

# Newsletter

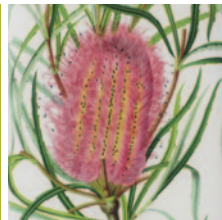
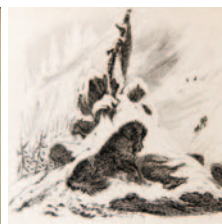
## DIARY

Pioneer Naturalists  
Champions of  
Conservation and  
Environmental  
Engagement

Museum of Zoology  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, UK

## POSTPONED

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## CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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www.shnh.org.uk Registered Charity No. 210355

## IV<sup>th</sup> Natural History Culture Conference, Zhongshan, Guangdong



Peter Davis and the Society's Chinese Representative, Jiang Che, in the Zhan Garden.



Zhan Garden, Zhongshan.



Peter Davis and Baojun Xu (far right) with the manager of the Zhan Garden.



### 1. President's Message



#### Coronavirus (Covid-19) and Society activities

You will all be aware of the seriousness of the Coronavirus outbreak and the impact this is having, and may have, on all our lives. Society's Council has thought carefully about how we should react to the spread of the virus and as a first step we cancelled the upcoming April Meeting of Council to avoid unnecessary travel and contacts.

A more difficult decision concerned our Annual Conference and AGM, planned for Cambridge in June. Aware that the outbreak is predicted to reach its peak in the UK in May/June we have taken the decision to cancel that meeting also. This is especially frustrating as the response to the theme "Pioneering Naturalists: Champions of Conservation and Environmental Engagement" had been excellent, attracting a wide range of speakers from around the world. Because of that interest our intention is to retain that theme, and Cambridge as the location, but move to a suitable date in 2021. We will also seek a date – possibly in the autumn of 2020 – to hold an AGM. Please make sure you monitor the Society website and social media for updates.

#### Other news

One of the tenets of Western scholarship has been the dichotomy between Nature and Culture, Nature and Society. However, academics challenge this separation continually, on both empirical and theoretical grounds; in practice, the global environmental and social challenges that we currently face demand that we reconsider the relationships that exist between society, culture and nature. Today, nature and culture are viewed as more intertwined than ever before. The international community of scholars and practitioners involved in the history of science and the history of natural history increasingly discuss the critical issues and themes related to the relationships that individuals, societies, civilizations, and nation-states have with nature. Our journal, *Archives of Natural History*, now receives an increasing number of articles reflecting this trend, so promoting our understanding of the nature–society–culture relationship. Council has discussed this change with regard to our strategic review, in particular to a revision of our mission statement (see *Newsletter* 115, p.2). At our Council meeting in September 2019, we agreed a revised statement that now reads: "The Society is instituted for the historical and bibliographical study of all branches of natural history, including their cultural and social aspects, across all cultures".

In terms of our strategic planning we continue to make good progress on all fronts, but especially so in relations to Promotions, PR and Membership; our profile, especially on social media continues to grow and it is very encouraging to see a gradual increase in membership. Our thanks go to the team at Edinburgh University Press for all their 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. Reviews of other strategic areas (Governance; Co-operation/Links;

Awards) also make progress. The Council “International Representatives” team has been very busy, and we have agreed a new set of Guidelines with input from our Representatives.

New Representatives are being sought, and we are delighted to welcome a representative in China (Jiang Che) who has been very active on our behalf. Thanks to Che and his colleagues I was able to represent the Society at the “Fourth Cultures of Natural History Forum” in Zhongshan City, Guangdong Province in October (see page 7). We are also pleased to welcome Brendan Cole as our new representative in South Africa. Professor Takeshi Watabe has stepped down as our representative in Japan after several years of diligent service on our behalf, and we express our thanks for his support.

We are currently living through an extraordinary time, but the Society will continue to function as effectively as possible. This *Newsletter*, as always, gives a firm indication that we remain as active as ever; the next issues of *Archives of Natural History* will also soon be with you. It is good to have these anchors of normality at this time, but meanwhile, please take all precautions and keep safe.

Peter Davis  
SHNH President

## 2. From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring edition of the *Newsletter* and a warm welcome to our new members.

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Judith Diment MBE, and Professor David Mabberley for recent recognition of their achievements. We also congratulate Nathan Smith for winning the Stearn Essay Prize and Edwin Rose for being awarded the Munby Fellowship, Cambridge University Library.

At the most recent Editorial Board

meeting with Edinburgh University Press, a number of topics were covered, including membership, marketing and editorial. Members will be pleased to learn that it has been agreed to increase the pagination of *Archives of Natural History* to 224 pages to ensure timely publication of submitted articles and particularly the Short Notes. There has been a very healthy usage of our freely-available virtual issues and especially for “Women in Natural History”. EUP and SHNH worked closely together last year to identify meetings where *Archives* and Society Membership information could be displayed.

As we were going to press, the Society was sad to learn of the loss of our Past President and Honorary Member Ray Desmond and also of our Member Professor Desmond Donovan. We extend our condolences to their families and also to the family of Professor Robert Herries Davies, whom we have also recently lost. Please see pp. 7 and 18.

We also have been very sad to learn of the recent passing of Sue Nelson, known affectionately to her fenland patients as Dr Sue. Sue was a local GP in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire and the surrounding towns and villages for over 40 years. We send our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to Charles Nelson and Sue’s daughter’s Emily and Lucy.

I should like to thank everyone for their contributions to the *Newsletter*. Please do continue to send your news, notes and queries for the next issue. I should also like to thank Sally Seeley, our *Newsletter* designer and our printers Parchment Prints of Oxford who have helped to design, print and mail this issue out.

In these troubling times, take care and keep in touch with each other.

*Elaine*  
Elaine Shaughnessy



## Society News & Announcements

### 3. SHNH Honorary Membership Dr E. Charles Nelson



It is with great pleasure to record that, at its January meeting, Council agreed unanimously to nominate Charles Nelson for Honorary Membership for his "signal service to the Society

over a sustained period.

Charles acted as the Editor of *Archives of Natural History* from 1999–2012, and as copy-editor from 2013–2019; he still makes a significant contribution to our journal as an Associate Editor. These roles add up to many years of crucial service. Added to that are the many other tasks he carried out simultaneously that almost nobody else could have done, including the compilation of *History and Mystery*, the *Cumulative Index for Archives*, and publication of *Darwin in the Archives* (2010). Charles has supported development of our websites and social media activities and has also been a regular contributor to our *Newsletter*.

Charles is a prolific researcher and writer. He is the author or editor of over 24 books and more than 150 research papers. As well as his editing of *ANH* he was honorary editor of *Heathers* (the yearbook of The Heather Society) for 23 years until 2017. He was one of the founding members of the Irish Garden Plant Society, chairing the inaugural meeting. His interest in the history of Irish gardens and their plants continues, and he writes frequently on Irish garden history for *The Irish Garden* magazine. His more recent publications include a biography of John Scouler, a Scottish naturalist who was Professor of Mineralogy to the Royal Dublin Society, published in June 2014 by the Glasgow

Natural History Society. In April 2014 the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland issued Nelson's biography of the botanical artist and plantsman, Lady Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe; entitled *Shadow among splendours: the adventures of Lady Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe among the flowers of Burma 1897–1921*. The book is illustrated with examples of Lady Cuffe's paintings and lengthy extract from her correspondence to her mother. In collaboration with David J. Elliott, Executive Director of the Catesby Commemorative Trust, Charles edited the Trust's book *The curious Mister Catesby: a naturalist explores new worlds* which was published for the Trust by the University of Georgia Press in April 2015. He was a Trustee Emeritus of the Catesby Commemorative Trust and its (honorary) Research Director.

In May 2013, Charles received the Society for the History of Natural History's Founders' Medal which is awarded in recognition of having made a significant contribution to the fields of the history and/or bibliography of natural history. More recently, Charles has also been awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal (RHS, 2015), the Award of Merit (Heather Society, 2016) and also in 2016, the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland's Medal of Honour.

Peter Davis  
SHNH President

### 4. Festschrift for David Mabberley SHNH Past President

In honour of David's seventieth birthday, colleagues and former students pre-pared a Festschrift, presented to him at Singapore Botanic Gardens on 27 September 2019.



David J. Middleton, Editor-in-chief of the *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* writes in the Preface: "In 2018, David Mabberley celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and it is our great honour ... to dedicate to him this issue of *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* with a new series of essays written by his students ... and peers. This collection too reflects the wide range of David's interests and publications, and challenges us to question whether our own interests have become too narrow. The Festschrift is published as a Supplement to *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* and has been edited by Alistair Hay, one of Mabberley's earlier D.Phil. students and erstwhile Senior Research Scientist and Director, Botanic Gardens & Public Programs with The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Sydney, and Mark Large, one of his Post-doctoral Associates at Oxford on a Royal Society fellowship & currently Associate Professor, School of Animal and Environmental Sciences, Unitec, Auckland".

Alistair Hay and Mark Large write in the Introduction: "David Mabberley's erudite botany is so profuse and of such breadth that there can be no theme to this collection of papers with which to title the volume other than the man himself, and so we simply called it MABBERLEY. There are, of course, very prolific scholars whose scholarship is sound, and shining ones whose oeuvre is of respectable size, but we can think of no one alive in our field who has achieved so brilliant and sustained a torrent of work." David's distinguished and productive academic and administrative positions, roles, honours, books and other publications are included.

"Mabberley" is published as *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 71 (Suppl. 2):1–538 and is available as an open access publication at:

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/sbg/research/publications/gardens-bulletin-singapore/listing-of-publications>.

## 5. Judith Diment MBE Past Meetings Secretary

Judith is a leading figure in the global campaign to eradicate polio and has been awarded an MBE in the 2020 New Year's Honour's List for her services to Charity.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge presents Judith Diment with MBE for her services to Charity.

Educated at both the Universities of Aberystwyth and London, Judith is a scientist by training and worked for 15 years at the Natural History Museum, London where she had several roles including Head of Public Relations. She has gone on to be an award-winning business-woman, a global campaigner, and a passionate advocate for polio eradication.

It was through her public relations work that Judith first became involved with Rotary in the 1990s, and she joined her first Rotary Club in 2004. Through Rotary, Judith has been an advocate for polio eradication for more than 20 years. She now leads Rotary's UK advocacy efforts, constantly fighting to raise the profile of polio with politicians and governments across the globe. She is currently the Coordinator of the Rotary International Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, a UK National Advocacy Adviser for Polio and a member of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC). She is a member of the IPPC Grants Subcommittee which recommends essential grants to WHO and UNICEF up to \$150m annually to fund technical assistance staff, vaccinators, social mobilisation, transportation, and communication: a truly global effort to eradicate the disease. Thanks to

international efforts, more than 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated.

Closer to home in Berkshire, Judith has also worked with a number of charities including the Wheelpower charity which provides specialist wheelchairs for disabled people in the UK, the Thames Valley Hospice and the Rivertime Boat Trust.

In 2016, Judith received the “Rotary Service-Above-Self Award” which is the highest honour bestowed to Rotarians who volunteer their time and talents to help others. In 2018, Rotary International marked its celebration of “30 Years of Women in Rotary” by naming 30 incredible members who have served and led by example. Judith was among the women chosen. In 2019, Judith was made a Fellow of the University of Aberystwyth.

## **6. William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize 2019**

The 2019 SHNH’s William T. Stearn Essay prize has been awarded to Nathan Smith for his entry “It takes a village: The life of Henry Thomas Soppitt and the attempts by provincial mycologists to navigate their scientific legacy” which focuses on the discovery of *Puccinia bistortae*’s lifecycle, its reception, and Soppitt’s legacy in a changing scientific landscape.

Henry Thomas Soppitt (1858–1899) was a nineteenth-century mycologist from Yorkshire. A greengrocer-turned-drysalter and artisan experimental mycologist, his work focused primarily on discerning the life-cycles of rust fungi. His early death aged 40 on 1 April 1899 was a seminal event in the history



of the Yorkshire nature study. Occurring at a critical junction in British mycology, it saw unprecedented response by Yorkshire mycologists to cement his legacy through preservation of his library and herbarium. Nathan’s essay explores how two Yorkshire mycologists and participants in the discovery, Charles Crossland and James Needham, used accounts of Soppitt’s discovery to ensure his legacy.

Nathan is a PhD student (Zoology) at the University of Cambridge, where he works on the population genetics of porcini (*Boletus edulis*). He is also interested in geographic and taxonomic distributions and discrepancies of herbaria fungal collections. On receiving the news Nathan wrote:

“Winning the William T. Stearn Essay prize has been fantastic and slightly unbelievable. It’s absolutely brilliant to see that the history of mycology has a wider audience and it’s been a privilege to write about Soppitt, a mycologist almost lost to history. The prize has given me the reassurance that my work is of interest and encouraged me in its further pursuit.”

Nathan’s essay will be published in a forthcoming edition of *Archives of Natural History*. See also:

<https://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/news/william-t-stearn-student-essay-prize-winner>.

## **7. Munby Fellowship University Library at Cambridge**

Edwin Rose has been awarded the Munby Fellowship of the University Library at Cambridge for the 2020–2021 academic year. The object of this Fellowship is to sponsor research based on the collections of the libraries of Cambridge, and likely to benefit scholars using those collections in the future.

Edwin will be reconstructing and analysing the library and herbarium

collections of John Martyn (1699–1768) and Thomas Martyn (1735–1825), successive professors of botany who assembled a remarkable range of books and plant specimens. These were donated to the University upon Thomas Martyn's death, but have subsequently been dispersed. Many of the works are annotated, in ways that tie the story of Cambridge botany into far-flung networks involving global trade and specimen exchange.

Edwin is currently completing a doctoral dissertation on eighteenth century natural history in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge, and also has an affiliation with the Natural History Museum in London.

### **8. William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize 2020**

Submissions are invited to the 2020 William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize Competition. The prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished, essay in the field of history of natural history. The submission deadline is 31 July 2020.

The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate 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 the Council of the Society.

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*.

The Prize Rules and Application Form are available for download as an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files from the SHNH website at:

<https://shnh.org.uk/awards-honours-medals/william-t-stearn-student-essay-prize/>. The essay must confirm to the

'Guidelines for authors' for *Archives of Natural History*.

The William T. Stearn Student Essay Prize has been instituted in honour of the late William T. Stearn, a scholar whose work contributed much to the field and to this Society.

### **9. SHNH Small Research Fund**

The Small Research Fund is intended to finance minor non-professional research expenses for any member of SHNH. General guidance and conditions of grants may be found on the SHNH website and in the current newsletter. Council has recently approved an increase of the maximum grant allowed. The present limit of £100 (or non-Sterling currency equivalent) has been increased so that now a single grant may be up to £250, while the total annual fund available will not exceed £500.

### **10. Renewing your SHNH Membership**

It is renewal time for SHNH membership and if you have not already done so, we encourage you to do it as can affect timely receipt of *Archives of Natural History* and the newsletter.

The membership database works on a 'real time' basis and is accessed at certain points of time for the mailing of the two issues of *Archives of Natural History* (April & October) and the *Newsletter*. If you renew later than April, you will miss the mailing for the first issue of *Archives*. This can be sent later, but please note that *Archives* will then move to print-on-demand, and may take some time to arrive.

There are a number of payment options open to members and you will find them listed at the back of the *Newsletter*, plus the contact details for getting in touch with EUP directly. You



are also welcome to contact our Membership Coordinator Miranda Lowe (m.lowe@nhm.ac.uk) for membership queries and Elaine Shaughnessy (newsletter@shnh.org.uk) for outstanding copies of the *Newsletter*.

## 11. In Memoriam

We are sad to announce the loss of the following members: Professor Desmond T. Donovan and Professor Gordon Leslie Herries Davies. Hugh Torrens and Patrick Wyse Jackson have contributed an article on Gordon in the most recent issue of *Archives of Natural History* 47.1 (2020): 190–201, and include an extensive bibliography.

## 12. SHNH in China

In October 2019 I was fortunate to be able to attend the “Fourth Cultures of Natural History Forum” in Zhongshan City, Guangdong Province. This came about through a chain of events that began when our International Representatives Co-ordinator, Malgosia Novak-Kemp, was contacted by a Chinese Historian, Jiang Che. In his approach to the Society, Jiang Che gave an interesting synopsis of the situation of natural history in China:

“The identity of “naturalists” is something new and recent in China. In the 1990s and before, there were very few people declaring themselves to be a “naturalist” (bówùxuéjiā) or their endeavours to be “natural history” (bówùxué). At that time, “natural history” and “naturalist” were just historical terms specifically reserved for some important figures in history, such as Carl Linnaeus. But, in today’s China, “naturalist” and “natural history” have become quite common and are frequently used in ordinary speech. Many people are pleased to label

themselves as “naturalists”. To them, natural history is not a dead discipline, rather, it is a living reality.

The reasons for this change are manifold. The general background of this transition is the emergence of a huge middle class in cities of China. This class, with their concerns about ecology and the environment, plays a vital role in the revival of natural history. In 1994, “Friends of Nature”, the first NGO in China, was founded and gained popularity among many intellectuals and activists. This environmental NGO didn’t organise street protests, but successfully helped promote bird-watching and other similar activities (such as naturalists’ field trip) in China. The activists who initially took part in those activities were not primarily from the scientific community, therefore, many of them sought an identity other than (civil) “scientists” who regard contributions of scientific data as the goal, and consequently the terms “naturalists” and “natural history” became their favourite self-portraits. Parallel to this social movement, some academics attempted to investigate the history of natural history and develop a historical narrative where natural history occupies a central place in the history of science”.

This change in attitudes and interests led, in 2017, to the foundation of the Department of the History of Science at Tsinghua University in Beijing, with Professor Wu Guosheng being appointed as the first dean of the Department. As a result, China now has an independent institution to promote research on the history of natural history, which in 2021 will open a natural history/science museum as part of its remit. Known officially as the Tsinghua University Science Museum, it is not planned primarily as a natural history museum, nor will it contain a specific natural

history section, but it will cover the history of natural history as a part of its exhibition narratives. In its research branch, the history of collection (of scientific objects) will also be studied, which will overlap with the history of natural history. Jiang Che delivers a course on natural history in the Department. Also in 2017, Jiang Che's collaborator in promoting natural history studies, Baojun Xu, and other scholars, founded the journal *Chinese Journal of Natural History* with the support of the Commercial Press. In the same year, he, along with some scholars and Professor Huajie Liu also founded the Committee of Natural History under the Chinese Society for the Dialectics of Nature; Xu is now the first director of the Committee. This Committee has established the history and methodology of natural history as a valid and promising research field in China. The Committee now publishes the *Chinese Journal of Natural History* on a regular basis – to date, four have been issued, the fourth volume being published late in 2019. The Journal is an annual one and it will be published regularly in the second half of each year.

The Society is delighted that Jiang Che has agreed to be our representative in China. Following the initial contact, Jiang Che put me in touch with Baojun Xu, then a visiting scholar at Durham University's Philosophy Department. Baojun Xu and I met several times when I learned a great deal about the growing interests in the history of natural history in China, and received the kind invitation to take part in the Zhongshan meeting.

The meeting itself was regarded as a great success. It was held in the delightful Zhan garden, which although built in 1998 for the owner's mother looks as though it has always been there, with temples, sculptures, water feature,

beautiful trees and colourful plantings. Birdsong and colourful butterflies completed the backdrop. Approximately 200 delegates enjoyed this conference site and a series of some 50 fascinating talks on a variety of themes spread over the weekend. Altogether there were six symposia:

- (i) History of Natural History in China and in the West;
- (ii) Natural Observation and Writing;
- (iii) Chinese Classics and Natural History;
- (iv) Environmental Education and Science Communication;
- (v) Art of Natural History;
- (vi) Publications in Natural History.

All these included references to the history of natural history more or less. Individual lectures included:

- Prof Fa-ti FAN on Arthur de Carle Sowerby;
- Prof Yuan Jian on natural history in China's borderland regions;
- Prof Zhou Jintai on natural history and the history of things;
- Miss Wang Yangyi and Miss Qi Xiaozhen on Zhanghua's (c.290 CE) "Bowuzhi" ("Records of Diverse Things");
- Miss Li Ruijie discussed zoological and botanical classification in the late Qing Dynasty;
- Dr. Xing Xin spoke about ikkaku (the horn of the narwhal) in the Edo period;
- Dr Jiang Che spoke on aquatic animals in Pliny's "Natural History";
- Miss Yang Xueni outlined the roles of text and experience in Conrad Gessner's "*Historia Animalium*";
- Mr. Chen Chaoqun spoke on George D. Wilder, Hugh Wells Hubbard and their "*Birds of Northeastern China*";
- Prof Liu Zongdi and Mr. Li Shiqiong

- spoke on “Shan Hai Jing” (“the Classic of Mountains and Seas”);
- Miss Xu Ling described the plants that feature in Chinese Buddhist texts;
  - Prof Cao Hui introduced illustrated herbals in ancient China;
  - Dr Yang Sha discussed plant classification in Chinese herbalism;
  - Miss Yu Kebin described ancient conceptions of nature in southern China
  - Miss Yang Shuya spoke on the Dolaucothi Gold Mines in Wales;
  - Miss Chen Zhimeng introduced Feng Chengru’s (1896–1968) botanical illustrations;
  - Miss Luo Xiaotu described the history of nature printing;
  - Mr. Zhang Chenliang spoke on marine animals in “*Haicuo Tu*” (“The Atlas of Marine Creatures”) in the Qing Dynasty.



I had the opportunity to give a short presentation on the Society for the History of Natural History – especially the benefits of being a member – and in a separate talk described ways of bringing nature and culture together. Although both my talks were in English, they were well received; I also fielded a lot of questions and a great deal of interest was evident in conversations with delegates afterwards. What I found especially encouraging was the huge enthusiasm and energy for the study of

natural history amongst what was a young audience. This was perhaps the strongest feeling I took from the experience – it was almost that natural history had been ‘discovered’ anew in China. The zeal and passion shown by the young people there gave me great hope for the future, not only for the study of the history of natural history, but for an encouraging sea change in attitudes to the environment more generally.

The next meeting of the Forum will be held in Beijing in 2020, when again the Society for the History of Natural History has been asked to be represented. I look forward to a continuing dialogue between our respective societies – we have much to learn from each other.

Peter Davis  
SHNH President

### 13. News from our Representatives

Our Representative’s Coordinator, Malgosia Nowak-Kemp, reported on news received from our Representatives to Council in January and some of the highlights are included below.

#### Jiang Che (China)

Dr Jiang Che reports on the SHNH Chinese members’ activities from August to December.

#### IV<sup>th</sup> Natural History Culture Conference, Zhongshan, Guangdong (12–13 October 2019).

The most important event was this conference, sponsored by the Zhan Garden (Zh nyuán). About 200 people (naturalists, historians and philosophers) attended, including Professor Peter Davis, SHNH President of SHNH (see report p.7).

Here I would like to quote a passage from my notes, to show the diversity of speakers and their range of topics. We

had 6 symposia: (i) History of Natural History in China and in the West; (ii) Natural Observation and Writing; (iii) Chinese Classics and Natural History; (iv) Environmental Education and Science Communication; (v) Art of Natural History; and (vi) Publications in Natural History. All the symposia touched on the history of natural history more or less.

The following speakers' topics pertained to historical studies of natural history: Prof Fa-ti FAN on Arthur de Carle Sowerby; Prof YUAN Jian on natural history in China's borderland regions; Prof ZHOU Jintai on natural history; Ms WANG Yangyi and Ms QI Xiaozhen on Zhanghua's (c.290 CE) *Bowuzhi* (Records of Diverse Objects); Ms LI Ruijie on zoological and botanical classification in the late Qing Dynasty; Dr. XING Xin on *ikkaku* (the horn of narwhal) in the Edo period; Dr. JIANG Che on aquatic animals in Pliny's *Natural History*; Ms YANG Xueni on the roles of text and experience in Conrad Gessner's *Historia Animalium*; Mr CHEN Chaoqun on George D. Wilder, Hugh Wells Hubbard and their "Birds of Northeastern China"; Prof LIU Zongdi and Mr LI Shiqiong on Shan Hai Jing (The Classic of Mountains and Seas); Ms XU Ling on plants in Chinese Buddhist texts; Prof CAO Hui on illustrated herbals in ancient China; Dr. YANG Sha on plant classification in Chinese herbalism; Ms YU Keqin on ancient imagination of nature in southern China; Ms YANG Shuya on Dolaucothi Gold Mines in Wales; Ms CHEN Zhimeng on Feng Chengru's (1896–1968) botanical illustrations; Ms LUO Xiaotu on the history of nature printing; and Mr ZHANG Chenliang on marine animals in Haicuo Tu (Atlas of Marine Creatures) in the Qing Dynasty.

There was also a small exhibition on European botanical illustrations in the

Zhan Garden during the conference. Most of the objects were of original plates taken from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. Some antiquarian books on botany and zoology were also exhibited.

**2019 Annual Conference of CSHST** (Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology), Hefei, Anhui (25–28 October). A panel on the history of biology was organised. Some speakers and their topics are as follows: Prof FANG Xiaoyang on the species and distribution of hallucinogenic drugs in China; Dr XING Xin on *ikkaku* in the Edo period; Dr WANG Zhao on drawings of birds-of-paradise in pre-modern China; Mr OU Jia on the so-called Jiao fish in ancient Chinese texts; Ms YANG Shuya on Theophrastus's description of symbiosis; Mr LIU Guixi on Pyotr Kuzmich Kozlov and Mongolian knowledge of animals and plants; Prof FU Lei on Lamarckism in China. Dr JIANG Che presented Linnaeus's historiography of botany on another panel; Prof Christine LUK also discussed the images of jellyfish in China and in the West.

**"Frontiers and Natural History"**  
(30 November)

Interdisciplinary workshop on the history of natural history organised by the Center for the Study of Chinese Ethnic Minorities & The Collaborative Innovation Center for Ethnic Minority Development, Minzu University of China, and the Department of Sociology, Peking University. 25 historians, sociologists and scientists attended this workshop. Prof YUAN Jian from Minzu University chaired the workshop and gave a keynote speech. He underlined the necessity of investigating the changing classification schemes of the natural history specimens (and, to a lesser extent, artefacts) from the frontiers



of China. Attendees shared several case studies on natural knowledge produced in or about the China's borderland. Some noteworthy speakers and their topics are: Prof DUAN Zhiqiang on fengshui and the geographical understanding of China's frontiers; Mr YIN Kaipu on Ernest Henry Wilson's explorations in China; Dr WAN Xiufeng on Tibetan incense and Pu'er Tea in the court of the late imperial China; Prof MAO Xiaoling and MA Chongwei on the folk plant taxonomy practiced by the Yi people in their religious rituals; Prof CHEN Wei on natural knowledge in the medieval Islamic trade literature; Dr JIANG Che on 19<sup>th</sup>-century naturalists' investigation of the butterflies from China's frontiers; Dr JIANG Hong on the role of female naturalists in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century colonial botany; Ms WU Lingjing on the history of classifying the *Santalum* species; and Dr WANG Zhao on *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*.

A new exhibition **"When Science Meets Arts: Botanical Illustrations from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*"** opened on 2 December in Hanfenlou Art Gallery, Beijing. This exhibition was sponsored mainly by the Commercial Press, a leading academic publishing house in China. Dr WANG Zhao helped install this exhibition. Four public lectures on the history and techniques of botanical illustration were also given.

### New Publications

*Chinese Journal of Natural History*. Vol. 4. Beijing: The Commercial Press, 2019. 204pp.

In this new volume, there are 5 articles on the history of natural history: Prof ZHANG Lianwei on editing the primary sources on zoology and botany in ancient China; Ms CHEN Zhimeng on FENG Chengru's (1896–1968) botanical illustrations; Dr JIANG Che on 19<sup>th</sup>-

century naturalists' investigation of Chinese butterflies; WANG Chaoyu, ZHANG Lin and ZHANG Lianwei on ancient Chinese knowledge of the common blackbird.



TU Xin. *Lu Xun and Natural History*. Shanghai: Shanghai Literature and Art Publishing House, 2019. 346pp.

LU Xun (1881–1936) is often considered one of the greatest writers and revolutionaries in 20<sup>th</sup>-century China. In this book, Dr TU Xin discusses Lu Xun's interest in natural history, and how Lu Xun practiced, read and translated minerology, zoology, botany and evolutionary theory. Tu argues that a knowledge of natural history also influenced Lu Xun's philosophy, especially his idea of mutualism.

ZHANG Chenliang. *Notes on "Atlas of Marine Creatures"*. Vol. 3. Beijing: CITIC Press, 2019. 256pp.

This book is the third volume of the series. Mr Zhang, a naturalist and a popular writer, has thoroughly studied 63 drawings from the *Atlas of Marine Creatures* by NIE Huang (fl. 1698). Having explored several ancient

Chinese texts, he systematically identified species appearing on Nie Huang's drawings. Besides, he also examined folklore about marine animals in ancient China in a critical way.



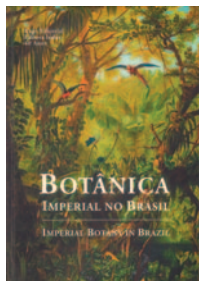
CHEN Zhimeng. *Natural History and Arts: Studies on Feng Chengru's Botanical Illustrations*. Beijing: Cultural Relics Publishing House, 2019.

This is a set consisting of two beautifully designed books. The first book surveys the history of natural history and describes the life of FENG Chengru (1896–1968), the father of scientific botanical illustration in China. The second book includes 333 illustrations made by Feng Chengru.

Email: jiang@fastmail.net /  
jiangche@pku.edu.cn

### Christa Riedl-Dorn (Central Europe)

Christa reports that in December 2019, two books relating to the Austrian Expeditions to Brazil were published both in Portuguese and English in Brazil. *Natterer* mostly deals with the zoologist Johann Natterer who was a member of the Austrian Expedition in 1817. He spent 18 years in Brazil and brought back home a sizable collection of animals and ethnographical objects. *Imperial Botany in Brazil* deals with both the Austrian Expedition in 1817 and Emperor Ferdinand Maximilian's Expedition in 1860. The book features newly discovered botanical paintings and illustrations created by Dom Pedro II and his daughter Isabella. The richly illustrated volume also includes paintings commissioned by H. W. Schott (Aracea), which are held in the Archives of the Naturhistorischen Museum, Vienna and which are being published for the very first time. There are plans to make a documentary about Johann Natterer which will be partly filmed in



the museum. The film titled *Tesouro Natterer* will be released in 2022, on the occasion of the 200-year jubilee of the Brazilian State.

As 2019 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Moon landing, most of the Austrian Museums held 'Moon' exhibitions. The Natural History Museum in Vienna exhibition dealt with the history of lunar observation, the cultural history of the Moon, the geology of the Moon and last, but not least, the Moon landing itself.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> there was a symposium on the research ship *Novara* Expedition (1857–1859) and on Alexander von Humboldt. SHNH members were among the speakers. There were also several events held in Germany honouring Humboldt on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

The SHNH was promoted during the symposium – brochures were handed out and the SHNH was mentioned in talks with members of the audience who are interested in the history of natural history.

Two Archive collections of the Naturhistorischen Museum can now be viewed online:

- **Theodor Kotschy** (1813–1866), botanist. Available at: <https://www.nhmwien.ac.at/jart/prj3/nhm-resp/main.jart?content-id=1560763893105&rel=de>
- **Karl Hammerschmied** (Abdullah Bey) (1801–1874), Ottoman court physician, linguist and geologist. Available at: [https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/archiv\\_fuer\\_wissenschaftsgeschichte/sammlung/abdullah\\_bey](https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/archiv_fuer_wissenschaftsgeschichte/sammlung/abdullah_bey)

Christa officially retired from the museum in February this year, but will continue to be active as a researcher but not in an official capacity at the museum. Christa's new email is [christa\\_dorn@yahoo.de](mailto:christa_dorn@yahoo.de)

## Elizabethann Boran (Ireland)

Elizabeth reports on a number of events that took place in 2019. At the Natural History Museum, Dublin, pop-up talks were held throughout the year including topics on ‘Puffins’, ‘Peregrine Falcons’ ‘Basking Sharks’, ‘Jellyfish’, ‘Salmon & Fishing’ and ‘Birdwatching and the Gannet’. The Museum’s ‘Inspectorium’ outreach series focused on subjects such as sustainability, plankton and how to re-wild gardens.

The Ellen Hutchins festival, in its fifth year, focuses on ‘Ireland’s first female botanist’. Held in August, it included a range of wildlife tours, exhibitions and talks about Ellen Hutchins (1795–1815). In November, Professor Robin Lane-Fox (University of Oxford Fellow Emeritus) gave a lecture on ‘Plants and Planning, 1580–1680’ at the Edward Worth Library, Dublin. The Dublin Naturalists’ Field Club holds events every month and topics included plant identification workshops and walking tours of urban geology.

Email: eaboran@tcd.ie

## Takeshi Watabe (Japan)



Professor Watabe, in his final report for the Society, describes the history of plant growing in one part of the Japanese isles. The western part of Ehime Prefecture, Shikoku Island, is characterized by its typical Triassic coastline and many small bays. There is a thriving fishing industry

thanks to the abundance of sea bream and yellowtail in the sea, and a major industry has been the Akoya cultured pearl industry. On the land there are terraced fields with citrus trees and vegetable plantations.

The terraced field at Yusu, Uwajima City was constructed in the early Edo Period (c. 400 years ago) with the main purpose of cultivating sweet potatoes. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the focus started to change to sericultural industry and the cultivation of mulberry trees. Thanks to the profits made out of the silk production, the distinctive stone walls were built that greatly changed the character of the field. The sericulture economy in Japan ended in the 1930’s, forcing the men to go to the sea fishing for sardines, while the women and elderly folk undertook the cultivation of sweet potatoes and barley. It was at this time that the famous saying was coined: people can survive thanks to sweet potato and sardine.

Unfortunately, after the 1950’s, the poor catch of sardines and the price fluctuation of sweet potatoes made it very difficult for the villagers to survive. Following an extensive examination of possible vegetables and other plants to grow at Yusu, the cultivation of potatoes was started. The terraced fields facing the southeast are good at retaining solar heat, and the “Danshaku Potato,” a variety of the Common White Potato, very popular in Japan, can be cultivated. When the potatoes are planted in October, a good harvest can be achieved the following April. The potato at Yusu is very famous in the whole of Japan, thanks to its high quality. In Japan, they are used not only as food staple but also in the brewing industry.

In 2008, the terraced field in Yusu was designated as a national cultural landscape, and so to speak, “Living Machu Picchu Ruins” in Japan.

## Leslie Overstreet (North America)

Leslie reports that her work at the Smithsonian has been extremely busy for the last few months with administrative changes and the merging of the Libraries with the Archives.

Beth Tobin, author of *The Duchess's shells: Natural-history collecting in the age of Cook's voyages* (New Haven, 2014) and SHNH member, came to the Cullman Library for research on a new project in December and I was very pleased to welcome her as part of our collegial SHNH network.

This past year, as always, I have distributed SHNH brochures at professional gatherings and to library visitors, and I believe that this produced new members.

In June, Kay Etheridge and Henrietta McBurney Ryan are leading a 10-day course 'Pioneers of Natural History: Exploring the Oak Spring Garden Library collection through the work of Maria Sibylla Merian and Mark Catesby', and I will be providing a guest lecture there as well as a field trip to the Cullman Library to see our several Catesbys.

## Alicja Zemanek (Poland)

The History of Botany section of the Polish Botanical Society met on 17 October 2019. The meeting was held in the niadecki Collegium in the Botanic Garden of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. The following talks were presented:

- Magdalena Michniewska (pharmacist) – 'Plants in the Medieval pictures of the Annunciation and Assumption of the Virgin Mary'.
- Magdalena Mularczyk (Botanic Garden, Wrocław University) – 'The life and activities of Teofil Ciesielski (1846–1916) – botanist, beekeeper and Professor of Lviv University'.

- Piotr Köhler (Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University) – 'The history of a Polish plant name *rydz*, in the past associated with a cultivated oil plant *Camelina sativa* but today is the name of a popular edible mushroom *Lactarius* sp.

- Ludwik Frey (W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences) – 'Rev. Krzysztof Kluk (1739–1796) – a parson in Ciechanowiec, naturalist, who adopted the Linnean binominal plant names in Polish botany'.  
Email: alicja.zemanek@uj.edu.pl.

## Margarita Hernández Laille (Spain)

Margarita reports that she has just published her latest book on Darwin *Diario de Lucía Sapiens: Tras los pasos de Charles Darwin por Argentina y Chile*, a tribute to Darwin, a travel book and also a novel.



The Spanish National Museum of Natural Sciences (MCN) has prepared an exhibition titled 'Darwin Space'. The exhibition covers Darwin's life, his journey in HMS *Beagle*, his work and his theory of evolution. This will be a permanent display with texts, videos and museum material. Margarita was asked to lead the work and was assigned an expert assembly team. The exhibition was opened on 12 February 2020, which is "Darwin's Day", the same day that the readings of Darwin and Wallace's works takes place at the MCN. These reading events were initiated by Margarita two years ago and, since then, they take place every year on 12 February.  
Email: mhernandez@bec.uned.es



## **Brenden Cole (South Africa)**

SHNH is delighted to welcome Brendan as its representative in South Africa. Brendan is an Art Historian and has published widely in leading international journals on the work on Jean Delville, Fernand Khnopff and Nicholas Poussin. He completed his Doctorate at Christ Church, Oxford, on aspects of the work of Jean Delville, and tutored at the University of Oxford and the Open University before becoming a School Master at Eton College, which followed on from his work as Keeper of Collections at Knowsley Hall, the home of the Earl of Derby.

Since moving back to South Africa in 2013, Brendan has been pursuing his natural history interests, and in particular on the local botany of the Drakensberg, on which he has been both speaking and writing. He is also interested in the history of South African flora in European gardens and collections and their contemporary illustrations. Brendan is also researching local collectors and explorers of the region including Ernest Galpin (1858–1941), botanist and banker, and Joseph Burke (1812–1873), collector for Lord Derby in South Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Email: brendan.cole@icloud.com

## **Sergio Zagier (South America)**

Sergio reports: 'In 1980 the Geologist Francisco Nullo discovered sauropod bones in the south of Argentina, close to its border with Chile. It soon led to more discoveries of big dinosaurs by the palaeontologist José Bonaparte. But it was not until 40 years later that old photographs allowed the rediscovery of the site. Under the team of the renowned Dr. Fernando Novas, a whole fauna and flora of 70 million years ago came to light, including the 25 metres

long *Nullotitan glaciensis*. Remains of giant reptiles, smaller ones, snails, tortoises, birds, mammals, eggs, plants, etc. are now being studied by several experts who are recreating the tropical Patagonian landscape as it was the Late Cretaceous, before being flooded by the sea. The 2019 expedition was sponsored by Coleman Burke, a passionate follower of Charles Darwin in Patagonia'. Email: Sergio@zagier.com

## **14. Archives of Natural History Book Reviews**

Do alert the ANH Book Reviews Editor, Maggie Reilly, with news of any new titles suitable for review. To contact Maggie, please use the contact details below:

Email address: books@shnh.org.uk

Zoology Curator  
The Hunterian (Zoology)  
Graham Kerr Building  
University of Glasgow  
Glasgow G12 8QQ  
United Kingdom

The following titles have been reviewed for the Spring 2020 issue of SHNH *Archives of Natural History* 47 (1). Reviews received for the Autumn 2020 issue of ANH will be announced in the next newsletter.

AŠČERIĆ -TODD, Ines, KNEES, Sabina, STARKEY, Janet & STARKEY, Paul (editors). *Travellers in Ottoman Lands. The Botanical Legacy*. ASTENE & Archaeopress, Oxford: 2018. [4], xii, 379pp.; illustrated. £60 (pb). ISBN: 978-1784919153.

BRITZ, Ralf (editor). *Francis Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes in Colour: A New Edition of the 1822 Monograph with Reproductions of Unpublished Coloured Illustrations*. Ray Society, London: 2019. 641pp.;

- illustrated. £150, €160 (hb). ISBN: 978-0903874526.
- BRUSH, M. J., & BRUSH, Alan H. *Mark Catesby's Legacy: Natural History Then and Now. The Art and Science of our Environment and the Choices We Face for the Future*. Catesby Commemorative Trust, Charleston, South Carolina: 2018. 192pp.; illustrated. US\$29.95 (pb). ISBN: 978-0692104194.
- BURGER, R. Michael. *The Dragon Traders: A Collective History of the Reptile Trade in America and the Age of Herpetoculture*. Parador Press, Mabank, Texas: 2018. 473pp.; illustrated. US\$59.95 (pb). ISBN: 978-0692126981.
- DELBOURGO, James. *Collecting the World: The Life and Curiosity of Hans Sloane*. Allen Lane, London: 2017. xxxii, 504pp.; illustrated. £25 (hb). ISBN: 978-1846146572.
- FINNEY, Vanessa. *Transformations: Harriet and Helena Scott, colonial Sydney's finest natural History Painters*. NewSouth Publishing, Sydney, with the Australian Museum Trust: 2018. 219pp.; illustrated. AU\$49.99, £32.50 (hb). ISBN 978-1742235806.
- GIBSON, Susannah. *The Spirit of Inquiry: How One Extraordinary Society Shaped Modern Science*. Oxford University Press. xxi, 377pp.; illustrated. £25 (hb). ISBN: 978-0198833376.
- MacGREGOR, Arthur. *Company Curiosities: Nature, Culture and the East India Company, 1600–1874*. Reaktion Books, London: 2018. 397pp.; illustrated. £40, US\$60 (hb). ISBN: 978-1789140033.
- MAIER-WOLTHAUSEN, Clemens. *Hauptstadt der Tiere. Die Geschichte des ältesten deutschen Zoos*. Christoph Links, Berlin: 2019. 280pp.; illustrated. €30 (hb). ISBN: 978-3962890407.
- NEUWLAND, Ilja. *American Dinosaur Abroad: A Cultural History of Carnegie's Plaster Diplodocus*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh: 2019. xvii, 318pp.; illustrated. US\$3, £30.96 (hb). ISBN: 978-0822945574.
- McCracken PECK, Robert & PURCELL, Rosamund (photography). *Specimens of Hair: The Curious Collection of Peter A. Browne*. Blast Books, New York: 2018. 176pp.; illustrated. US\$39.95 (hb). ISBN: 978-0922233496.
- ROOS, Anna Marie. *Martin Lister and His Remarkable Daughters: The Art of Science in the Seventeenth Century*. Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Oxford: 2019. vii, 182pp.; illustrated. £25, US\$40 (hb). ISBN: 978-1851244898.
- VASILE, Ronald Scott. *William Stimpson and the Golden Age of American Natural History*. Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb: 2018. 308pp.; illustrated. US\$29, £21.99 (pb). ISBN: 978-0875807843.
- VENNEN, Mareike. *Das Aquarium – Praktiken, Techniken und Medien der Wissensproduktion (1840–1910)*. Wallstein, Göttingen: 2018. 423pp.; illustrated. €37 (hb). ISBN: 9783835332522.
- WIGLEY, Peter (editor). *William Smith's Fossils Reunited: Strata Identified by Organized Fossils and A Stratigraphical System of Organized Fossils by William Smith*. Halsgrove, Wellington, Somerset: 2018. 150pp.; illustrated. £34.99, €40.55 (hb). ISBN: 978-0857043375.
- WELZBACHER, Christian (editor). *Bobby – Requiem für einen Gorilla*. Matthes & Seitz, Berlin: 2019. 248pp.; illustrated. €24 (hb). ISBN: 978-3957577047.
- Archives of Natural History* book reviews are open access. To see more, please visit the ANH page of the Edinburgh University Press website at: <https://www.euppublishing.com/loi/anh>

## 15. Archives of Natural History

The following papers and short notes have been accepted for publication in *Archives of natural history* 47 (1) due to be published in April 2020.

R. M. SELLERS & S. HEWITT: Carlisle Museum's Natural History Record Bureau, 1902–1912: Britain's first local environmental records centre.

M. TOOGOOD, C. WATERTON & W. HEIM: Women scientists and the Freshwater Biological Association, 1929–1950.

K. GULLIVER: Gabrielle Vassal (1880–1959): Collecting specimens in Indochina for the British Museum (Natural History), 1900–1915.

C. PRESTON: The abortive edition of John Martyn's *Methodus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium* (c.1729).

H. W. LACK: The botanical illustrations of Franz Scheidl (fl.1770–1795).

P. G. MOORE: John Robertson Henderson (1863–1925): Scotland, India and anomuran taxonomy.

P. G. MOORE: The Goodsir brothers from Fife, Scotland: contributions to anatomy, marine zoology and Arctic exploration in the nineteenth century.

K. J. LAMBKIN: Robin John Tillyard's 1936 Queensland excursion: uncivilized towns, unmitigated discomfort and fossil insects.

C. E. JACKSON: William Yarrell (1784–1856), friend and adviser to Charles Darwin.

C. LEVINGS: Edward Flanders Ricketts and the marine ecology of the inner coast habitats of British Columbia, Canada.

C. CORNISH, P. ALLAN, L. GARDINER, P. NICOL, H. PARDOE, C. SHERWOOD, R. WEBSTER, D. YOUNG & M. NESBITT: Between Metropole and Province: circulating botany in British museums, 1870–1940.

P. STONE: Robert McCormick's geological collections from Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, 1839–1843.

M. FISHBURN: The private museum of John Septimus Roe, dispersed in 1842.

### Short Notes

R. B. WILLIAMS: Helena Willoughby's English translation of Lamouroux's *Histoire des polypiers coralligènes flexibles* and her new word “polypidom”.

E. C. NELSON: Catesby's North American images in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1751–1755.

### Obituary

H. TORRENS & P. WYSE JACKSON: Gordon Leslie Herries Davies (1932–2019).

Herman Reichenbach  
Honorary Editor

## 16. More on Tibetan mastiffs The story continues



Engraving of ‘The Thibet Dog’ by Thomas Landseer (1832).

Just as our recent article was published in the *Archives of Natural History*<sup>1</sup>, Ann Datta came across these wonderful engravings of the two dogs featured in our article.

The story of the two Tibetan mastiffs involved Brian Houghton Hodgson, Nathaniel Wallich and King George IV.

They were presented to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) on two occasions during 1828, sadly they died of distemper early the following year. Although their stay was brief, as we explained in our article, they had a lasting impact.

As Ann Datta discovered, during their short time at ZSL, the dogs were drawn and engraved by Thomas Landseer for *Characteristic sketches of animals, principally in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park*, published in 1832 with the text by John Henry Barrow.

In the text accompanying the engravings Barrow emphasises that they are the first of their kind to be seen in England and states “In intelligence and fidelity, they are said to surpass the British bull-dog”.

They are such lovely engravings of the dogs and we felt it was timely to share them in the newsletter for members to admire.



Engraving of 'Thibetan dogs guarding musk deer' by Thomas Landseer (1832).

## References

<sup>1</sup>Brian Hodgson's Tibetan Mastiffs: twice presented to the Zoological Society of London. David Lowther, Ann Sylph and Mark F. Watson. *Archives of Natural History*, **46** (2) (2019): 220–229. DOI: 10.3366/anh.2019.0586

<sup>2</sup>*Characteristic sketches of animals, principally in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, drawn from the life and engraved by Thomas Landseer, with descriptive and illustrative notices by John Henry Barrow*. London: Moon, Boys and Graves, 1832.

Ann Sylph

## 17. SHNH journals 1936–2018 for sale

Stuart Baldwin is offering for sale a set of SHNH journals from 1936–2018. The issues are in excellent condition and are as follows:

- ***Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History*** Vols 1–9 (1936–1980) with Vols 1 & 2 hardbacks in green buckram, remainder in parts as issued.
- ***Archives of Natural History*** Vols 10–45 (1981–2018) a complete run in parts as issued, lacking just 33 (2), 34 (1) and 41 (1).

The price for the collection is £500. Collection is preferred from mid-Essex (between Chelmsford & Colchester) but can be posted – packing & shipping likely to be in the order of £50 within the UK. For more information please contact Stuart on his email at: [stuartabaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:stuartabaldwin@gmail.com).



## 18. In Memoriam

We were delighted to receive these two recognitions for our Members Ray Desmond and Desmond Donovan, who have sadly recently passed away, in time for us to be able to include them in the *Newsletter* as we were going to press.

### Ray Desmond MBE HonFLS (1925–2020)

Ray served as President of the Society for the History of Natural History from 1975–1978, was awarded Honorary Membership in 1990, and the Founders' Medal in 1994. Ray served on SHNH Council from 1964–1975 and 1978–1981. He also served as



Ray Desmond in 1995.  
Photo courtesy of Library,  
Art & Archives, Royal  
Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Vice President and former Chairman of the Garden History Society, was a Fellow *honoris causa* of the Linnean Society of London, and, in retirement, held a Bentham Moxon Research Fellowship at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 2002, Ray was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List for services to garden history.

Ray was appointed as the first professionally qualified librarian at RBG Kew in 1961. As Chief Librarian and Archivist, he oversaw the creation of the Main Library and was also responsible for the creation of the Kew Archives. Ray then joined the India Office Library and Records (now part of the British Library) as Deputy Librarian in January 1973, retiring as Deputy Keeper in 1985. In

retirement he became Honorary Archivist of the Linnean Society from 1986 to 1996.

From 1977 onwards, Ray was the author of almost a book a year, the last being *Great Natural History Books and Their Creators* (British Library, 2003). In 1994, Ray's *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists* (CRC Press, 1994) won the 1994 McColvin Medal for outstanding reference book of the year.

Some highlights from Ray's published scholarship on the history of botany, horticulture, and collections include: *The India Museum, 1801–1879* (1982), *Bibliography of British Gardens* (1984), *Wonders of Creation: Natural History Drawings In The British Library* (1986), *A Celebration of Flowers: 200 Years of "Curtis' Botanical Magazine"* (1987), *The European Discovery of the Indian Flora* (1992), *Kew: A History of the Royal Botanic Gardens* (1995), and *Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker: Traveller and Plant Collector* (1999).

Gina Douglas

### Professor Desmond T. Donovan (1921–2019)

Desmond became interested in geology in his early teens and regular visits to the Natural History Museum, London complemented by biology at school (Epsom College) encouraged his interests further. A passion for caving began on visiting the Beatushöhlen, on the Thunersee in Switzerland.

In 1938 Desmond began studying at Imperial College, London. After war was declared in 1939, no provision was made for first-year students but through his father, Desmond eventually found a place via W. F. Whittard, professor of Geology at Bristol University. During his final year (1941–1942), a field week in Torquay started Desmond on the road of systematic palaeontology. After graduation in 1942 he entered the army for

training as a radio (i.e. radar) officer.

In 1946 Desmond returned to Bristol to start research with Prof. Whittard, to work on Middle Jurassic rocks, but becoming diverted into the Lower Lias ammonites. In this he was mentored by local geologist Tom Fry. Between 1947 to 1957 Desmond was the geologist on Lauge Koch's Danish expeditions to East Greenland every summer. In 1947 Desmond became assistant lecturer in geology at Bristol, being appointed to lecturer in 1950. While at Bristol he met his wife Lou. In 1962 he was appointed Professor of Geology at Hull. In 1966, Desmond took up position as Head of Geology at University College London. He retired from UCL in 1982 and spent three years as Honorary Curator at the Wells and Mendip Museum in Somerset, after which he moved back to London.

Desmond saw retirement as an opportunity to return to research. He remained active in geology and palaeontology, carrying on with fieldwork and publishing on many topics. He was passionate about coleoids and ammonites and for a number of years he was the editor of the Coleoid part of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*.

In 2007, after Lou's death, Desmond moved back to Wells. In his latter years, Desmond indulged his passions for church and cathedral architecture and archaeology, and music, particularly opera. He was very interested in the restoration of the West Front of Wells Cathedral, and later wrote a critical paper on it. In recent years he investigated the gravel beds under Westminster Cathedral (Thorney Island), ledger stones in Somerset churches and other diverse topics.

Desmond was a stalwart and long-standing member of the University of Bristol Speleological Society and also many natural history societies, as well as

being founding member of several. In later years, he was very pleased to be able to support the English Touring Opera in its productions and Friends of Music at the Wells Cathedral School.

Desmond was an old-style polymath, interested in and knowledgeable about many things, and never lost his curiosity. His great intellectual ability was disguised with a very modest and unassuming manner, and a gentle sense of humour. He was always very generous with his time and knowledge and would help anyone who came to him with questions. Desmond is survived by children Tom, Tessa and Dan, and four grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of Desmond's life in Wells on 13 June 2020. Anyone who knew him and wishes to attend, please contact:

Email: [tdonovan@epo.org](mailto:tdonovan@epo.org).

Tessa Donovan-Beermann

## Society Events News



### **19. Pioneer Naturalists Champions of Conservation and Environmental Engagement # SHNH2020 POSTPONED**

This two-day international meeting will now be held in 2021 in association with the Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge. It will explore the history and role of naturalists (and others) as pioneers in biological, geological and landscape conservation, protection, environmental advocacy and engagement in its broadest sense.

Environmental awareness is not a new phenomenon. With its roots in the

John Muir c.1902. John Muir (1838–1914) was an influential Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher, glaciologist, and early advocate for the preservation of wilderness in the United States of America.

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the term “conservation” came into use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century alongside the passage of some of the first conservation legislation, establishment of nature conservation societies and what later became known as “nature reserves”.



Many naturalists made the transition from collectors to protectors, expressing concerns about the destructive influence and long-term impact of human activities on the natural world, using their knowledge and awareness to become early advocates for nature conservation, the preservation and protection of species, habitats and landscapes, advocating the need for greater environmental protection both on their own patch and farther afield. In doing so, they laid the foundations for our modern conservation, environmental movements and protections in the centuries ahead.

This meeting will explore a range of topics including:

- Pioneers in environmental awareness and engagement
- Collecting versus conservation
- Biodiversity loss and extinction
- The establishment of wildlife protection legislation, nature reserves and wildlife conservation programmes
- The rise of conservation movements and campaigns

- Colonialism, industrialisation and its impact on nature conservation
- Landscapes, the sublime, and concepts of nature
- Place-making and its role in environmental protection
- Naturalists, the media, and the promotion of the conservation ethic
- The naturalist and new technologies – advancing nature conservation

We will be organising tours of the Museum of Zoology and its collections, and independent visits can be made to other museums such as the Whipple Museum of the History of Science and Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, both a short walk from the Museum.

For further information and updates about the meeting visit <https://shnh.org.uk/events/>.

## Other Events

### 20. Museums & Attractions Online Virtual Tours

In an effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus, nearly all of the world’s public institutions have announced that they will close their doors to the public until further notice. Virtual museum exploration, a safe alternative to physical attendance, has therefore taken on new significance.

- **Google Arts & Culture** has partnered with over 2,500 global art museums and galleries to open their virtual doors to the public. You can browse through entire exhibitions online, and in many, you can also walk through the museum using Google’s street view. See: <https://artsandculture.google.com/>.

- **Natural History Museums** have made available virtual tours online including the Smithsonian, The Oxford Museum of Natural History, and the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).
- To keep children and grandchildren entertained, many museums, zoos, and aquariums have set up virtual tours and webcams, giving you live camera feed from, for example, the San Diego Zoo, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Seattle Aquarium.

**If you find good tours send us a tweet @SHNHSocNatHist and we will reshare with our followers.**

## **21. Beauty and the Beasts Falling in love with Insects Manchester Museum Manchester, UK Through November 2020**

Bringing together hundreds of insects from Manchester Museum's Entomology collection together with the work of scientists and artists to explore their curiosity and care for these extraordinary creatures, the exhibition invites you to encounter the beauty in these beasts. The exhibition includes works from artists passionate about sharing stories of insect conservation, scientific illustrations that are as visually appealing as pieces of fine art and objects from the Museum's Living Cultures collection showing how insects have inspired us through the ages.

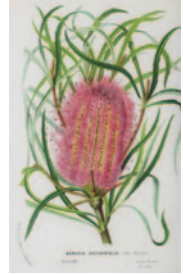
This exhibition highlights the vast majority of insects are not only harmless to humans, but vital for maintaining earth as we know it. Insects keep ecosystems working and are the food of the world, but are under threat. Recent news of a global decline in the number of species and stories about pesticides that harm pollinators, raise awareness of some of the important but invisible work

that insects do. See:

<https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/beautyandthebeasts/>.

## **22. Sir Joseph Banks's Bicentenary**

*Banksia occidentalis* R. Br.  
Louis van Houtte, *Flore des serres et des jardins de l'Europe*, vol. 6,  
1850–1851, plate 636.  
Courtesy of the Linnean Society of London.



Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), botanist, naturalist, explorer, collector and President of the Royal Society, died on 19 June 1820. Here is a short selection of events planned for 2020 but please check all websites for updated news of postponements and closures:

The Joseph Banks Society is listing a number of events on its website at: <https://www.joseph-banks.org.uk/2020-2/>.

The Linnean Society of London's Conversazione on 3 July is on *Bank's Botanical Bonanza*. Mark Carine will discuss Banks, the Banksian Herbarium and the Natural History Museum, London. Jordan Goodman will speak on Banks and the voyage of HMS *Bounty*. See: <https://www.linnean.org/meetings-and-events/events/conversazione-2020>.

The Natural History Museum, London's gallery "Images of Nature" will have two rotations dedicated to the "Artistic Legacy of Joseph Banks" to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary from April 29<sup>th</sup> onwards showcasing some of the Museum's amazing Banksian collections. See: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/galleries-and-museum-map/images-of-nature-gallery.html>.

Sir Joseph Banks had a country home, Spring Grove in Isleworth, London, and he is buried nearby at St Leonard's Church, Heston. His grave is not accessible but there is a memorial plaque in the church itself. St Leonard's are planning events for his bicentenary and are hoping to have a display of plant species collected by Banks and to show a film about his life. Please check their website for details:  
<https://www.parishofheston.org/>.

### 23. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Established in 1670 as a physic garden near the Palace of Holyroodhouse, in 2020 the RBG Edinburgh is celebrating its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a year-long programme of talks, events and exhibitions. See:  
<https://www.rbge.org.uk/>.

### 24. Gilbert White 300

2020 is the tercentenary of the birth of Gilbert White (1720 – 1793). The Reverend Gilbert White, author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789), was a pioneering naturalist who hugely influenced the development of the science of natural history.

The Gilbert White & The Oates Collections have planned a series of events and activities and the exhibition "Gilbert White around the World" explores Gilbert White's international influence since the 18<sup>th</sup> century until today through the international editions of *The Natural History of Selbourne*. See:  
<http://www.gw300.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/>.



### 25. More events of interest

Please check websites for most recent updates on openings and closures.

- The 55<sup>th</sup> *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition is on at the Natural History Museum, London until the 31 May 2020. "Encounter the beauty and fragility of wildlife, see fascinating animal behaviour and get to know extraordinary species, exhibited on 100 stunning lightbox displays. A panel of international experts selected the awarded images from almost 50,000 entries by the world's best photographers." See:  
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year.html>.
- The NHM London's Dippy the *Diplodocus* is touring the UK in an exhibition called *Dippy on Tour*. Dippy's last venue will be at Norwich Cathedral, 11 July–31 October 2020. See:  
<https://nhm.ac.uk/dippyontour>.
- *Dino Makers* is an exhibition on palaeoart at Teylers Museum in Haarlem, The Netherlands running until 1 June. "In *Dinomakers* you get an overview of two centuries of paleo art: the exciting, surprising and sometimes controversial depiction of dinosaurs and other prehistoric life by artists and scientists. Fossils, paintings, drawings, magic lantern slides, films and models: be amazed by the enormous imagination of the dinomakers and discover how their creations are constantly changing." See:  
<https://www.teylersmuseum.nl/nl/bezoek-het-museum/wat-is-er-te-zien-en-te-doen/dinomakers>.



## A Good Read

### 26. Gina Douglas talks about “Timothy”, Gilbert White’s fictional tortoise

*Timothy’s Book. Notes of an English Country Tortoise* by Verlyn Klinkenborg (Portobello Books Ltd., London, 2006). ISBN: 978-1846270543.

Looking for a book small enough to pocket easily when travelling, I rediscovered this fictional “memoir” by Gilbert White’s tortoise. With no defined chapters, this is a patchy, almost continuous narrative, which the reader can drop into at any point and be taken back to the rural landscape of Hampshire and its inhabitants. Based on Gilbert White’s life and work, these are seen from the perspective of this alien reptile “captured” in Asia Minor in 1740 and transported to England. The vicar of Ringmer, Henry Snooke, the uncle of Gilbert White, purchased the tortoise from a seaman and assuming it (wrongly) to be male, named it “Timothy”.

He/she and lived in “well intended slavery” for 40 years, looked after by Snooke’s wife, Rebecca. After her death Gilbert White takes her tortoise to Selborne and sets Timothy free to roam in his garden. The bulk of the narrative is a series of reflections on the natural history and inhabitants of Selborne, and White’s interests. The occasional escape beyond the wicket gate, hibernation and emergence, and White’s curiosity: watching the swifts, weighing Timothy and testing his hearing and potential amphibious nature are documented, together with seasonal changes. He/she outlives Gilbert White and dies in 1793 after over 70 years in “exile”. A historical

note identifies sources and a useful 23-page Glossary identifies species mentioned, explains 18<sup>th</sup> century usage and provides links to White’s life and work.

Gina Douglas

## News & Information

Plate 1 in *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* (1926) to accompany Isabella Gordon’s paper “Notes on a number of Muriceid genera (Alcyonaria, Gorgonaceae), with special reference to speculation” **96**: 509–531.



### 27. Women in Zoology

#### *Journal of Zoology* virtual issues

The latest virtual issue about the history of women in zoology went live in October 2019. It highlights some of the first women to gain degrees in zoology in the UK and who then went on to try to develop careers and is titled “Moving into the 20<sup>th</sup> century”. I have written an introduction to the virtual issue and short biographies of the women featured. From the introductory page, readers can link to a paper by each of the women and these are free to access. Thirteen women are featured including Marion Newbigin, Helena Pixell and Annie Porter. Please do get in contact with me if you can tell me more about the women whose work has been highlighted.

These virtual issues aim to highlight the work of some women trailblazers and role models. I also hope they will help to inspire an interest in zoology and wildlife conservation as well as STEM subjects.

The three virtual issues on the theme of women in zoology have been grouped

together on the *Journal of Zoology* website to provide easier access. The first is a more general “Women and zoology” with an introduction and selection by Jon Bielby of Liverpool John Moores University. The second is “Women and the blue planet: contributions of women to the development of marine zoology” where I wrote an introduction and selected the papers. For all three issues see:

<https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/topic/vi-categories-14697998/women-in-zoology/14697998>

Ann Sylph, Librarian, ZSL  
Email: [ann.sylph@zsl.org](mailto:ann.sylph@zsl.org)

## 28. GCSE in Natural History

Cambridge Assessment has confirmed that its UK exam board OCR is developing a proposal for a new GCSE in Natural History. The proposed qualification will aim to offer young people the opportunity to engage with nature, as well as give environmental issues more prominence in the curriculum. The initiative is the idea of naturalist Mary Colwell, who is concerned that young people are becoming potentially more detached from the natural world. After starting a petition for a GCSE in Natural History on the UK Parliament website which attracted more than 10,000 signatures, Mary enlisted support from Green Party MP Caroline Lucas and Tim Oates CBE, Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment, who began to develop a prototype assessment model for a new qualification.

Tim Oates is quoted as saying: “The title “Natural History” refers back to a long tradition established in Britain of classifying, understanding, observing and reflecting on the natural world. It looks forward to better consciousness

and management of our relationship with the natural world and back at all of the insights that we gain through the history of engagement with nature.” The CEO of OCR, Jill Duffy, has said that the new GCSE will require extensive consultation with schools, teachers, subject experts and associations to decide how best to implement the qualification. She encouraged interested stakeholders with ideas for the development of a GCSE in Natural History to contact OCR at: [policy@ocr.org.uk](mailto:policy@ocr.org.uk).

## 29. Taylor White Collection McGill University, Montreal



*Black-and-Gold Howler Monkey. Watercolour painting attributed to Peter Paillou (c.1720–c.1790). Taylor White Collection, McGill Library. Image courtesy of McGill Library, Montreal.*

Victoria Dickenson writes: “I wanted to introduce you to the Taylor White Collection at McGill, a wonderful resource for illustrations of birds and animals in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. There are 938 unpublished watercolours of birds, mammals, reptiles and fish by various artists, all commissioned by the British jurist Taylor White (1701–1772) between 1730 and 1771.” Artists included Charles Collins, Peter Paillou, Jacob Van Huysum, George Edwards and Eleazar Albin. The images are

accompanied by original observations and over 700 manuscript notes.

White was a Fellow of the Royal Society, a colleague of Hans Sloane, Joseph Banks and Thomas Pennant among others. Inspired by fellow members, White began to amass a personal collection of plants, shells, coins, skins, specimens, live birds, and watercolour drawings of animals and plants. As his collection grew, it became well known as a reference for naturalists and artists who would visit White at Lincoln's Inn and later at the Foundling Hospital, where he was Treasurer for many years. The collection is a testament to the passion of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century naturalist who understood the importance of accurate portrayal for the classification of the wonders of creation. It provides a unique entrée to the work of the gentleman naturalist, a citizen scientist of the Enlightenment, at the intersection of the age of exploration and the burgeoning science of taxonomy.

The collection is now available through the McGill Archival Collections. See: <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/taylor-white-collection>.

Victoria Dickenson  
Email: [victoria.j.dickenson@mcgill.ca](mailto:victoria.j.dickenson@mcgill.ca).

### **30. Goodbye COPAC Hello Library Hub Discover**

COPAC (Consortium of Online Public Access Catalogues), the long-established and valuable bibliographic database, was a union catalogue of about 90 major academic and specialist libraries of the United Kingdom and Ireland that included the British Library, the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales. It was a JISC (originally

standing for Joint Information Systems Committee, but since 2012, just JISC) service provided for the UK academic community based on an agreement with Research Libraries UK (RLUK).

On 31 July 2019, JISC replaced COPAC with Library Hub Discover (<https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/>), which has a new interface style and updated search facilities. It is based on the JISC National Bibliographic Knowledgebase, the interface development being part of the wider redevelopment of JISC Library Services.

New features, with more changes in the pipeline, include:

- A single search box allowing keyword searching with Boolean queries.
- Advanced searching with options for defining searches, including maps
- A wider range of contributing libraries, now numbering more than 130. The increased diversity is demonstrable by additional libraries such as those of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Middle Temple; the Linnean Society of London; and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Further additions will be made in due course.

My initial trials confirm in general the value of the enhanced capabilities claimed, yet inevitably there are some teething problems.

For instance, efficiency of sorting by date of publication is somewhat inconsistent, which results from the different approaches to cataloguing and encoding employed by the contributing libraries. Frustratingly, alphabetical sorting is only possible for titles of publications rather than authors. A

related difficulty is that the alphabetical sorting of titles handles any definite and indefinite articles at the beginning of titles inconsistently; sometimes they are treated as part of the alphabetic sequence, sometimes they are disregarded and alphabetization is based on the first substantive word in the title.

Moreover, there are occasional errors in spelling and publication dates; since the cumulated database has been produced by merging catalogues provided by contributing libraries, corrections must be notified by informing appropriate libraries directly. Any errors or other data problems will first be dealt with by each library in their own catalogue, and the corrected record will then be supplied to JISC in the library's next update.

Naturally, work continues on the Library Hub Discover interface and I have found that the service team responds to feedback helpfully. Alphabetical sorting of authors and other issues raised have been added to an enhancements list to ensure that they are taken into future consideration.

R. B. Williams

### 31. Some Digital News

- **Harvard University** has launched a new website of digitised botanical illustrations. The original works of art from the Botany Libraries date from the early 1800s to the mid-1900s and include works by Harvard botanists (including Jacob Bigelow and Charles E. Faxon), professional artists, and “amateur” women who studied plants and fungi. It also includes China trade export paintings and illustrations of South African plants sent by Clemenz H. Wehde mann. See: <https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/botanical-illustrations>.

- **Cambridge University Press** has generously made available selected chapters of *Cultures of Natural History*, ed. N. Jardine, J. Secord, and E. C. Spary (1996). The link to the free chapters is at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/history/history-of-science-and-technology/cultures-of-natural-history>.
- **The Royal College of Surgeons** has launched its first digital exhibition, *Medicinae Plantae: healing plants through time*. A collection of 40 striking images from their rare book collection, ranging from Schöffer's *Herbarius Latinus* (1484) to Esenbeck's *Planta Medicinales* (1833). See: [https://scp.rcseng.ac.uk/client/en\\_GB/exhibitions](https://scp.rcseng.ac.uk/client/en_GB/exhibitions).
- **Galen's storeroom** for his drugs and recipes has been excavated in Rome in the Horrea piperatoria along the Via Sacra, thanks to a (fairly) recently discovered Galen manuscript from Thessalonica. It was where he kept his precious specimens of cinnamon and his observations on its virtues. See: [https://www.ilmessaggero.it/roma/news/roma\\_basilica\\_di\\_massenzio\\_scoperta\\_laboratorio\\_galeno\\_magazzini\\_spezie-4847730.html](https://www.ilmessaggero.it/roma/news/roma_basilica_di_massenzio_scoperta_laboratorio_galeno_magazzini_spezie-4847730.html).

### 32. Hist-Nat-Hist discussion list

HIST-NAT-HIST is the SHNHs discussion list, hosted by Jiscmail. It is designed to promote enquiries and discussion relating to any aspect of the history of natural history. As well as requests for information or answers to other people's enquiries, the list welcomes notices and reviews of conferences, meetings, publications and exhibitions.

There is more information about the

list and how to join on our website at: <https://shnh.org.uk/hist-nat-hist-discussion/>. For those already registered, you can log in directly at : <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/hist-nat-hist.html>.

## Notes & Queries

### 33. “Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum”

John Claudius Loudon’s “Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum” was originally issued in sixty-three “monthly” parts between January 1835 and July 1838. I would be most grateful to hear from anyone who knows of the existence of any copies (complete or fragmentary) still in the original parts. I would also like to hear of the existence of any copy of the prospectus, which was issued in late 1834.

Please contact Brian Doggett, The Gables, Northiam, Rye, TN31 6NB East Sussex, U.K.

Email: [bdoggett@worth.org.uk](mailto:bdoggett@worth.org.uk)

### 33. Charles Davies Sherborn’s Paperknife



In the Society for the History of Natural History’s Archive, deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, is an ivory letter opener once belonging to Charles Davies Sherborn (1861–1942), the Society’s first President. A transcript of a letter concerning this (*verbatim* but not including crossings out), dated 6

October 1995, is provided below. It was written by Dr G. F. Elliot, palaeontologist at the British Museum (Natural History), to the then President of the Society, Dr Alwyne Wheeler (1929–2005). It gives the provenance details of the item including some background to Elliot’s role in its acquisition.

Dear Alwyn, Amongst the souvenirs of my long association with the Museum in various characters (1928–1995) is the paper-knife of our founder, the late Dr CD Sherborn. It came into my possession in the years immediately after the war, when as Iraq Petroleum’s Bibliographer I worked weekly two afternoons in the Palaeontologic (formerly Geological) Library. During the war years an extensive programme of planned evacuations of collections to places considered safer was carried out, but in addition when bombs damaged the Museum itself all manner of other things – fossils, books, files. Indexes, etc were stored pell-mell under cover. In the winter of 1946–47 the Geological Librarian, Mr HB Ramsbottom was unpacking these and returning, disposing or scrapping them. My memory of things during 1936–1939, when I was a junior on the staff, proved very useful to him, and he found me various items which he thought might interest me, where there were no obvious indications where they should go. Amongst these was the paper knife 10 ½ ins of ivory. A typical Victorian artefact, which the great man used every working morning on his extensive correspondence.

Do you think the Society would like this? It could be set out at Meetings, Councils, etc. at the President’s place, as a kind of “Baton de Commandement” showing that the Society is still active and flourishing. I will donate it gladly, if wanted, as a mark of my appreciation of



the compliment paid to me recently, when I was made Honorary Member, for past Council Services in the years of Mr Townsend's management.

If you think this idea is silly, let me know. There would be no resentment on my part and no offence taken and I would not raise the matter again. Let me know about this at your leisure.

I hope you are keeping well. I have had a bad time with my health troubles for some months past, living from day to day, so to speak, with the side effects of the drugs I am dosed with. I suppose something of the sort is inevitable at my age. I am 79 next week.

With very best wishes, Graham

p.s. Did I send you a list of my publications for the file you keep on members?

The reference in the letter is to Alexander Cockburn Townsend (1905–1964) who was joint Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History from 1947 until his death.

Staff of the NHM Library and Archives are thanked for access to the collections.

E. Geoffrey Hancock

### **35. Thomas Davies and his insects with specific reference to Nils (Nicholas) Samuel Swederus**

Thomas Davies FRS FLS (c.1737–1812) was probably born at Shooter's Hill, Greenwich, England. He also probably attended the local free grammar school and then began training at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in the spring of 1755. Within two years, academy graduates like Davies became well versed in weapons training, the development of fortifications, road works, harbours and canal systems. They honed their painting skills here too, with

both cartographical and meteorological observations. Each student was expected to excel at drawing before graduation as mapping and producing accurate visual records were an essential part of military effectiveness.

The pages of the *General Evening Post* or *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure* on Wednesday 21 January 1756, witnessed Davies's name. The announcement concerned the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, known today as the Royal Society of Arts. That week, judges from the William Shipley School and St. Martin's Academy art studio adjudicated various pieces from young artists studying there, of which a young 17-year-old Thomas Davies appears to have been one. There, amidst a crowd of like-minded young men, he would have come face-to-face with seasoned instructors such as Hogarth, Hayman, Pond, Hudson and Strange. The results were: Elias Durnford first prize (£5), Henry Pingo second prize (£4) and third prize (£3) to Thomas "Davis".

At 18, Davies became a professional soldier in the Royal Artillery and in 1757 was sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1757, to serve in the Seven Years War (1756–1763). He produced watercolours of military operations, topographical maps and landscapes and, in 1762, produced the first drawing of the Niagara Falls. The first British–French war on North American soil ended in 1763 and Davies went back to England. According to his record of service from 1765 to 1767 he was "in New York and Canada", where he continued producing watercolours. Davies may have found some freelance commissions or worked on establishing his New York property near Fort Edward which he had acquired in 1764. These years were the beginning of his most productive period collecting plants, animals and insects.

## Back in England

In 1767, Davies's company again sailed for England and, during the next six years, he exhibited American views and flower paintings at the RA and, in 1768, published six engravings of waterfalls, dedicated to General Amherst. In 1771, he was promoted to captain and placed in command of a newly-formed company of artillery at Woolwich, where Sandby had been drawing-master since 1768. By 1770, Davies was working closely with Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), Thomas Pennant (1726–1798) and Reinhold Forster (1729–1798). When collecting in North America, Davies had worked on preservation methods of animals based on the use of corrosive sublimate, tobacco and other compounds. Whole fleshy specimens were immersed in spirits of wine and rum and if skinned, quadrupeds and fish were usually dipped in alcohol, filled with plaster and attached to a board before being sent off. He wrote on this critical subject (e.g., *Philosophical Trans. of the Royal Soc. of London*, 60 (1770), pp. 184–187) sharing his experiences. Similar methods were used by Charles Blagden and John Mervin Nooth in New York in 1778, while collecting birds for the Leverian Museum. Forster had catalogued North American animals including birds in 1771 and helped Pennant with some newly-discovered quadrupeds. Forster and Davies exhibited paintings of several Hudson's Bay birds at the Royal Academy in 1772. Davies provided new observations on birds and animals he had seen in Canada. In about 1770, Davies began collecting insects, providing Coleoptera to Dru Drury (1724–1803) from at least July of that year.

Davies was nominated to the Royal Society on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1781 and on March 22<sup>nd</sup> signed the obligation form, paid the fees and was formally admitted. In the

summer of 1785, Davies, now ranked a General and on the brink of his 51<sup>st</sup> year, received word of a posting to the West Indies. Seven companies of the Royal Artillery remained there but in a fragile state. Tornados had caused major problems with many British naval and supply ships in the area badly damaged or wrecked. According to R. H. Hubbard's biography (1972, *Thomas Davies, c.1737–1812*, p. 62) in the spring of 1786 the troopship *Sally* embarked four companies of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich and Portsmouth and on arrival dispersed to Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent. Davies accumulated a collection of his own – a “splendid one” containing “stuffed birds, butterflies, reptiles, fossils as well as organic remains and minerals.” There is little detail of its size or arrangement; data on some individual insects and other invertebrates can be gleaned from archives and publications of others.

## Nils (Nicholas) Samuel Swederus (1751–1833)

In 1785, just months before Davies left for the West Indies, Nils Swederus, a naturalist with a keen interest in beetles came to London. After studying at Uppsala, Sweden, he travelled around Europe collecting and examining collections of insects. Arriving from France in late 1785, he arranged to see the exotic insects in the Davies cabinet and those of Banks, Drury, Forsyth and James Lee plus his daughter Ann. Swederus was to return home with a scarab beetle given to him by Ann Lee originally from the collection bequeathed to her by Lady Monson. Swederus recognized several new species in Davies's collection. Of the 50 new insects, eleven are associated with Davies (Fortsättning af Beskrifningen på 50 nya Species af Insecter. *Kongliga Vetenskaps Academiens Nya Handlingar* Volume 8,

Series 2, 1787). He found an acanthoderine (a group within the long-horned beetle family Cerambycidae) which he named *daviesii*. Swederus went home with descriptions of insects from Davies's collection and those he had seen in other cabinets he had seen in London. The species Swederus described from Davies's collection were:



Plate 8, from N. S. Swederus (1787). Figures 5–8 are of specimens described from the Davies cabinet. Photo courtesy of the Biodiversity Heritage Library CC0 1.0.

- p. 194; Sp. No. 13. *Curculio Daviesii*, Tab. VIII, fig 5.  
 p. 195; Sp. No. 15. *Cerambyx (Lamia) Daviesii*, Tab. VIII, fig 6.  
 p. 196; Sp. No. 16. *Cerambyx (Stenocorus) Quadriguttatus*, Honduras. Tab. VIII, fig 7.  
 p. 197; Sp. No. 17. *Cerambyx (Saperda) Tripunctatus*, New York.  
 p. 199; Sp. No. 22. *Cucujus Maculatus*, New York. Tab. VIII, fig 8. (Swederus noted that Macleay also had an example.)  
 p. 281; Sp. No. 35. *Sphex (Scolia) Bifasciata*, New York.  
 p. 281; Sp. No. 36. *Scolia Vespiformis*, China.  
 p. 285; Sp. No. 42. *Mutilla Bifasciata*, New York.  
 p. 285; Sp. No. 43. *Mutilla Sexpuntata*, Africa.  
 p. 285; Sp. No. 44. *Mutilla Sexmaculata*, India Orientalis.  
 p. 286; Sp. No. 46. *Musca (Syrphus)*

*Monoculus*, America Septentrionalis (Common banded fly).

Swederus said of *Cerambyx Daviesii* that Davies had obliged him with “a nice picture of it”. The species occurs in Cuba and it is possible that Davies had collected it in 1762 or later in 1784/5 on his tour of duty in the West Indies. The three other specimens on the plate also may have been engraved from Davies drawings provided to him.

The fate of the Swederus collection is unknown and Davies's museum was dispersed at auction in June 1812, a subject for further investigation. There is at least one Swederus specimen in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, whose label reads “Hab. In Anglia / *Pyralis afzeliana* / Swederi Mss”. These data for *afzeliana* Swederus, 1787 (p. 276; Sp. No. 26) correspond with the type description. The type of *Scarabaeus leei* Swederus, 1787 (p.188; Sp. No 4) is in Oxford University Museum. A few identifiable insects connected with Swederus in the Linnaean collection in London include a *Buprestis*, *Musca lateralis*, *Leptura rustica*, *Cerambyx fennicus*, *Silpha russica* and some *Curculio* specimens. Possibly, there will be other specimens found with a Swederus association in the various extant eighteenth-century collections as research continues.

*Cerapteris latipes* Swederus, 1788 (p. 203) from Honduras was according to J. O. Westwood (*Arcana Entomologica*, volume 1, p. 6) then to be found in Mcleay's collection. Of the locality, Donovan (*Epitome of the natural history of the insects of New Holland*, etc., 1805) noted it was given “... erroneously, as we are assured that [Davies] obtained the insect Swederus mentions, from Bengal”. The weevil species Swederus named for Davies that was said to be from the New York area may have been mistaken also



Probable type specimen of *Pyralis afzeliana* Swederus, 1787, now synonymized with *Nycteola reveyana* Scopoli, 1772.

Photo courtesy of the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.

as its natural distribution is neotropical. Confusion occurred regarding localities ascribed to specimens during this period. This might be due to accepting third party information as true or mixing up specimens and labels. In this case Davies visited many areas around the Caribbean during his military duties in the West Indies and perhaps confused some of the locations in his own cabinet. Hopefully more research will reveal other insects with Davies and Swederus provenance.

Denis Robillard  
Email: RoePoe72@hotmail.com

## Publishers' Announcements

### 36. Nature's Mirror How Taxidermists Shaped America's Natural History Museums and Saved Endangered Species

Mary Anne Andrei  
University of Chicago Press, 2020  
(forthcoming)  
264pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-0226730318 (hb)  
\$35.00.

It may be surprising to us now, but the taxidermists who filled the museums, zoos, and aquaria of the twentieth century were also among the first to become aware of the devastating effects of careless human interaction with the natural world.

Witnessing first hand the decimation caused by hide hunters, commercial feather collectors, whalers, big game hunters, and poachers, these museum men recognized the existential threat to critically endangered species and the urgent need to protect them. The compelling exhibits they created, as well as the scientific field work, popular writing, and lobbying they undertook, established a vital leadership role in the early conservation movement for American museums that persists to this day.

Through their individual research expeditions and collective efforts to arouse demand for environmental protections, this remarkable cohort—including William T. Hornaday, Carl Akeley, and many lesser known—created our popular understanding of the animal world and its fragile habitats. For generations of museum visitors, they turned the glass of an exhibition case into a window on nature—and a mirror in which to reflect on our responsibility for its conservation.

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*Owen T. Nevin, Ian Convery & Peter Davis (editors)*

Boydell & Brewer, 2019

272pp., illus.

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Bears are iconic animals, playing a variety of roles in human culture. They have been portrayed as gods, monsters, kings, fools, brothers, lovers, and dancers; they are seen as protectors of the forest; symbols of masculinity; a comfort for children; and act as symbols for conservation and environmental issues. They also symbolise wilderness, reinforcing and maintaining our connection to the natural world. And stories abound of cultures that gathered berries in the same fields as bears and fished on the same rivers; consequently a wealth of myths, legends and folklore has informed us of our place in the world and the deep connection we have with bears.

The essays provide a rich selection of views on the human/bear relationships. They explore how bears are an influence in contemporary art, and how they are represented in the illustrations in children's literature and in museum exhibitions. The connection between bears and native peoples, and how contemporary society lives alongside these animals, provides an understanding of current attitudes and approaches to bear management and conservation. The history of captive bears is brought into contemporary relief by considering the fate of captive bears held in Asian countries for bile production. Other pieces look at how bears feature in gay culture, and are an intrinsic component to research on the Yeti and Sasquatch. Together, these articles present an insight into the changing face of attitudes towards nature, species survival and the significance of conservation engagement in the twenty-first century. Biologists, historians, anthropologists, cultural theorists, conservationists and museologists will all find riches in the detail presented in this bear cornucopia.

Owen Nevin is Associate Vice-Chancellor, Gladstone Region, CQUniversity, Australia; Ian Convery is Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Cumbria; Peter Davis is Emeritus Professor of Museology in the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies at Newcastle University.

Contributors: Philip Charles, Melanie Clapham, Ian Convery, Koen Cuyten, Elizabeth O Davis, Peter Davis, Sarah Elmeligi, Beatrice Frank, Barrie K. Gilbert, Jenny Anne Glikman, Tracy Ann Hayes, Mike Jeffries, Jón Jónsson, John Kitchin, Miha Krofel, Gareth Longstaff, Henry McGhie, Jeff Meldrum, Owen T. Nevin, Heather Prince, Lynn Rogers, Kristinn Schram, Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir, Russ Van Horn, Mark Wilson, Samantha Young.



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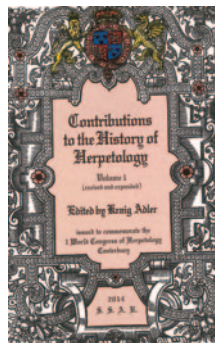
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**37. A Naturalist in the Amazon  
The Journals & Writings of Henry  
Walter Bates**

Henry Walter Bates  
Smithsonian Books, 2020  
160pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-1588346872 (hb)  
US\$17.95, £14.99.

This charming book showcases the two journals produced by entomologist Henry Walter Bates during his groundbreaking travels and discoveries in the Amazon from 1848 to 1859, on which his classic work *The Naturalist on the River Amazon*, was based. It includes facsimile reproductions of illustrated pages taken from his Amazon journals, as well as an essay describing his travels. The journals reveal how a self-taught naturalist and butterfly enthusiast had a profound impact on the science of evolution.

Bates, a trusted companion of Alfred Russel Wallace, travelled with him to the Amazon in 1848. There he became fascinated by close similarities in appearance between unrelated butterflies, and discovered a scientific phenomenon we now refer to as Batesian mimicry: species that are highly desirable to predators began evolving to look more like other, more toxic species in order to avoid predation.

Bates spent a total of 11 years in the Amazon; when he returned to England, he had collected, by his own estimate, some 14,000 species of insects, of which no less than 8,000 were previously unknown. This beautiful book offers valuable new insight into the scientific implications and findings of Bates's rich and fruitful time in the Amazon.

**38. Botanical Revelation  
European Encounters with  
Australian plants before Darwin**

David J. Mabberley  
NewSouth  
Publishing, 2020  
384pp., illus.  
ISBN:  
978-1742236476  
(hb)  
AU\$89.99, £54.95,  
€64.00.



A quote from the Preface:

*"This is a book about the early encounters of Europeans with the extraordinary native Australian flora, from the first plant record, in 1606, to Darwin's time, using as a vehicle to document and illustrate them a very significant private library. It is an original approach not only in using such a collection to tell the story but also in its thrust: an attempt to put the story in the context of the mainstream of scientific and horticultural history in Europe and elsewhere, at the time and since, particularly with regard to the modern economy. I do not think this has been explored adequately before."*

Combining science, horticulture, art and economics, this lavishly illustrated book – with many never before-published images – reveals the motives and complex networks that led to the international spread of knowledge and cultivation of hundreds of Australian plants in Europe in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Based on the superb Peter Crossing Collection, *Botanical Revelation* documents a revolutionary phase in the understanding of Australia's flora and science, illustrating Australian plants as they were known by Europeans before Darwin in 1836.

"This beautifully illustrated book

gives an account of some of the first artists to capture the beauty of our plant life and what they made of it ... It is a feast for the eyes and for the botanical mind.’ – Troy Lennon, *The Daily Telegraph*.

### 39. John Abbot & William Swainson Art, science, and commerce in nineteenth-century natural history illustration

Janice Neri, Tara Nummedal & John V. Calhoun

University of Alabama Press, 2019  
256pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-0817320133 (hb).  
£55.

English-born naturalist and artist John Abbot (1751–c.1840) rendered more than 4,000 natural history illustrations and profoundly influenced North American entomology, as he documented many species in the New World long before they were scientifically described. For 65 years, Abbot worked in Georgia to advance knowledge of the flora and fauna of the American South by sending superbly mounted specimens and exquisitely detailed illustrations of insects, birds, butterflies, and moths, on commission, to collectors and scientists worldwide.

Between 1816 and 1818, Abbot completed 104 drawings of insects on their native plants for English naturalist and patron William Swainson (1789–1855). Separated by nearly 40 years in age, Abbot and Swainson were members of the same international communities and correspondence networks upon which the study of nature was based during this period. The relationship between these two men – who never met in person – is explored here.

This volume also showcases, for the first time, the complete set of original,

full-colour illustrations discovered in 1977 in the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand. Originally intended as a companion to an earlier survey of insects from Georgia, the Turnbull manuscript presents beetles, grasshoppers, butterflies, moths, and a wasp. Most of the insects are pictured with the flowering plants upon which Abbot thought them to feed. Abbot’s journal annotations about the habits and biology of each species are also included, as are nomenclature updates for the insect taxa.

### 40. Francis Hamilton’s *Gangetic Fishes in Colour*

A new edition of the 1822  
Monograph, with reproductions of  
unpublished coloured illustrations

Ralf Britz (editor)

Ray Society, 2019

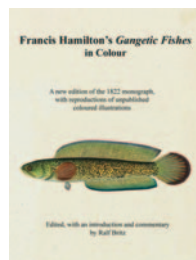
641pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-0903874526 (hb)

£150.

Francis Hamilton was born on 15 February 1762 as Francis Buchanan on the estate of Bardowie in the county of East Dunbartonshire in Central Scotland.

The basis for Hamilton’s monograph on the “Gangetic Fishes” were descriptions and illustrations that he compiled during two long stays in India, each lasting several years. By combining coloured originals and copies of Hamilton’s initial 225 fish illustrations deposited in the British Library, Natural History Museum, Linnean Society and Zoological Society of London, this book brings together for the first time 223 coloured illustrations of his fish species. The publication com-



prises an introductory chapter by Dr Ralf Britz reviewing the history of Hamilton's monograph, a commentary of the different sources of illustrations and a celebration of the achievement of the Father of Indian ichthyology; the original text by Hamilton, 223 colour fish plates with captions and an index to these illustrations.

**41. Nature's Explorers  
Adventurers who recorded the  
wonders of the natural world**

*The Natural History Museum*

The Natural History Museum, 2019  
240 pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-0565094645 (hb)  
£20.00.

This sumptuous volume reveals the lives of some of history's greatest explorers of the natural world, using the specimens they collected, the letters they wrote and the art they created to record their discoveries. Superb artworks and photographs spanning three centuries have been specially chosen to illustrate each essay and many are published here for the first time.

Their findings revolutionised our understanding of nature and gave birth to the modern fields of geography, evolutionary biology, oceanography and anthropology. From ground-breaking theorists such as Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace to evocative artists like Ferdinand Bauer and John James Audubon, these explorers shared an ambition to illuminate new worlds and each embodied the spirit of the Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution.

Contributors: Max Barclay, Mark Carine, Paul Martyn Cooper, Ann Datta, Lisa de Tomaso, Andrea Hart, Blanca Huertas, Sandra Knapp, Hans Walter Lack, Judith Magee, Virginia Mills,

Hellen Pethers, Victoria Pickering, Douglas Russell, Cam Sharp Jones, Mary Spencer Jones, Grace Touzel, Simon Werrett and David Williams.

**42. Forgotten Masters  
Indian Painting for the  
East India Company**

*William Dalrymple*

Philip Wilson Publishers Ltd, 2019  
192pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-1781301012 (hb)  
£32.58.

As the East India Company extended its sway across India in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century, many remarkable artworks were commissioned by Company officials from Indian painters who had previously worked for the Mughals. Published to coincide with the first UK exhibition of these masterworks at The Wallace Collection, this book celebrates the work of a series of extraordinary Indian artists, each with their own style and tastes and agency, all of whom worked for British patrons between the 1770s and the bloody end of the Mughal rule in 1857.

These hybrid paintings explore both the beauty of the Indian natural world and the social realities of the time in 100 masterpieces, often of astonishing brilliance and originality. They shed light on a forgotten moment in Anglo-Indian history during which Indian artists responded to European influences while keeping intact their own artistic visions and styles. These artists represent the last phase of Indian artistic genius before the onset of the twin assaults – photography and the influence of western colonial art schools – ended an unbroken tradition of painting going back 2,000 years. As these masterworks show, the greatest of these painters deserve to be remembered as

among the most remarkable Indian artists of all time.

**43. Endless Novelties of  
Extraordinary Interest  
The Voyage of H.M.S. *Challenger* and  
the Birth of Modern Oceanography**

Doug Macdougall  
Yale University Press, 2019  
228pp.  
ISBN: 978-0300232059 (hb)  
£20.

A gripping tale of exploration aboard HMS *Challenger*, an expedition that laid the foundations for modern oceanography. From late 1872 to 1876, HMS *Challenger* explored the world's oceans. Conducting deep sea soundings, dredging the ocean floor, recording temperatures, observing weather, and collecting biological samples, the expedition laid the foundations for modern oceanography. Following the ship's naturalists and their discoveries, earth scientist Doug Macdougall engagingly tells a story of Victorian-era adventure and ties these early explorations to the growth of modern scientific fields.

In this lively story of discovery, hard-ship, and humour, Macdougall examines the work of the expedition's scientists, especially the naturalist Henry Moseley, who rigorously categorized the flora and fauna of the islands the ship visited, and the legacy of John Murray, considered the father of modern oceanography. Macdougall explores not just the expedition itself but also the iconic place that HMS *Challenger* has achieved in the annals of ocean exploration and science.

**44. The Art of the Bird  
The History of Ornithological Art  
through Forty Artists**

Roger J. Lederer  
University of Chicago Press, 2019  
224 pp., illus.  
ISBN: 978-0226675053 (hb)  
US\$35, £26.72.



The human history of depicting birds dates to as many as 40,000 years ago, when Palaeolithic artists took to cave walls to capture winged and other beasts. But the art form has reached its peak in the last four hundred years. In *The Art of the Bird*, devout birder and ornithologist Roger J. Lederer celebrates this heyday of avian illustration in 40 artists' profiles, beginning with the work of Flemish painter Frans Snyders in the early 1600s and continuing through to contemporary artists like Elizabeth Butterworth, famed for her portraits of macaws. Stretching its wings across time, taxa, geography, and artistic style – from the celebrated realism of American conservation icon John James Audubon, to Elizabeth Gould's 19<sup>th</sup> - century renderings of museum specimens from the Himalayas, to Swedish artist and ornithologist Lars Jonsson's ethereal watercolours – this book is feathered with art and artists as diverse and beautiful as their subjects.



## 45. Forth Naturalist and Historian Journal

The *Forth Naturalist and Historian* Editorial Board has launched a project to provide on-line, searchable copies of the FNH journal. Back issues are available online at:

[http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk/journal/back\\_issues/index.php](http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk/journal/back_issues/index.php).

The most recent three years are not available electronically, however, when the next journal is published the one from three years ago is released. The contents can be found here

<http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk/journal/index.php>.

### New & Recent Publications

Many thanks to everyone who contributes material to this section. May I just remind you to forward details of your own publications as well as those of general interest. Please include as many publication details as possible: such as publisher, date and ISBN.

**Abe, N.** (2019) 'Cherry' Ingram: The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms. Chatto & Windus. 400pp., illus. 400pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-1784742027 (hb). £18.99.

**Abe, N.** (2019) *The Sakura obsession: the incredible story of the plant hunter who saved Japan's cherry blossoms*. Alfred A. Knopf. 400pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-1524733575 (hb). US\$27.95.

**Albrecht, U.** (2018) *Bilder aus dem Tierleben – Philipp Leopold Martin (1815–1885) und die Popularisierung der Naturkunde im 19. Jahrhundert* [Images from Animal Life: Phillip Leopold Martin (1815–1885) and the Popularisation of Natural History in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century]. Tectum. xxvi + 554 pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-3828840393 (hb). €59.

**Aščerić-Todd, I., Knees, S., Starkey, J. & Starkey, P.** (eds) (2018) *Travellers in Ottoman Lands. The Botanical Legacy*. ASTENE & Archaeopress. 379 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-1784919153 (pb). £60.

**Barnard, T. P.** (2020) *Imperial Creatures: Humans and Other Animals in Colonial Singapore, 1819–1942*. Ridge Books. 336pp.

ISBN: 978-9813250871 (pb). £27.20.

**Bates, H. W.** (2020) *A Naturalist in the Amazon: The Journals & Writings of Henry Walter Bates*. Smithsonian Books. 160pp., illus. ISBN: 978-1588346872 (hb). US\$17.95, £14.99.

**Beelen, H. & Biesheuvel, I.** (2018) *Walvissen groot en vet. Nederlanders op walvisvaart in het Hoge Noorden* [Whales large and fat. Dutch on Whaling in the High North]. Athenaeum. 280pp., illus. ISBN: 978-9025309640 (pb). €20.99. [Anthology of historical texts concerning the history of whaling in the Netherlands.]

**Børnick, L. H. & Strøm, F.** (2019) *Hvalfangsten fra Hitra* [Whaling off Hitra]. Eget Forlag, Sandefjord and Hitra. 161pp.; illus. No ISBN. No price given. [Privately printed, profusely illustrated history of whaling of Hitra island, Norway. Queries to: leif.harald@børnick.no]

**Briggs, B. G. & Wilson, K. L.** (2019) David Mabberley and Australian botany. *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 71 (Suppl. 2) Mabberley: 7–24.

**Brinkman, P. D.** (2019) Valuable so far as it goes: establishing zoology at Chicago's Field Columbian Museum, 1893–1894. *Journal of the History of Collections* 31 (1): 93–109. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhy004>.

**Britz, R.** (ed.) (2019) *Francis Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes in Colour: A New Edition of the 1822 Monograph, with Reproductions of Unpublished Coloured Illustrations*. Ray Society. 641pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-0903874526 (hb). £150.

- Boylan, P. J. & Mitchell, W. A.** (2019) Charles Lyell – an early glacialist. In Mitchell, W. A. & Guild, A. (eds). *The Quaternary of Glen Clova & Strathmore – Field Guide* (Quaternary Research Association, London), pp. 15–24.
- Buffetaut, E.** (2019) Early illustrations of *Aepyornis* eggs (1851–1887): from popular science to Marco Polo's roc bird. *Anthropozoologica* **54** (12): 111–121.
- Dalrymple, W.** (2019) *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company*. Philip Wilson Publishers Ltd. 192pp., illus. ISBN: 978-1781301012 (hb). £32.58.
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- Dawson, G., Ligthman, B., Shuttleworth, S. & Topham, J.** (2020) *Science Periodicals in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Constructing Scientific Communities*. Chicago UP. 424pp. ISBN: 978-0226676517 (hb). £42.91.
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- Jarvis, C. E.** (2019) Georg Rumphius' *Herbarium Amboinense* (1741–1750) as a source of information on Indonesian plants for Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778). *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 71 (Suppl. 2) Mabberley: 87–107.
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- Lederer, R. J.** (2019) *The Art of the Bird The History of Ornithological Art through Forty Artists*. Chicago UP. 224 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0226675053 (hb) US\$35, £26.72.
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The SHNH Small Research Fund is to provide financial support to non-professional members of the SHNH in all fields covered by the society's charitable purpose in carrying out research to benefit the scholarly community. A "non-professional" is regarded as having no gainful specific employment as a historian or bibliographer for the specific purpose of the proposed research.

Application must be made (before incurring the expense requested) using the pro-forma in the *Newsletter* or on the SHNH website. This must be sent to the SHNH Secretary, who will then forward it to the Small Research-Fund Co-ordinator for assessment by the Sub-committee.

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- Costs involved in attendance at conferences do not qualify.
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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.

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