.19	390.07
Domain Name ³		4858.56
Medals & engraving ⁴	147.50	2305.74
Newsletter	4348.53	3973.21
Postage	324.12	23.00
Website	1648.37	2166.67
ZOOM Subscription		143.88
	-----	-----
Total Resources Expended	17178.17	14930.12
Net Incoming Resources	(69.32)	(2839.03)
Reconciliation of Funds		
Totals brought forward	15213.57	15144.25
Total funds carried forward	15144.25	12305.22
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	15144.25	12305.22

Notes to the 2020 Accounts

1. Sale of four copies of *History and Mystery*.
2. Includes £300 to the Stearn Essay winner, £100 sponsorship to the NHM Graduate Students' meeting and £68 from the Small Research Fund.
3. The domain name "SHNH.org" came up for sale and was acquired to consolidate our digital assets.
4. This expenditure is high for two reasons. The creation of the new Presidents' Award meant we had to have a new medal designed and produced. The stock of our other medals (Founders'; Thackray) was also low and additional medals were obtained from Fattorini.

As a result of Coronavirus there was no expenditure on an AGM, lower spending on Council meetings and an extra cost for the ZOOM subscription.

8. Election to Portfolios of Council

Three members of Council (Jan Freedman, Stanislav Strekopytov and Geraldine Reid) were elected as ordinary members of Council in 2019, have one year remaining to serve and are re-elected automatically.

Jan Freedman has been working in museums since 2004, at the Natural History Museum (London), Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery and then Curator of Natural History, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery (now The Box). In these roles I have worked with a wide range of natural history collections, including entomology, taxidermy, spirit preserved collections, herbaria, skeletal material, petrology, minerals and fossils. My main area of interest is with the Pleistocene collections, and discovering the environments and creatures from our recent past. Along with the variety of fascinating specimens in museums I worked at, and have worked with, I am extremely interested in the stories behind the collections. These are what really brings specimens alive. They make the specimens relevant to people, where they can discover a whole other world.

Stanislav Strepokytov - graduated from the Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia) in 1994 with a cum laude BSc degree in Geology and Geochemistry. He then obtained PhD in Marine Geology in 1997 from the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology in Moscow and was heavily involved in marine fieldwork in the following three years. He left Russia in 2000 and had a succession of academic jobs in Germany and in the UK including a lab-based job at the Natural History Museum London (NHM) between 2008 and 2018. His research and contacts at the NHM in combination with his previous experience played a significant role in expanding his interests to the history of collecting and preserving of specimens, bridging thus the history of the natural history with the history of chemistry and other related fields. He has (co-)authored about 55 peer-reviewed publications, including three recent papers in *Archives of Natural History*.

Geraldine Reid - is Senior Curator of Botany at World Museum, National Museums Liverpool. She is responsible for the curation, development, research and interpretation of this diverse collection. Her main research interest is diatom systematics which has been the focus of her career. She is interested in the role of collectors and collections to tell hidden stories. She is currently researching the history of the phycologists in the World Museum collections.

The following nominations have been received for the Portfolios of Council listed below, all being a three-year term:

President

Gina Douglas has been nominated by Bill Noblett and seconded by Peter Davis

Gina Douglas FLS (Honoris causa) is President of The Ray Society (2019-) (<https://www.raysociety.org.uk/>), Honorary Archivist of the Linnean Society of London (www.linnean.org), and Editor of The Linnean (Newsletter & Proceedings of the Linnean Society). Gina is also an Honorary Member of SHNH – Society for the History of Natural History (www.shnh.org.uk), the Svenska Linnésällskapet (Swedish Linnaeus Society) (<http://www.linnaeus.se/>) and EBHL - the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group, of which she is a founder member (<https://ebhl.org/>). Gina has a long association with SHNH, serving as an Officer and as Meetings Secretary from 1989-1993 and again from 2000-2018. Gina is a current member of Council (2019-) and additionally served on SHNH Council 1988-1989. As Librarian and Archivist of the Linnean Society of London (1982-2007) and acting Executive Secretary (2008), Gina has always willingly shared her wealth of knowledge of natural history and the Linnean Society Collections with researchers and colleagues from around the world. She is a consummate networker, understanding the importance of social and professional networking to share knowledge and experience. Not only was Gina a founder member of EBHL, but also led on the initial development of the Linnaeus Link Project, an international collaboration between libraries with significant holdings of Linnaean material. Managed by the Linnean Society, this initiative now has 22 international members (<http://www.linnaeuslink.org/>). Gina was also instrumental in the initial grant development and implementation of the conservation and digitisation of the Linnaean Collections (the Linnaean correspondence and specimen collections) (<https://www.linnean.org/research-collections>), making this important resource globally available, both for taxonomists and also for social historians learning about the biological networks of the time. Gina is also a skilled communicator, and has shared her love for natural history and the wide holdings of the library and collections of the Linnean Society on media programmes worldwide. She has chaired international meetings, and contributed numerous outputs through talks, publications and journals. In 2008 Gina was awarded a Linnean Society Tercentenary Medal for communication.

Secretary:

Ann Sylph has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Gina Douglas.

Ann is Librarian at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) with responsibility for the library and archives. She manages the collections and staff, and has a strategic overview. Her role at ZSL allows her to combine her interests in wildlife conservation and information. She is keen to ensure the ZSL can offer the collections as an academic resource

and for public engagement. Qualifications - BSc Ecology, MSc Information Science; she is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (MCLIP). She is particularly interested in the contribution of women to the development of zoology, history of marine zoology, and historical scientific illustration. She will help SHNH develop and implement plans for the future. She has been Secretary from June 2020 until the present and regularly blog at <https://www.zsl.org/blogs/artefact-of-the-month> tweets @ZSLLibrary and @ZooLibrariANN

Treasurer:

Bill Noblett has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Geraldine Reid.

Bill Noblett was educated at the universities of Cambridge and Sheffield and has been a member of the SHNH since 1981. A historian and bibliographer by training he is an ornithologist by inclination. He has been the Treasurer of the Society since 2011 and is very happy to stand again.

Editor

Anne Secord has been nominated by Charles Nelson and seconded by Peter Davis.

Dr Anne Secord obtained her PhD in history of science in 2002 as an external student at the University of London. She is an editor of *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin* (28 vols, Cambridge University Press) and an Affiliated Research Scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. Anne's research focuses on popular, particularly working-class, natural history in the nineteenth century, and on horticulture, medicine, and consumption in the eighteenth century. She has published articles on natural history practices, and produced a new edition of Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne* (Oxford World's Classics, 2016). She is working on a book about artisan naturalists to be published by the University of Chicago Press, that explores social class, observation, and skill in nineteenth-century natural history. Anne has served on SHNH Council and as SHNH Vice President. Selected publications can be seen here <https://www.people.hps.cam.ac.uk/index/affiliates/secord-anne>.

Book Reviews Editor:

Maggie Reilly has been nominated by Malgosia Novak-Kemp and second by Jeanne Robinson .

Maggie Reilly is the Curator of Zoology at the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum, soon to retire after long career there, when she will take up an Honorary Research associate post thereafter. A member of SHNH for many years, she has been Books Review Editor for ANH for the last three years and although a novice to the role in 2019, has embraced it and learned a great deal from the experienced members of Council. She has grown into the role and will continue to contribute to the success of ANH where book reviews prove very popular.

Newsletter Editor/ Website Secretary:

Elaine Shaughnessy has been nominated by Gina Douglas, seconded by Peter Davis.

Elaine Shaughnessy FLS is an Ambassador for the World Land Trust (www.worldlandtrust.org), a Trustee of the Linnean Society of London (www.linnean.org), an Associate Editor for Archives of Natural History (<https://www.eupublishing.com/loi/anh>), and Newsletter and Website Editor for SHNH – Society for the History of Natural History (www.shnh.org.uk). Elaine is also a member of the IUCN Commission for Education and Communication (IUCN-CEC) and has been a co-opted member of SHNH Council. Elaine is a highly-experienced communications and development professional with expertise gained across a range of reputable national and international organisations and charities including as Head of Publishing, IUCN – the World Conservation Union (1992-2006) (www.iucn.org), Head of Development, Linnean Society of London (2006-2009), and Communications Development Coordinator, World Land Trust. Elaine has additionally served SHNH on Council and as Representatives' Coordinator (1994-2006).

Awards and Grants Secretary:

Helen Cowie has been nominated for election by Peter Davis, seconded by Ann Sylph.

Helen Cowie is Professor of History at the University of York. Her research focuses on the history of animals and the history of natural history. She is author of *Conquering Nature in Spain and its Empire, 1750-1850* (2011), *Exhibiting Animals in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Empathy, Education, Entertainment* (2014) and *Llama* (2017). Her current project, 'Victims of Fashion: Animal Commodities in Victorian Britain', is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. Helen has been a member of SHNH since 2011, helped to organise the Trading Nature conference at York in 2019 and as a member of Council has led the revision of our Awards and Grants policies.

International Representatives Secretary:

Malgosia Novak-Kemp has been nominated for election by Margarita Hernández-Laille and seconded by Carlo Violani.

Before retiring in 2015, Malgosia was Collections Manager in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History's Zoological Collections, responsible for vertebrate specimens, including the zoological part of the seventeenth century Tradescant collection, the original collection of the Ashmolean Museum. Her research interest is the history of the vertebrate and anthropological collections. She has published on the Oxford dodo, Thomas Bell's 'rediscovered' turtle types, George Rolleston's work on Greek skulls and recently contributed a chapter about William Burchell in 'Naturalists in the field' edited by Arthur MacGregor. After retirement she completed a doctorate on the 400 year history of Oxford's zoological specimens. She is currently working on the history of the Army Medical Department's collection.

Social Media, Communications and Promotions Secretary:

Elle Larsson has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Elaine Shaughnessy.

Dr Elle Larsson is a historian of science, specialising in the history of natural history and animals. She completed her PhD, 'Collecting, Curating and the Construction of Zoological Knowledge: Walter Rothschild's Zoological Enterprise, c.1878-1937', at King's College London in April 2020. Elle has since joined the Graduate School at the University of Westminster but continues with her research outside of work. Recently she has been working on several articles, thinking about future projects and devoting her time to her roles on the Council for Society for the History of Natural History and as co-founder of the Animal History Group.

Meetings Secretary:

Joanne Hatton has been nominated by Clem Fisher and seconded by Malgosia Novak-Kemp

As Keeper of Natural History at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south east London, Jo is responsible for managing, interpreting and making accessible around a quarter of a million specimens. Interests include the history of taxidermy and entomological collecting, biological recording and its links to environmental conservation. Jo is a long-standing member of the Society, serving on Council for many years. In 2018, she took over the role of Meetings Secretary and has planned and delivered many popular and successful meetings, helping to widen our appeal and attract a greater diversity of people to our meetings in line with our new mission.

Membership Secretary:

Jeanne Robinson has been nominated by Gina Douglas and seconded by Geoff Hancock.

Jeanne Robinson has been the Curator of Entomology at the Hunterian Museum for 6 years, and formerly worked as Entomology Curator with Glasgow Museums, and prior to that in the Invertebrate division of Plant Health for DEFRA. Working with the Hunterian's amazing 18th century material has resulted in curatorial work for an exhibition on William Hunter and preparation of associated publications. She has been working with zoological collections for 20 years and has long held an interest in the history of natural history. As Secretary for the Insect Collection Managers

Group of Great Britain, she organises the AGM, meeting minutes, and mailing list; as a NatSCA committee member Jeanne helped organise their 2008 AGM in Glasgow.

9. Welcome and Introduction to the incoming President, Gina Douglas

10. AOB

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

11. Presentation of Awards

A. An Introduction to the Society's Awards by Helen Cowie

B. Presentation of the Founders' Medal.

Founders' Medals are awarded on the nomination of Council to persons eminent in the fields of the history and/or bibliography of natural history; the award recognises the following achievements:

- A sustained record of high-quality publications in the field of the history of natural history.
- A sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation.

The Panel decided to award two medals, recognising that none were awarded last year, that the two outstanding candidates both more than fulfilled the required achievements and that awarding two medals coincided with the 85th anniversary of the SHNH.

E. Geoffrey (Geoff) Hancock has been described as an example of the 'compleat naturalist' with a career spanning more than 50 years. A generalist and a specialist with an outstanding knowledge of zoology, botany and geology, his publication list that runs into well over 220 papers, at least 48 of which directly concern the History of Natural History. His work in the history of entomology is nothing short of foundational and inspired many of the current practitioners in the field. He has that precious intangible 'feel' for collections, so important when dealing with historic specimens often with poor or confused histories. As a curator himself, he knows how important meticulous reconstructions of historic collection and care practices are not only for the history of natural history but also for contemporary curation of historic collections. As a hands-on curator, he has made an enormous contribution to the physical preservation, data integrity and accessibility of the Hunterian's historic collections. His recent publication 'William Hunters World - The Art and Science of Eighteenth Century Collecting' and its associate exhibition have helped to publicise the importance of William Hunter's 18th C entomology collection.

Robert McCracken (Bob) Peck is an acclaimed writer, naturalist, and historian of science whose books show us the wonders of the natural world and of scientific discovery. He has participated in scientific expeditions to South America, Africa, and Asia, travelled extensively, and lectured and published widely on the history of science and the history of exploration. He is an outstanding example of how to communicate the wonders of the natural world, the stories behind the science of field work, and the remarkable histories of naturalists and early explorers, bringing them to wide audiences. His revised and updated publication on The Natural History of Edward Lear is due shortly. He has been widely recognised for his multiple achievements and scholarship. His body of work ideally fits the criteria for being awarded the SHNH Founders' Medal: a sustained record of high-quality publications in the field of the history of natural history; and a sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation.

C. Presentation of the President's Award

This new award attracted a great deal of interest, with seven individuals putting forward nominations for consideration. The Panel took particular note of the stated criteria for the President's Award, in particular the emphasis on diversity,

inclusion, engagement and impact. The Panel recognised that there was merit in all the nominations, but that two projects were outstanding in terms of their impact.

Felix Driver (Royal Holloway), Lowri Jones (University of Oxford) and Vandana Patel (Museum of London)

formed a research team that had effectively been the first to successfully raise issues of colonisation and racism in the history of exploration and collecting. They worked together to develop the theme ‘Hidden Histories of Exploration’, the focus of this project being to reveal the lives of indigenous peoples who aided the travels, activities and aims of well-known explorers. The research was initially based on archival material, including art and film, held by the Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers. The research then extended, in association with other academic partners, to other significant collections. The end results included a workshop, educational materials for schools, a fascinating online exhibition and a book: “Hidden Histories of Exploration: Researching the RGS-IBG Collections” (2009). This was a ground-breaking academic project that included fourteen Collaborative Doctoral Awards; this research kick-started many of the subsequent discussions on the hidden histories of colonialism, racism, diversity and inclusion that lie unacknowledged in museums, archives and heritage organisations. Although it was an academic project, in many ways it created a platform for further discussions and practical measures to expose the colonial and racist histories embedded in the collections and archives of museums, learned societies and heritage organisations.

Subhadra Das (UCL) and Miranda Lowe (NHM) took academic discussions to the next level. Their landmark paper “Nature Read in Black and White”, (*Journal of Natural Science Collections*, 6, 4-14) explored the theory and practice of de-colonising museums; they have provided leadership and an inspirational foundation for future work. In their respective institutions they have pioneered important approaches to championing diversity, emphasising the need for action. Miranda Lowe has led Black History Tours in the Natural History Museum; Subhadra Das curated ‘Displays of Power’ at the Grant Museum; together they have provided advice and input to several organisations and events, including the ‘Botany, Trade and Empire’ conference at Kew. It is fair to say that their efforts have together sent a clarion call to museums and heritage organisations to acknowledge colonial histories and to take action.

12. Presentations by the Founders’ Medal Award Winners

13. Presentations by the President’s Award Winners

14. Vote of Thanks and End of Meeting