

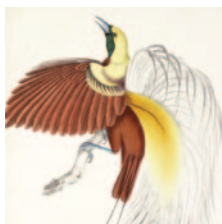
Newsletter

DIARY

Pioneer Naturalists
Champions of
Conservation and
Environmental
Engagement
#SHNH2021

In association with
Museum of Zoology
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK

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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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

The President's Award

**SHNH announces a new open award
to recognize initiatives that promote greater inclusivity and diversity
into the study and research of the history of natural history**

**The winner will receive the President's Medal and £100
to be presented at the Society's AGM in June 2021**



Left:

SHNH President Professor
Peter Davis

Below:

The medal for the President's Award
will be gold in colour. It is being
made by the jewellers Fattorini, who
also created our Founders' Medal
and Thackray Medal.



Peter chose an ammonite as an image for the medal because of his fascination in fossils, particularly ammonites, which began in his teens. He used to hitchhike on weekends from his home town in Lancashire to Whitby, collecting fossils from the beach during the day and spending cold nights sleeping in bus shelters. He sent ammonite specimens to the Natural History Museum, London for identification, accompanied by very naive questions, and was inspired to learn more about curatorship and taxonomy by the very supportive letters he received in response.

Now, being based part of the time in Devon, visits to the Jurassic Coast enable Peter's ammonite collecting activities to continue. Ammonites are very collectible, beautiful, varied and sculptural objects; the gold colour of the medal reflects the fact they are frequently pyritised. Ammonites also remind us of one of the great heroes in the history of palaeontology, Mary Anning, and the medal is, in a small way, a tribute to her too.

1. President's Message



As I write this I have been listening to the conversation between our Patron, Sir David Attenborough, and the Duke of Cambridge; their work together on the Earthshot Prize is a real beacon of hope, seeking new ideas to sustain nature, climate, air quality, oceans and water resources. Three days ago Sir David answered questions about nature from Prince William's children, and thrilled Prince George by presenting him with a fossil shark tooth from his personal collection.

While the Earthshot Prize demonstrates that we must utilise international efforts to meet global environmental challenges, the personal approach to children indicates just how important it is to encourage an interest in nature in young people. Although we are not, strictly speaking, a conservation organisation I am sure that all members share the conservation ethic and applaud both initiatives by our Patron. Prince George's delight in his fossil is great to see, a reminder to us that the Society's interest in specimens, collections, books and archives is well placed; our museums, archives and libraries have the ability to excite and engender a love of nature and a concern for the environment across society.

The Council of the Society continues to discuss our strategic options and consider ways to creating and sustaining a real community for the membership. However, it is evident that the pandemic will continue for some time, so frustrating our plans to be able to hold a conference where we can meet together and support that community. As a consequence we are looking at the potential for an online Conference in 2021, continuing the theme of 'Pioneering Naturalists'. Meanwhile we will continue to do all we can to engage the membership through our social media channels – our website, Facebook, Twitter and Jiscmail. Our Membership Survey – many thanks to all of you who responded to this – has indicated that there is strong support for more online presentations, so we will be developing proposals for webinars; please ensure you monitor the Society's website and social media for announcements about these.

Elle Larsson, our member of Council who co-ordinated the Membership survey, will present a detailed analysis to Council in January 2021. We will give further details of the results in the next Newsletter. Our thanks go to Elle for her work on this, which will provide valuable information as we move our strategic options forward.

My thanks to all of you who attended our successful AGM held in June via Zoom, when we welcomed several overseas members. We were able to warmly thank our outgoing Secretary, Geoff Hancock, who did a marvellous job during his tenure, and to welcome Ann Sylph, Librarian at the Zoological Society of London, who has taken his place. We recorded our thanks too to Arthur MacGregor, who has retired as an Associate Editor of *Archives of Natural History*.

Many of you will know that our Editor, Herman Reichenbach, has recently retired and we thank him for all his enthusiasm and commitment in that role. Until we appoint a new Editor our journal is in the safe hands of our talented

Associate Editors (Charles Nelson, Isabelle Charmantier, and Elaine Shaughnessy) supported by the Advisory Board. We are delighted to also now welcome Ingvar Svanberg to the editorial team. Ingvar is an ethnobiologist, ethnographer, Turkologist and senior researcher at the Institute of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden. We continue to work very closely with Edinburgh University Press and had a very successful virtual Editorial Board Meeting with the team there in October.

Ray Williams has retired as the Small Research Fund Co-ordinator and we thank him for all his support of this project and his many contributions to Council. Ray remains on our Editorial Advisory Board. We are also delighted to congratulate Ray for being awarded a DSc by Brunel University London for his lifetime's work on publications in experimental marine zoology and historiography of the biosciences.

We send our congratulations to Amelia Urry, winner of the 2020 Stearn Essay Award, for her essay 'Hearsay, Gossip, Misapprehension: Alfred Newton's secondhand histories of extinction'.

I am pleased to let you know that all our awards are open again following a full consultation process co-ordinated by our Councillor, Helen Cowie. Through Helen's work we have brought all our guidance notes, criteria and processes up to date and we owe her a considerable debt. As a reminder, our awards include the Founders' Medal (entries by 15 March); The Stearn Award 2021 (entries by 31 July 2021 and the Thackray Award (entries by 31 July 2021). I encourage you all to read the details of the awards on the Society's website and consider making nominations for them.

As part of the awards review, we

recognised that we needed to celebrate achievements other than purely academic ones. As a result, I am delighted to announce that Council has launched a new Award – currently termed 'The President's Award' – which we will open for nominations shortly, and present for the first time at our AGM in June 2021. A new medal is being designed for us by the jewellers Fattorini, who created our Founders' and Thackray medals.

The President's Award will recognise an individual or team's contribution to promoting, facilitating and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of natural history. The award is specifically geared to facilitators – curators, librarians and archivists – those people 'in the background' without whose energy, dedication and help research into the history of natural history would be impossible. More details are given below - please put forward names for Council to consider!

Peter Davis
SHNH President

2. From the Editor

Welcome to the SHNH *Newsletter* and I send warm greetings to you all. We love to hear news of your activities, both actual and virtual, so do keep your updates coming.

We have all been really busy with Society initiatives and keep in touch in all sorts of ways: Zoom, Facetime, What's App and the 'phone, as well as regular email. Here we all are at a Zoom Council Meeting in September (over).

Communication with some of you has been difficult because of work situations and furloughs so please do reach out to us if you are missing copies of *Archives of Natural History* or the *Newsletter* or need some help renewing your membership.

3. SHNH President's Award

A new open award to recognize initiatives that promote greater inclusivity and diversity into the study and research of the history of natural history

During this last year, the Society's Council has been reaching important decisions about our strategic options; as part of this review, we have taken a new look at the Awards we currently offer, led by our Council member Helen Cowie. At present our two main awards (The Founders' Medal and the Thackray Medal) celebrate and recognize academic achievement, and we have agreed new Guidelines and Criteria for these awards which are now available on our website.

However, Council felt that we should also begin to acknowledge initiatives that promote a more inclusive and diverse study community within the history of natural history. Such initiatives would include:

- Exhibitions (both physical and digital)
- Collections research that, for example, addresses diversity or colonialism
- Projects that demonstrate leadership and the development of new inclusive policies
- Events or meetings that break new ground
- The creation of online resources
- Blogs that inform and challenge us



Such an award opens up the potential to appreciate and reward early career scholars, and to recognize the important roles played by those curators, archivists and librarians who enable our research. The end result of these discussions was an agreement to launch a new award, the President's Award, full details of which are now available on the website shnh.org.uk/awards.

Nominations are now open. The Winner will receive the President's Medal, together with £100, to be presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June 2021.

The President's Award is open to all and both SHNH members and non-members can be nominated; winners are chosen by a panel chaired by the President of the Society. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary (secretary@shnh.org.uk) and will close on Monday 15th March 2021.

Nominations must include your name as nominator and your contact details, and the nominee's name and contact details. A supporting statement (up to 1,500 words) is required that describes the work undertaken, provides evidence of its impact and why the nominee should win the award. Please include any relevant weblinks. Testimonials that provide supporting evidence of the impact of any initiative can be emailed to the secretary but are not obligatory.

Ann Sylph and Elle Larsson have greatly improved our online and social media presence and we would be delighted if you would like to join in. Check out the News section on page 15 about our email discussion list and our revitalized 'blog' section of the website. If you have written an article(s) for *Archives of Natural History*, please see page 10 to see how you could help us and Edinburgh University Press promote your articles further by writing a blog about the topic.

Do also check out our Twitter feed which now has over 3,600 followers and has lots of news and items of interest. We are regularly promoting articles published in *Archives of Natural History* to tie in with events of interest. Please let us know of any planned activities – or tag us at @SHNHSocNatHist.



Gina Douglas, Elaine Shaughnessy, Peter Davis, Geraldine Reid
 Malgosia Nowak-Kemp, Maggie Reilly, Ann Sylph, Bill Noblett
 Elle Larsson, Jack Ashby, Felicity Roberts, Helen Cowie
 Stanislav Strekopytov, Jo Hatton and Miranda Lowe.

In January, Council will be discussing our 2021 AGM, which we are again expecting to be virtual. The 2020 AGM online was a wonderful opportunity for our worldwide community to all be present so we will hope to see as many of you as possible next year.

For the next *Newsletter*, copy date February 2021, it would be lovely if you could forward news of any events or publications that we can share with everyone, and particularly if you are speaking. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed material for this *Newsletter*. 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 out this issue while we are under lockdown in the UK.

Take care of yourselves and keep in touch with us and each other. Wishing you a peaceful start for the New Year and good things to come in 2021.

Elaine
 Elaine Shaughnessy

Society News & Announcements



Introducing Ann Sylph, our new Secretary

I am Librarian at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) with responsibility for both library and archives, managing the collections and staff as well having a strategic overview.

I became Secretary of SHNH in June and been a member of Council for only a year, although I have been a member of SHNH for several years, the roles of Secretary and a member of Council both seem very new to me. It is an exciting time for SHNH as we move forward developing and implementing our new strategy. As part of my roles within SHNH, I am one of the Council members looking after our twitter account, @SHNHSocNatHist, our following is growing and we have over 3,500 followers. I also administer the JISCmail discussion list hist-nat-hist. If you are not using the hist-nat-hist discussion list you can sign-up at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hist-nat-hist>

I have a BSc in Ecology (one of my lecturers was SHNH Member – Pat Morris), an MSc in Information Science and I am a Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (MCLIP). I have worked in a variety of libraries and in providing information services.

My role at ZSL allows me to combine my interests in wildlife conservation and information management. The ZSL collections support ZSL's purpose to inform, inspire and empower people to stop wild animals going extinct. I am keen to ensure that the ZSL can offer its collections as an academic resource and

for public engagement. I often make use of other of libraries and archives for research, this gives me a 'user' perspective which hopefully helps me in improving services offered by ZSL Library and Archives.

My 'history' interests are the contribution of women to the development of zoology, marine zoology and scientific illustration. I blog at:

<https://www.zsl.org/blogs/artefact-of-the-month> & tweets @ZSLLibrary and @ZooLibrariAnn.

In my 'spare' time I am a volunteer citizen scientist with Citizen Crane, monitoring riverflies in my local river, I garden for wildlife and try to go walking whenever I can. During lockdown I have been using my garden as my 'outdoor office' and like many people I have become rather obsessed with the wildlife visiting my garden!



5. Ray B. Williams

Many congratulations to Ray for recently being awarded a DSc from Brunel University London for his amateur research in marine zoology and historiography of the biosciences.

Ray began his academic career at Cambridge University, reading natural sciences, and obtained his PhD on the chemotherapy of avian coccidiosis from Brunel in 1972. His professional career has focussed on the discovery and

development of drugs and vaccines to control coccidiosis and malaria, with several leadership positions in the pharmaceutical industry until becoming an independent consultant in 2002. In 2008 Ray was awarded an ScD from Cambridge University for his professional publications on veterinary parasitology, and in 2009 was elected by the American Association of Avian Pathologists to the Hiram Lasher History Lectureship, delivered in Seattle, USA. He has long utilised his vast knowledge and experience in parasitology for *pro bono* university teaching and post-graduate student mentoring at the Royal Veterinary College, and in universities in Sweden, Norway, and China.

Ray's fundamental private research from the early 1970s on the starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis* led to its inclusion on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and chapters in the Red Data Books for the IUCN in 1983 and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 1991 (both of which he wrote), thereby influencing the UK Biodiversity National Action Plan. He played a crucial role in raising the profile of *Nematostella vectensis*, ensuring its conservation status in the UK. In sea anemones generally, he also discovered the true function of a previously unrecognized organ of aggression, sparking a worldwide surge of research on anthozoan aggression. In recognition of these achievements, he was honoured in 2016 by the world's leading expert on sea anemones (Prof. Daphne G. Fautin) who named a new genus of sea anemones (*Williamsactis*) after him.

Ray is also an internationally recognized authority on the history of research in marine zoology and parasitic protozoans, including the lives of the naturalist Philip Henry Gosse (1810–1888), the marine ecologist Thomas

Alan Stephenson (1898–1961) and the pathologist Ernest Edward Tyzzer (1875–1965); but his major project embraces the publishing history of the classic natural-history monographs produced by the publisher John Van Voorst (1804–1898).

Ray's careful and scientific approach to the history of publishing has led to important corrections to publication dates of names of new taxa subject to the Laws of Priority and Homonymy, underpinning the original objectives of the SHNH. His holistic work also led to new discoveries in Victorian letterpress and lithographic printing, as well as the historical and scientific contexts in which early naturalists conducted their research and wrote publications. Ray has become a recognized historiographer with extensive knowledge of lithographic printing and was invited to edit the 8th edition of the classic reference work *ABC for Book Collectors*, first published in 1952, the text of which had become corrupted (in a scholarly sense) by errors that had accumulated between editions.

In 2009, Ray was awarded the SHNH Founders' Medal. His sustained historiographical contributions to our newsletters are also celebrated in the book *History & Mystery*, the anthology published to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. A member of the Royal Society of Biology since 1971 and a fellow since 1996, Ray has also been an FLS since 1974 and in 2014 was awarded fellowship of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, following its grant of a Royal Charter. Ray has authored over 300 publications and serves on the editorial advisory boards for *Archives of natural history* and *Zoological bibliography*.

We send Ray our warmest congratulations and also thank him for his continuing valuable contributions to the SHNH.

6. Stearn Student Essay Prize 2020

The 2020 SHNH's Stearn Student Essay prize has been awarded to Amelia Urry, for her essay 'Hearsay, Gossip, Misapprehension: Alfred Newton's secondhand histories of extinction'.



Beginning in the 1850s, Cambridge ornithologist Alfred Newton set out to preserve accounts of the great auk and the British great bustard, two birds that had become increasingly rare in the preceding decades. Instead of recording direct observations of these now-extinct species, however, Newton's field notebooks are filled with transcribed witness statements, secondhand accounts, newspaper clippings, gossip, rumour, even folklore, collected by Newton meticulously over decades.

The central absence outlined by these uncertain accounts increasingly became the subject of Newton's investigation into human-caused extinction, even as his efforts to construct definitive accounts were undermined by the doubt, contradiction, and uncertainty that would come to characterize extinction studies to the present.

Amelia is a PhD student (History and Philosophy of Science) at the University of Cambridge, where she studies the 'deep uncertainty' of Antarctic climate science. As a writer, she has explored themes of extinction and apocalypse, moving across histories of science and literature.

Of winning the award, Amelia says "It is an honour and a pleasure to receive the William T. Stearn Prize, and a great encouragement to my own fascination with the scientific difficulty of 'proving' environmental change. Though he published little in his life-

time, Newton's meticulous research sheds light on the socially mediated nature of extinction studies, and the troubling and persistent role of uncertainty therein."

We send our very best congratulations to Amelia.

7. SHNH Awards & Medals open for nominations

SHNH President's Award

A new open award to recognize initiatives that promote greater inclusivity and diversity in the study and research of the history of natural history. Please see page 3 for more information. Nominations are due 15 March 2021.

SHNH Founders' Medal

The Founders' Medal is awarded to persons who have made a substantial contribution to the study of the history or bibliography of natural history. Please see page 39 for more information. Nominations are due 15 March 2021.

SHNH Thackray Medal

The Thackray Medal is awarded for the best book published on the history or bibliography of natural history in the preceding two years. Please see page 41 for more information. Nominations are due 31 July 2021.

8. SHNH Stearn Student Essay Prize open for applications

The prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the history of natural history. The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students in full- or part-time education. Please see page 43 for more information. Nominations are due 31 July 2021.

9. SHNH Small Research Fund

The purpose of SHNH Small Research Fund is to provide financial support to members of the SHNH in all fields covered by the society's charitable purpose in carrying out research to benefit the scholarly community. Please see page 45 for more information.

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 late, 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. News from our Representatives

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

Christa Riedl-Dorn (Central Europe)

Christa, as an associated scientist at the Natural History Museum Vienna, works in the Museum two to three times a week. Due to the Covid situation many events and exhibitions had to be postponed or cancelled outright but there are currently two photography exhibits at the Museum. One, entitled "Wild" shows the work of the wildlife photographer Michael Nichols and the second, "Löss (loess) A Woman in the Landscape" by Elisabeth von Samsonow, exhibits more of an art installation. Interesting exhibits outside of Vienna are: Donau – Menschen, Schätze, Kulturen (Danube – Men, Treasures and Cultures) at the Schallaburg. The exhibition deals with the cultural history of the Danube region and features natural history specimens on loan from the Natural History Museum Vienna.

The Inatura in Dornbirn has an exhibition about human-animal relations "Weiß der Geier! Was die Tiere uns bedeuten".

The Haus der Natur in Salzburg has a special exhibit about historical teaching boards "Masterpieces of natural history. Historical teaching boards around 1900".

The Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin has an exhibition about Parasites "Parasites – Life Undercover".

Christa officially retired from the museum in February this year. Christa's new email is christa_dorn@yahoo.de

Carlo Violani (Italy)

Because of Covid restrictions, museums and libraries continue to be closed in Italy, so researching activities are almost impossible. Carlo has been working on relabelling of specimens at home.

Leslie Overstreet (North America)

Leslie continues to work from home full-time and expects this to continue for several more months. The Smithsonian is being very cautious and has just entered Phase 2 of the re-opening plan. The Libraries are scheduled to be part of Phase 3, and everybody is hoping to be back at work in January, although there is a speculation that it will more likely be March. There's a limit to the work that can be done without access to the collections, and many of the Libraries staff have been working on digital projects. Leslie has been keeping busy with reviewing the seven Special Collections, writing reports, attending Zoom meetings and lectures, researching and writing up books for acquisition, and peer-reviewing articles for publication. She has been working Henrietta McBurney on Henrietta's forthcoming publication on Catesby and making some progress on her own Catesby research.

Margarita Hernández Laille (Spain)



During March and April, the Spanish National Museum of Natural Sciences (MCN) was closed due to the pandemic but it has been opened to the public since June. The exhibition on Darwin, which Margarita curated, was visited by many people and various articles were written about it – some of them featured in *Naturalmente* 27.

12. Archives of Natural History

Welcome to new Associate Editor Ingvar Svanberg



Ingvar is an ethnobiologist, ethnographer, Turkologist and senior researcher at the Institute of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden.

His scholarly interests cover a wide range and issues, including cultural perceptions and cognition of the natural world in history and today, cultural zoology, ethnobiology, human relationship with animals and plants, environmental history, food culture, foraging societies, Linnaeus and his pupils, and zoological gardens.

Ingvar has written numerous books in English and Swedish, and published on a wide range of topics in journals as *Anthropos*, *Archives of natural history*, *Central Asiatic Journal*, *Ethnobiology Letters*, *Ethnologia Scandinavica*, *Folk Life: Journal of Ethnological Studies*, *Fróðskaparrit: Annales Societatis Scientiarum Færoensis*, *Journal de la Société Finno-Ougrienne*, *Journal of ethnic foods*, *Journal of ethnobiology*, *Journal of ethnobiology and ethnomedicine* and *Journal of Northern Studies*.

13. Promoting Archives of Natural History

At the recent Editorial Board Meeting with our publishers EUP, we discussed how we could further promote *Archives of Natural History* to a wider readership. Due to the ongoing pandemic situation traditional channels of attending meetings and book fairs has ceased so we are working to find new ways to share information on the journal and its articles.

We are delighted to report that digital downloads of articles on the EUP website have shown a healthy increase as have the digital downloads of our freely-available themed virtual issues available at: <https://www.euppublishing.com/anh/virtualissues>

EUP and our own SHNH Communications Team have significantly increased their attention to promoting articles in the journals very regularly on our websites and social media channels, particularly Twitter @SHNHSocNat and @EdinburghUP.

Members are working on some ideas for some new themed virtual issues, we find that they have been very successful in bringing new readers to the journal, which is such good news.

We would like to encourage our authors to write a blog relating to their papers, which can be profiled on both the SHNH and EUP websites and then also shared on other social media channels. EUP have a very healthy following of 11,000, are very keen to use this way of widening knowledge about your articles. If you think you would like to write one for EUP / SHNH, have a look at our new blog guidelines at: <https://shnh.org.uk/a-blog-about-blogging/> which also has the SHNH contact address.

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 or also if you would like to suggest writing a review. The good news is that our book reviews, which are freely available online, have increased in digital downloads this year and are very popular.

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 are being reviewed for the Spring 2021 issue of *Archives of Natural History* 48 (1). Reviews received for the Autumn 2021 issue of ANH will be announced in the next *Newsletter*.

AELIANUS, Claudius. *Vom Wesen der Tiere – De natura animalium* [On the nature of animals - De natura animalium], *Libri I – VIII*, translated by Paul-Gerhard Veh, edited and commented by Philipp Stahlhut. Anton Hiersemann Verlag, Stuttgart: 2020. 283 pp. Price €174.00. ISBN: 978-3777219042.

AILLANOS. *Tierleben* [Animal Life], translated and edited by Kai Brodersen, Walter de Gruyter Verlag, Berlin: 2018. 846pp. Price £72.50. ISBN: 978-3110609325.

CHICO, Tita. *The experimental imagination: Literary knowledge and science in the British Enlightenment*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California: 2018. 242 pp. Price US\$60.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-1503605442.

- COULTON, Richard & JARVIS, Charles E. (eds.) *Remembering James Petiver*. Royal Society Publishing, special issue of *Notes and records*: 2020, 74 (2): 183–333, illustrated. Price £15.00. ISSN: 0035-9149.
- FERRÃO, Cristina and MONTEIRO SOARES, José Paulo (Editors). *Natterer - on the Austrian Expedition to Brazil (1817–1835)*. Kapa Editorial/Editora Index, Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis, São Paulo: 2019. 299 pp.; illustrations. Price €49.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-6581403010.
- FRANCIS, Sally and RAMADI, Maria. *Crocologia: A detailed study of saffron, the king of the plants*. Brill, Leiden: 2020. 363pp. Price €165.00 ISBN: 978-9004423534.
- HAIKAL, Mustafa. *Master Pongo: A gorilla captures Europe*. Penn State University Press: 2020. 160 pp.; 78 b&w illustrations. Price \$29.95 (hardback). ISBN: 978-0271082165.
- HEARD, Stephen B. *Charles Darwin's barnacle and David Bowie's spider: how scientific names celebrate adventurers, heroes, and even a few scoundrels*. Yale University Press: 2020. 256 pp.; 25 b/w illustrations. Price £20.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-0300238280.
- KIRCHBERGER, Ulrike and BENNETT, Brett M. (eds.). *Environments of Empire: networks and agents of environmental change*. (Flows Exchanges Migrations series), University of North Carolina Press: 2020. 278pp. Price \$90 (hardback). ISBN: 978-146965592.
- LEDERER Roger J. *Birds: Ornithology and the great bird artists*. Andre Deutch Ltd.: 2019. 224pp. colour & b/w illustrations. Price £29.99 (hardback). ISBN 978-0233006079.
- LÜTTGER Felix. *Auf den Spuren des Wals – Geographien des Lebens im 19. Jahrhundert*. Wallstein, Göttingen: 2020. 279 pp.; 40 illustrations. Price €28.00 (hardback). ISBN 978-3835336803.
- MASON, Ian J. & PFITZNER Gilbert H. *Passions in ornithology: A century of Australian egg collectors*. Ian J. Mason, privately published: 2020. 572 pp., illustrations: colour & b/w photos. CD-ROM included. Price £125.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-0646820798.
- MUSGRAVE Toby. *The multifarious Mr. Banks, from Botany Bay to Kew, the natural historian who shaped the world*. Yale University Press: 2020. 386 pp.; 48 colour illustrations. Price \$50.00. ISBN 978-0300223835.
- Janice NERI, Tara NUMMEDAL & John V. CAHOUN. *John Abbott and William Swainson: Art science and commerce in nineteenth century natural history illustration*. University of Alabama Press: 2019. 256pp. Illustrated. Price £55. ISBN 978-0817320133.
- PARRY, James & GREENWOOD, Jeremy. *Emma Turner: A life looking at birds*. Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society: 2020. 88pp.; illustrations. Price £8.00 (paperback). ISBN: 938-1916253711.
- PEARSON, David. *Provenance research in book history: A handbook*. Oak Knoll Press and The Bodleian Library: 2019. 448pp. Price £66.00 (hardback). ISBN: 9781584563648.
- RIEDL-DORN, Christa. *Botânica Imperial no Brasil/Imperial botany in Brazil*. Kapa Editorial/Editora Index, Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis, São Paulo: 2019. 320 pp.; illustrations. Price EUR 39.00 (hardback). ISBN 9786581403027.
- RIEDL-DORN, Christa. *Ein uomo universale des 19. Jahrhunderts und sein wissenschaftliches Netzwerk – Stephan Ladislaus Endlicher und seine Korrespondenz mit Wissenschaftlern seiner Zeit*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen: 2019. Schriften des Archivs der Universität Wien, Band [Volume] 26. 1,116 pp.; 54 illustrations. Price €110.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-3847109181.

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



Figure 1. The Aviary at the Zoological Gardens, Regents Park. George Scharf (1836). Reproduced by permission of Zoological Society London.

Volume 48, Part 1, April 2021

The following papers and short notes have been accepted for publication in *Archives of Natural History* 48 (1) due to be published in April 2021.

E. LARSSON: ‘On deposit’: animal acquisition at the Zoological Society of London [Patron’s Review].

S. STREKOPYTOV: Naturalists and bug-killers: introduction of corrosive sublimate as an insecticide in the eighteenth century.

G. L. MILLER: The rain calls of frogs and the reigning paradigm of American herpetology.

J. ANTONOVICS, M. GIBBY & M. E. HOOD: John Leigh, Lydia Becker and their shared botanical interests.

S. DUCHEYNE: Geneva, natural history and the art of observing.

A. DATTA: The courtship dance of a captive Lesser Bird of Paradise in Macau, figured in Gray’s *Illustrations of Indian zoology* (1830–1835).

J. PODANI, L. RÓZSA & A. SZILÁGYI:

Annual plants, pigeons and flies: first signs of quantitative ecological thinking in Linnaeus’s works.

L. TAI: The Shanghai Museum and the introduction of taxidermy and habitat dioramas into China, 1874–1952.

G. S. T. GARBINO, C. C. DE AQUINO & R. BELTRÃO-MENDES: Marcgrave’s red-tailed monkey: the world’s oldest depiction of a titi monkey.

P. G. MOORE & R. B. WILLIAMS: Charles Livesey Walton (1881–1953): from marine to veterinary to agricultural zoology.

M. A. SIDOR & P. B. LOGAN: Audubon’s overlooked “Great Work”: The Ornithological Biography.

Short Notes

P. G. MOORE: Clarifying the biographical etymologies of *Bathyporeia guillemsoniana* and *Hyale perieri* (Crustacea: Amphipoda).

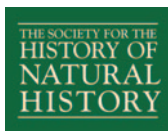
J. JANSEN: Hermann Schlegel’s first attempt to catalogue the Aves collection (1847) from the former collection of the Rijksmuseum of Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

P. H. OSWALD: Three century-old tourist souvenirs from the Zambezi river.



“Small Paradise Bird. *Paradisaea minor*. Drawn from a living specimen in the Aviary of Mr Beale at Canton. Drawn & lith. by Waterhouse Hawkins. Printed by Engelmann & Co.” Gray (1832), *Illustrations of Indian zoology*, Volume 1, plate 27. © The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.

Society Events News



16. Pioneer Naturalists Champions of Conservation and Environmental Engagement # SHNH2021

This meeting, exploring 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 will now take place in spring / summer next year as a virtual conference using the virtual conferencing platform Zoom.

We hope to host a range of speakers and discussions exploring a variety of topics related to the theme and will update members on the SHNH website (<https://shnh.org.uk/>) and on our social media platforms Facebook and Twitter (@SHNHSocNatHist) once details are confirmed.

A Good Read

17. Charlie Jarvis talks about the special issue of *Notes & Records* (2020) on James Petiver

'Remembering James Petiver', a Special Issue organized and edited by Richard Coulton and Charles E. Jarvis. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society journal of the history of science* (2020) 74 (2): 183–333. Available at: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsnr/2020/74/2>

The London apothecary and avid acquirer of natural history objects, James Petiver (c.1663–1718), rose from a

modest background to become an active Fellow of the Royal Society and friend of more wealthy collectors such as Hans Sloane. While Petiver has sometimes been portrayed as a poorly educated, indiscriminate collector whose thousands of specimens were kept in a highly disorganised manner ('in true English fashion in prodigious confusion in one wretched cabinet and in boxes' according to one German visitor), there have recently been signs of the beginnings of a reappraisal of Petiver's life and work. To mark the 300th anniversary of his death in April 2018, a conference was organized by Richard Coulton, hosted by the Linnean Society of London, to take this reassessment further. Featuring speakers from a wide range of disciplines, their contributions now feature in a Special Issue of *Notes and Records*.

In his introductory essay, Richard Coulton presents a considerable amount of new research to complement Petiver's known biography as well as bringing a broader historical context to an assessment of his significance. He notes Petiver's enthusiastic acquisition and study of botanical and entomological material, his propensity for list-making, his friendships with John Ray and Hans Sloane and his maintenance of a correspondence with naturalists and physicians from around the known world. Hundreds of species new to western eyes were described and illustrated (however briefly) in the publications he prepared. Coulton concludes that Petiver was exceptional as a naturalist, networker and archivist, indicating 'an individual remarkable both in his own time and our own'.

In 'James Petiver's apothecary practice and the consumption of American drugs in Early Modern London', Katrina Maydom provides the first analysis of Petiver's career as an apothecary and makes use of his extensive and largely

unexplored prescription records, medical recipes and administrative papers. These provide a detailed insight into his prescribing practices for patients in both his private practice and at the Charterhouse school and hospital, and his use of novel drugs from the New World.

The interaction between Petiver's commercial activities and those of a collector of specimens is explored by Alice Marples in 'James Petiver's 'joynt-stock': middling agency in urban collecting networks'. In it, she argues that Petiver's commercial skills and his 'middling' social position were fundamental to his ability to acquire specimens and maintain beneficial contacts with people of a similar social standing. In this, he supplied skills that proved mutually beneficial to the development of the natural historical interests he shared with his elite friend Hans Sloane.

In the context of Petiver's Atlantic network, Kathleen Murphy develops a theme from her earlier research in this area to analyze the relationships between commerce, colonialism and collecting in "Kind Friends' and 'Curious Persons". Petiver's reliance on collectors (half of whom were surgeons, physicians or apothecaries) who were



A page from Petiver's herbarium (Sloane Herbarium, HS 156, f. 185) bearing five South African *Gladiolus* (s.l.) specimens from different collectors (Henry Oldenland, James Cuninghame, Frederik Ruysch, and John Starrenburgh with William Dampier).
© Natural History Museum, London.

involved in the institutions and infrastructures of global maritime labour and all that it entailed, including the slave trade, is analysed forensically.

The last two research papers focus on Petiver as a scientist and collector of natural history specimens, both of which reproduce images of specimens and relevant printed text. Dick Vane-Wright presents a careful analysis of Petiver's *Papilionum Britanniae* (1717), the first comprehensive account of British butterflies. Although appreciated by lepidopterists for his coining of memorable colloquial names (Brimstone, White Admiral, Painted Lady and Brown hairstreak remain familiar) Vane-Wright argues that Petiver was also 'an original, perceptive and truly systematic entomologist', describing in his *Papilionum Britanniae* some 80 'sorts' which, despite complications resulting from polymorphism, correlate closely with the 49 species generally recognised today.

James Petiver's extensive plant collections are the subject of the final paper by Charles Jarvis who explores



English specimen of a female Brimstone butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) in Petiver's collection (volume 1, f. 9), pressed between mica sheets.

© Natural History Museum, London.

the scale and wide geographical range of the material that now fills around a third of the volumes in Hans Sloane's herbarium at the Natural History Museum in London. The number of Petiver's collections is newly estimated as *ca.* 21,000 and Petiver's method of arranging his specimens within the volumes is compared with that of his contemporaries, Leonard Plukenet and Hans Sloane. The close surviving links between Petiver's published descriptions and illustrations, correspondence and specimens constitutes a rich archive for the study of Early Modern botanical collecting.

The editors of the volume have also added a chronology of the life of James Petiver together with a concise bibliography of his published works.

News & Information

18. Collaborate and network with our Hist-Nat-Hist email discussion list

Do you have a query and need some help? Are you organising a conference and putting out a call for papers? Have you been involved in digitising a resource? Then this is the ideal occasion to email our online discussion list HIST-NAT-HIST. The list enables collaboration between our members. With 320 current subscribers this a unique network of our members, their knowledge and expertise.

Recent posts on the list include a call for papers for a meeting on William Blake and Nature; a reference request about Heinrich Gustave Reichenbach; information about manuscripts on medieval botany.

If you have not already joined the list, it is very easy to sign-up. We would like to encourage more members to join

and use the email discussion list, please do sign-up if you have not done so already.

To join simply go to <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hist-nat-hist> then click on subscribe on the left hand side of the page. You then enter your name, email address and click on subscribe. That's it, you are signed up.

From the same page <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hist-nat-hist> you can see the archive of previous emails giving you a flavour of past discussions.

To send an email to the list and everyone on it, simply email Hist-Nat-Hist@JISCmail.ac.uk. There could be a delay before the email appears as some go directly to me to approve rather than straight to everyone on the list, so don't worry if your email does not appear immediately.

Please note – when replying to emails posted on the discussion list, your reply is sent to all of the list subscribers. If you want to reply the enquirer only, take care to use their email address rather than simply hit 'reply'.

Hopefully by using the list, members can all collaborate and network more particularly on current circumstances when we are not able to meet in person.

Ann Sylph
SHNH Secretary

19. Write a blog for SHNH

The SHNH blog is a great way to feature stories and articles of interest to our members. Ann Sylph has written some guidelines for the website to give some ideas which can be found at: <https://shnh.org.uk/a-blog-about-blogging/>.

One of our members, Roger Wotton has written in to say that he posts articles on his blogsite that may be of interest and hopes it will encourage you to

join in also. He has shared this story “Charles Kingsley and Henry Gosse go dredging in Torbay” at <https://rwotton.blogspot.com/2018/02/charles-kingsley-and-henry-gosse-go.html>.

Our most recent blog is “The 1905 ascent of Mount Tahan (Malaysia) and fate of the bird collection” by John-James Wilson, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, World Museum, National Museums Liverpool. John-James explores whether the Federated Malay States Museums expedition of 1905 was the first to reach the summit of Mount Tahan, the highest peak in Peninsular Malaysia and what happened to the expeditions’ bird collection? See: <https://shnh.org.uk/the-1905-ascent-of-mount-tahan-malasia-and-fate-of-the-bird-collection/>

Do think about contributing and forward any items of interest to Elaine Shaughnessy at: webmaster@shnh.org.uk.



Plate by George Edward Lodge showing two of seven new species described by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. From the *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums* Volume 3: plate 3. 1908. Public Domain.

20. Hunt Botanical Library Pittsburgh, PA

In the 1960s–1970s there were a number of large-scale bibliographic projects going on. Some, like the *B-P-H: Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum* serials bibliography, were realized as they were originally envisioned (B-P-H was published and was also later converted into

a database) – others were not brought to publication. However, we have the files from these projects, and now some of them are being realized in different ways.

We are announcing a database of the floristic literature information that was collected in the course of our “Bibliographica Huntiana” project. This data was assembled over years by many Institute staff, and, over the last few years, our bibliographer Don Brown has been pulling from that assemblage of electronic and paper files to make this searchable database, and he will continue to add more data as time goes on.

Please take a look and keep this database in mind when researching 1730–1840 floras. See: <https://www.huntbotanical.org/databases/show.php?13>

Charlotte Tancin

21. Wallace Correspondence Project

Congratulations to the Wallace Correspondence Project team who have reached an important milestone in finishing transcribing all of A. R. Wallace’s surviving correspondence. This consists of 5,680 letters (of which 2749 are from Wallace, 2153 to Wallace and 778 are third party letters).

This huge task began in 2010 and was made possible largely thanks to the hard work of c.170 volunteers who have generously contributed countless hours of their time.

For more information please see: <http://wallaceletters.info/content/r-wallace-correspondence-project-reaches-important-milestone>.

Please also have a look at this link for an update about the project’s work more generally: <http://wallaceletters.info/content/homepage>

22. Butterflies from Ceylon, and other naturalia, in an Irish family library

Coole Park, the home of the Gregory family in the south-west of County Galway, was renowned especially in literary circles. In its hinterland are the limestone hills of



The Burren and numerous turloughs ("vanishing lakes") and, as William Butler Yeats, a frequent visitor, wrote "Upon the brimming water among the stones / Are nine-and-fifty swans." The fame of this house largely rests on its last resident, Isabella Augusta Persse (1852–1932), Lady Gregory, who had married the one-time Governor of Ceylon, Sir William Gregory (1816–1892) in 1880. Lady Gregory was one of the principal figures in the Irish Literary Revival at the turn of the nineteenth century, and Coole Park was the meeting place of numerous significant writers including Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Seán O'Casey, John Millington Synge and George Russell ("Æ") – all famously carved their initials in the bark of a mature copper beech tree – the "Autograph Tree" – that still thrives in the walled garden. All that remains of the late eighteenth-century house, an austere three-storey block, are its foundations and a low plinth because the dilapidated building was "regrettably", "wantonly" demolished in 1941–1942.

The Gregory family sold the house and estate to the Irish State in 1927 but Lady Gregory was allowed to continue to live there. From the autumn of 1927

the management of the estate was overseen by the Forest Service; it now forms the core of the Coole–Garryland Nature Reserve. Augusta Gregory died at Coole Park on 22 May 1932. The contents of the house were auctioned off three months later. Described as "really glorious, walled with precious books in calf and vellum", the Gregory library was gradually dispersed after 1927 – Lady Gregory sold some of the books in 1927 through Sotheby & Co. and some more books were sold locally in 1932 (C. Smythe, 1973. *The private library* 6 (3): 74–82) but a substantial number of books remained together until auctioned in London by Sotheby & Co. on 20 and 21 March 1972. The sale was briefly recorded by John Collins in "Notes from the salerooms", *Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History* 6 (3): 224 (erroneously, the house was there stated to be in County "West Meath" (*sic*)). The entire sale fetched £37,536 (Smythe 1973: 75).

Augusta Gregory was a veritable bibliophile as well as becoming an author, poet and playwright – before her marriage to Sir William she had been thought a "shy bookish mouse". Seán O'Casey was to state that "Books and trees were Lady Gregory's chief charms: the one nearest her mind, the other nearest her heart." She regretted that one day she would have "to leave all these volumes among which I have lived [at Coole Park]. They have felt the pressure of my fingers. They have been my friends" (Smythe 1973: 82). She was also a keen planter and gardener, as her diaries record (*Irish forestry* 68: 55–73. 2011; *The Irish garden* 27 (7): 52–55).

I recently was given a copy of Sotheby & Co's catalogue of the 1972 sale, and it makes fascinating reading. The shame is that, like the house wantonly destroyed, this family library has been "scattered to the four winds"

(É. de Burca, 2018, *Catalogue* 135: 103) and finding any of its former natural history volumes is likely to be a well-nigh impossible task although very occasionally a book appears on “anti-quarian booksellers’” websites. Probably the chief “loss” is the collection of original watercolours of Sri Lankan (Ceylonese) butterflies mentioned by John Collins. It was lot 307:

MOORE (F.) THE LEPIDOPTERA OF CEYLON, 3 vol., coloured plates, red morocco gilt, g. e. 4to 1880–87.

** With 294 sheets of watercolour drawings bound in 3 vol., red half morocco, the first with an inscription by Sir William Gregory: ‘These drawings were made by a native artist of Ceylon for me under the instructions of Dr. [G. H. K.] Thwaites, at a cost of £106. They were lent by me to Mr F[rederic]. Moore who was employed by the Government of Ceylon to have them reproduced & illustrated with letter press. The work was completed in 3 vols in 1887 under the title of “The lepidoptera of Ceylon”. W. H. Gregory’. Fourteen further sheets of drawings by another hand are loosely inserted. Volume I of the published work is inscribed ‘Presented to Sir W. Gregory by the Colony of Ceylon. 1889’ in Sir William’s hand.

The entry is somewhat ambiguous. Were there three volumes of the printed monograph, *plus* three further volumes of original watercolours, all bound in red half morocco? Collins noted the lot was purchased by Charles Traylen for £480, but what happened to the volumes subsequently? In a letter to Sir Joseph Hooker, dated 24 November 1881 (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Sir William Gregory’s bookplate (for the Coole Park copy of Virgil’s Opera (1793), by courtesy of Trillium Antiquarian Books, Peterborough, ON, Canada).



Director’s Correspondence 163/127), William Gregory, highly critical of Moore’s text for *The Lepidoptera of Ceylon* – the English being “sad to read” – informed Hooker that the paintings were by the de Alwis brothers and that the originals belonged to him (see Rohan Pethiyagoda, 1999, The family de Alwis Seneviratne of Sri Lanka: pioneers in biological illustration. *Journal of South Asian natural history* 4: 99–109; —, 2007, *Pearls, spices and green gold. An illustrated history of biodiversity exploration in Sri Lanka*. Colombo). A set of 71 of George de Alwis’s duplicate watercolours reside in the Entomology Library, Natural History Museum, London.

Coole Park library was presumably initiated by Robert Gregory (c.1729–1810), a director of the East India Company and Member of Parliament, who started to build the house in 1770. He is known to have subscribed to William Smith’s publications, and lots 421 and 422 comprised, respectively, Smith’s *Delineation of the strata of England and Wales* (15 sheets, 1815) and *A memoir to the map and delineations of the strata* (1815), these bound in one volume, with Smith’s *History of the county of Warwick* (1829) (see J. Phillips, 1844, *Memoirs of William Smith ...*: p. 38; S. Winchester, 2001, *The map that*

changed the world ...: p. 161): at the auction lot 421 fetched £1,200, one of four that exceeded £1,000. A copy of Smith's *Observations on ... water meadows ...* (1806) was also in Coole library (lot 228)

Among the natural history and gardening works auctioned were William Curtis, *Flora Londinensis* (lot 107, sold for £900), Erasmus Darwin, *Phytologia* (lot 112), William Forsyth, *A treatise on the culture and management of fruit-trees* (lot 147), John Gould's *The birds of Great Britain* (lot 16: this realised £3,200, the highest sum attained), Moses Harris, *L'Aurelien* (lot 188), *Pomona Londinensis* of William Hooker (lot 206) and *Pomona Herefordiensis* by Thomas Knight (lot 239). Other naturalists represented were Charles Lyell (*Elements of geology*: lot 270), the Irish horticulturist, John White (*An essay on the indigenous grasses of Ireland*: part of lot 290), Thomas Medwin (*The angler in Wales*: lot 294), James Parkinson (*Organic remains of a former world*: lot 340), Thomas Pennant (*British zoology*, a "very uncommon" copy with coloured plates: lot 345; £650) and Theophrastus who was represented by the 1644 Amsterdam edition of *De historia plantarum* (lot 446).

Particular note was made by Sotheby's cataloguer of two books from the royal library at Carlton House – Sir George Staunton's *An authentic account of an embassy ... to the Emperor of China* (lot 429) and Robert Potter's translation of the Tragedies of Aeschylus (Norwich, 1777) (lot 5, with the arms of George, Prince of Wales).

One well-remembered book in the Coole Park library was John Evelyn's *Silva, or a discourse of forest-trees*. On 13 June 1928, a wet day, Lady Gregory recorded that Daniel Gaynor, "a young Forester", visited: "I gave him Evelyn's *Silva* to look at, and after a while went into the Library and had a long talk

with him" (quoted in N. O'Carroll (ed.), 2011, "Cultivation of trees at Coole Park ...", *Irish forestry* 68: 55–73). On 1 May 1929, the O'Beirne family visited Coole Park, and Michael O'Beirne who was the District Inspector in the Forest Service "was much delighted, looking through Evelyn's *Silva*, spent time after tea devouring it." Lady Gregory herself quoted the passage about Ulysses from Evelyn's "To the Reader" (A. Pilz, 2019, *Irish forestry* 76: 84–91). The Gregory copy of *Silva* (A. Hunter (ed.), York, 1786: lot 138) bound in russia gilt, had all but two of the 42 plates hand-coloured and was purchased by Quaritch for £70.

"Scattered to the four winds", or to quote Yeats again, somewhat out of context, "They came like swallows, and like swallows went ...": – but can any be traced? Particularly, where are the three red-bound volumes containing William de Alwis's butterflies? Two decades ago, Dr Rohan Pethiyagoda lamented: "As luck would have it, William [Alwis]'s priceless originals remained in Sri Lanka and were lost." In fact, they were not "lost" but had been brought to Coole Park. Now they are "lost" again, gone "like swallows", "scattered to the four winds".

E. Charles Nelson

23. Survival in quarantine William Swainson and the 1813 bubonic plague in Malta

"There is nothing new under the sun" and "History repeats itself" are trite sayings that may nevertheless stimulate the pursual of historical lines of enquiry suggested by current events. One striking example is the necessary isolation of households to combat the present (2020) *Coronavirus* pandemic, which triggered my memory of an autobio-

graphical account of the zoologist and artist William Swainson (1789–1855) in *Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia* (1840 volume on *Taxidermy, Bibliography, and Biography*).

Much is known of Swainson's life; the entries for him in the *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century British Scientists* (volume 4, 2004) and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (online edition, 2006) together provide a fairly comprehensive summary of published and unpublished sources. However, as he suggested in his self-penned notes:

Autobiography, in its very nature, cannot be otherwise than egotistical; and yet, it is perhaps the most authentic of all records; for, as history is based upon facts, who so likely to give these correctly, as the individual to whom they relate?

It is curious, therefore, that one particularly momentous event that he recorded is omitted from more recent accounts, namely, his perilous sojourn in Malta during the 1813 outbreak of bubonic plague, soon after his arrival as the youngest Assistant Commissary-General of the British army in the Mediterranean. Although at that time the cause of plague was not known, the general belief (though not that of everybody) was that it is a contagious disease (Robert Calvert, 1815: *An Account of the Origin and Progress of the Plague in the Island of Malta, in the Year 1813*). Hence, the similarities of the actions of government officials and of Swainson's circumstances to our own experiences of worldwide quarantine due to the current *Coronavirus* pandemic are quite remarkable:

I had scarcely returned to Malta [in August 1812], before the plague broke out in the capital. The quarter in which I resided, was one of the

most infected; the street was barricaded, and for near two months I was a complete prisoner. Provisions were brought in by the authorities, and received into the house by an opening cut through the door ... It was no uncommon spectacle, upon rising in the morning, to see half a dozen dead bodies laid on the pavement, on both sides of my own house, ready to be removed. I know not how it was, but I felt more dismay on the first death by this scourge, than by the subsequent horrors of such fearful sights.

During the present pandemic, we have been advised that three major factors are important in maintaining an individual's physical and mental health in quarantine: 1) fairly vigorous exercise, 2) purposeful mental stimulation, and 3) a determination to allay frustration, anxiety and loneliness. Nothing new under the sun, indeed, because more than 200 years ago, Swainson had apparently come to much the same conclusions, and, moreover, took appropriate action:

Confined to the house, with only one domestic, I substituted, for my usual daily exercise of walking and riding, that of carrying some loose stones left in the yard by the masons, from thence to the top of the house, and then down again. I thought seriously; placed my trust in that Providence which had hitherto preserved me; and felt not only resigned, but perfectly tranquil, to whatever might happen. This imprisonment enabled me to finish many of my Sicilian and Grecian sketches, and arrange the plants and animals [accumulated during his service in Sicily between 1807 and 1812]. In short, I was almost sorry, on my own account, when our street was released

from quarantine, and I had again resumed my official duties.

In such terrifying, oppressive conditions, it would have taken great mental fortitude not to have been overcome by despondency and, furthermore, a lively intelligence to devise such ingenious ways of avoiding it. In fact, despite his self-confessed “peculiarly nervous temperament” as a school-boy, when a young man of 23 years Swainson exhibited determination and strength of character that have not previously been recognized by his biographers (S. Natusch and G. Swainson, 1987: *William Swainson of Fern Grove*), who emphasized rather his later melancholia, which is now well known to be often intermittent.

R. B. Williams

24. “The snakes are still alive ...” William Bullock’s museum exhibited in Ireland, 1815

In his biography of William Bullock, “connoisseur and virtuoso” (Bristol, 2008; see review in *Archives of natural history* 36: 174–175), the late Professor Michael Costeloe detailed many of Bullock’s exploits and the convoluted history of Bullock’s variously named Cabinet of Curiosities or his Liverpool/London Museum. Costeloe did work primarily in the pre-internet world, so it is entirely excusable that this “newer version of Sherlock Holmes” (to quote Anne Staples’s obituary, *Bulletin of Spanish studies* 89 (6), 2012) missed a few interesting snippets that I here bring to light (see also Susan Pearce, 2007. William Bullock: collections and exhibitions at the Egyptian Hall, London, 1816–1825. *Journal of the history of collections* 20: 17–35).

Many items in Bullock’s most famous exhibition at the Egyptian Hall, 22

Piccadilly, London, were withdrawn from display there in 1815 (Pearce 2007). This coincided with a travelling (“portable”) exhibit that Bullock toured to several other cities. The first of the 1815 series, which was to include Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester, was Dublin. According to Dublin newspapers, Bullock arrived in the city in April. His collection was displayed in The Rotunda situated at the northern end of the city’s principal thoroughfare then called Sackville Street (formally renamed O’Connell Street in 1924). The Rotunda (completed 1767), adjacent to the famous Lying-In Hospital (opened in 1757), is one of a complex of buildings that included the so-called Rotunda Rooms (completed in 1791), a noted venue for exhibitions, balls and meetings.

On Saturday, 15 April 1815, in the *Dublin evening post*, there was an advertisement headed “*London Museum*”:

The Inhabitants of Dublin and Its Vicinity are respectfully informed that the portable and / most interesting part of Mr. BULLOCK’S MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY from the / *Egyptian Hall* in *Piccadilly London*, will open for public inspection, in the LONG ROOM, / ROTUNDA, on MONDAY next.

Claiming that the museum had never been exhibited outside London before (see later), although it had been shown in Sheffield early in 1799 and then moved to Birmingham and Liverpool during 1800–1801, the advertisement proceeded to summarize what Dubliners would be able to view: “upwards of FIFTEEN THOUSAND of the most remarkable Subjects of ANIMATED NATURE, displayed in the most beautiful and novel manner, so as to convey an idea of their habits and mode of life”.



Among the quadrupeds were “several from New Holland, not yet noticed by Authors”. The birds “of nearly every known genus” varied in size from an ostrich to “the almost insect Humming Bird (of which there are about 80 distinct species in this Collection) ...”. The “CLASS of AMPHIBIA” included a boa constrictor “32 feet in length, and 31 inches in circumference ... preserved in the act of destroying a Deer ...”. There were fishes and insects, “MARINE PRODUCTIONS”, and fossils. Also to be displayed was a selection of “the most interesting Articles brought from the South Seas” by Captain James Cook, including “the superb Feather, Cloak [sic] and Helmet, presented by the King of Owyhee to ... our unfortunate Circumnavigator ...”. Carved ivory by Messrs Stepheney and Dretch of Lausanne was also advertised, as were unspecified rice-paste models.

A descriptive catalogue (2 shillings a copy), and an “enlarged Edition ... with numerous Engravings, by Hewitt” [sic] – actually Samuel Howitt (1756/7–1823) – was also on sale at 15 shillings or 25 shilling (£1. 5s. 0d.) with coloured plates. The description suggest that this was the expanded 1812 (“twelfth edition”) printing of *A companion to Mr. Bullock’s London Museum and Pantherion* ... which contained engravings signed “Howitt” that were coloured. (No Dublin printing of the *Companion* is recorded: see Costeloe 2008: 232.) The museum was open from 10.00 am until

dusk and admittance was 2s. 1d. per person. What was effectively a “season ticket” – “for the time it remains open in Dublin” – could be had for 16 shillings (in modern terms, a single ticket cost the equivalent of about £7.75p, and the season ticket almost £60), prices far beyond the scope of most Dubliners of the day. The season ticket cost was lowered to 10 shilling by the end of April.

The display opened as advertised: “The opening ... was attended with the success that was to be expected from its celebrity”, reported *Saunder’s news-letter* (19 April 1815), which continued: “...the extensive apartment was crowded with the first persons in Dublin.” At the start of June, it was announced that the “London Museum, in the Rotunda, will close in a few Days. preparatory to it being removed to England” (*Saunder’s news-letter* 9 June 1815). However, in what evidently was an attempt to attract more visitors, a perennial preoccupation, Bullock announced: “☞ Just arrived from England five SNAKES alive, perfectly harmless” (*Dublin Evening Post* 24 June 1815). Of course, as every Irish child knows, there are no snakes in Ireland because St Patrick had sent them packing! Bullock wasn’t perturbed: on Thursday 13 July 1815 the *Dublin Evening Post* contained an amended advertisement: “☞ The five SNAKES, lately received from England, are still to be viewed in the Museum; they are perfectly harmless.” By the end of July, while again reassuring Dubliners that “The SNAKES are alive, and perfectly harmless”, and repeating the notice of its coming closure, Bullock reduced the admission to 1s. 8d., “In order that all Ranks may be gratified with a sight of this splendid Collection” (*Dublin Evening Press* 29 July 1815). The display continued into August with the *Dublin*

Evening Post on 12 August 1815 “sorry to find that Mr Bullock’s Museum is on the point of returning to London. We had still hoped that this respectable Establishment would have remained an ornament of our City; but, we understand, it returns to England next week.” Saunder’s new-letter of 17 August 1815 announced a further reduction in the admission charge to 1 shilling for the remaining few days. Bullock’s London Museum’s run at the Rotunda in Dublin ended on Saturday 19 August. No more bulletins about the provocative snakes were issued.

Bullock’s claim in advertisements that the museum had never been exhibited outside London was false, as evidenced by numerous newspaper reports and his own advertisements, many containing the same erroneous claim. For example, as noted by Costeloe (p. 34–39), Bullock’s museum was opened at 14 Prince’s Street, Edinburgh in mid-April 1807, before moving to Hull, Leeds and then Bath, ending up in London by the autumn of 1809. Leaving the main exhibits at 22 Piccadilly, Bullock again began travelling with a “portable” selection, mainly of duplicates “prepared for the purpose”, at the end of 1813 (Costeloe pp 84–86). In December 1813, the museum was displayed at the Concert Hall, Bigg Market, Newcastle Upon Tyne. On Monday 7 February 1814, the *Caledonian Mercury* reported that Bullock’s museum “is arrived at Leith, from Sunderland, whither [Mr Bullock] was obliged to convey it from Newcastle by land, the direct communication from that place being shut up by frost.” This coincides with the last occasion when prolonged severe frosts caused rivers especially in the east of Great Britain to freeze over. A Frost Fair was held on the frozen Thames: “The River Thames all yesterday was a perfect *Dutch fair*. Kitchen fires and furnaces

were blazing and boiling in every direction, and animals, from a sheep to a rabbit, and a goose to a lark, were turning on numberless spits” (*The Scots magazine* 1 February 1814). The rivers Wear and Tyne were also ice-bound that year. At Newcastle Upon Tyne for “several days, the ice was covered with crowds of people, and the scenes exhibited resembled a country fair or race-ground. Booths were erected for the sale of liquors, and fires were kindled.” After arriving at Leith, the museum was “opened for public inspection in CORRI’s LARGE ROOM ...”: Corri’s Rooms was a concert hall on Broughton Street in Edinburgh. The display was moved to 40 Prince’s Street on 7 April following a “Promenade and Ball” with, “For One Night Only”, illumination of the “CABINET OF RARITIES”. The following year, as has just been described, Bullock’s “portable” display went to Dublin. After closing there on 19 August, the specimens were re-packed and returned to England. Although still claiming it had not been exhibited outside London, Bullock’s “unrivalled Museum” was opened “for a few days only” at Lillyman’s Assembly-rooms in Castle Street, Liverpool, on Friday, 15 September 1815 – the Liverpool stage of this tour closed on Saturday, 30 September. From Liverpool the museum moved to Manchester’s Exchange Room and, finally, to the Music Hall in Albion Street, Leeds (Costeloe, pp 85–86).

In summary, between December 1813 and November 1815, Bullock’s London Museum travelled to Newcastle Upon Tyne, Edinburgh, Dublin, Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds. How many specimens made up this “portable and most interesting” exhibition is unclear, but it must have included some of the larger items such as the boa constrictor killing a deer (as it was described in the advertisements). The logistics of

packing and then transporting multifarious, often delicate as well as bulky specimens from London to such cities as Edinburgh and Dublin must have been immense, no matter the mode of transport. In the case of Dublin, Bullock had no alternative but to take passage on ships but he presumably had learned much during whatever sea-passages had been undertaken the previous year, and, as Costeloe speculated, it is possible that he made use, in Britain at least, of the network of canals and rivers to move the specimens by barges.

E. Charles Nelson

24. Captain Thomas Blomefield (1744–1822) and his natural history collecting



Annotated cabinet labels in William Hunter's collection at the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.

J. C. Fabricius visited many European museums but claimed his work was particularly enriched by access to the homes of collectors in England “Anglorum ditissima D. Banks, Hunter, Drury, Yeats, Blomfield Londini, Lee, Hammersmith, Blackburn Oxfordiae” (*Species Insectorum*, etc., 1781, p. v).

In William Hunter's collection (Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow) are pre-printed cabinet labels “Hab. in Canada” with a handwritten “Blomf.”, “Blomefield” or just “Bl.” One species was named by Fabricius *Papilio blomfildia* (now *Smyrna blomfildia* (Fabr.,

1781), found in south and central America). Initially, this collector could not be identified but following an earlier note (Notes & Queries No 61, *SHNH Newsletter* 114, July 2018) and notwithstanding the variability in spelling, Denis Robillard suggested Colonel Thomas Blomefield.

Blomefield's biographical details are given by H. M. Chichester (1886, Blomefield, Thomas, *Dictionary of National Biography* 5: 228–229). These are repeated with little embellishment in modern sources; none mention an interest in natural history. His military career spanned the Seven Years War and the American War of Independence. From 1762 to 1770, stationed primarily in Canada, New York and Jamaica, he was in the same regiment as Thomas Davies (1737–1812). This provides a connection with natural history as outlined in *SHNH Newsletter* No. 117 (Notes & Queries, 35. Thomas Davies and his insects with specific reference to Nils (Nicholas) Samuel Swederus) and suggests that Blomefield's inclination to the subject may have been a product of interactions with Davies and other military personnel with similar interests.

In 1776, Blomefield was part of General Burgoyne's army, initially based in Canada, and was badly injured at the battle of Bemis Heights where Burgoyne surrendered. On parole as part of the Saratoga Convention, the defeated British army spent time in Massachusetts and then in Virginia. Blomefield returned to England in 1779. During this period there would have been opportunities to pursue natural history. Some clues exist such as a letter dated 13 January 1779 concerning seeds from New York sent by Edward Williams and Captain Blomefield, personally delivered by the latter (Wardhaugh, B. 2017. *Charles Hutton* (1737–1823, p. 9). Also, Ann Blomefield

(1751–1833), sister of Thomas, had a collection, referred to frequently by John Latham in his *General Synopsis* and *General History of Birds*. It was possibly a joint endeavour and her brother's insects and other specimens part of it; localities in relation to the Atlantic seaboard, particularly Cayenne, are common to the birds and insects.

It is unknown where in London Fabricius actually examined Blomefield insects. Formal descriptions published in 1781 would have been drafted during his previous year's visit to London. There were three butterflies *Papilio blomfieldia*, *P. thisbe*, *P. aegon* and three two-winged flies *Musca pennipes*, *M. picta* and *Stratiomys pallipes* of which no type specimens are extant. Apparently, this leaves the Hunterian with the only material evidence of Blomefield's entomological activities. As with several other specimens in the Glasgow cabinet, localised but un-named at least by Fabricius, they may have been part of two bequests from which he chose specimens for inclusion in Hunter's drawers. These were John Fothergill's (d.1780), and T. P. Yeats's (d.1782). It seems Fabricius had no time to critically examine them and they remained unidentified although placed within the drawers in their relevant taxonomic position.

The connection with Yeats is particularly strong as he bequeathed his shell collection jointly to Ann Blomefield [sic] and Ann Lee, daughter of John Lee of Hammersmith, with whom he was well-acquainted and referred to as "my two good friends" (quoted in Hancock, E. G. 2019. Chapter 16 in Milosch & Pearce, *Collecting and provenance, a multidisciplinary approach*). Indeed, the collections of Ann Blomefield and Ann Lee may have had equal value to their respective parent but appear to get less historical attention. It is even possible that some specimens credited to their

fathers were actually from their cabinets.

Fabricius ceased to access Hunter's museum after the latter died in 1783, possibly believing no new specimens had been acquired. If so, he had forgotten that Yeatsian and other specimens remained unidentified. Several of these were new to science, unrecognised until described from other source material by taxonomists well into the next century. G. A. Olivier did visit, courtesy of Hunter's inheritor, Matthew Baillie, and found several new beetles. One was Canadian (Olivier, G. A., 1795, *Entomologie, etc.*, *Coléoptères* 4: 30) and became the type of the Elm Borer, *Saperda tridentata*. Olivier credited the Hunter cabinet and its Canadian origin but not Blomefield by name.

In summary, Thomas Blomefield contributed exotic insects for seven new species from the eighteenth century but the type specimen of only one survives. Ann Blomefield's birds described by Latham do not appear to have received any historical investigation.

E. Geoffrey Hancock,

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Denis Robillard,

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G. A. Olivier's handwritten label denotes his new species of *Saperda* (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae).

26. Alan Insole (1895–1964) Collecting in Japan, South Africa, and Kenya



Alan Insole, collecting samples in St James, South Africa. Courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London.

Alan Vyvyan Insole (1895–1964) was the last of six children born to Jessy Ann Insole neé David and George Frederick (Fred) Insole. Fred's grandfather had founded the firm of G. Insole and Son which owned Cymmer Colliery in the Rhondda Valley, as a result of which the family became very wealthy. In later life, Fred inherited his father's mansion Ely Court, in Llandaff (now known as Insole Court) where the family had moved to in 1907/8.

Alan showed an early interest in both the natural sciences and art and whilst at Harrow School he won prizes in both subjects. He went up to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1913 but World War I intervened. Whilst serving in the Royal Artillery, he was wounded and invalided out of the army. He moved to London and, once he was well enough, he studied art at the Slade School of Fine Art. Here he met South African artist Jan Juta (1895–1990). In 1920, he and Jan went to Italy to continue their studies and met with and befriended D. H. Lawrence, with whom they corresponded for some time.

However, Alan became disillusioned when he realised that he was not talented enough to become a famous artist.

He then embarked on a tour of the Far East, which included an extended stay in Japan. Here he indulged another interest, collecting specimens, which he subsequently donated to the Natural History Museum (NHM) in London.

Research on the NHM website reveals that there are specimens collected by Alan from: Misaki, Japan (1921); Malaya (1921); South Africa (1921/1922); Uruguay (1923); and Kenya (1927)¹.

A week or so prior to his departure to the Far East, Alan wrote to Alfred Barton Rendle (1865–1938), Keeper of Botany at the Natural History Museum, stating his intention to visit Japan and his wish “to collect for the Museum whatever I am able in the hopes of finding something useful and to learn to collect scientifically and usefully”.²

Rendle obtained an introduction to a Dr Ito of Tokyo University. Through this contact Alan was directed to the Misaki Marine Biological Station just south of Yokohama, where he obtained over 300 specimens from the biologically diverse waters of Sagami Bay. These fall into the following broad classes (number of samples in brackets): Annelids (11); Bryozoa (24); Cnidaria (66); Crustacea (28); Echinodermata (26); Hemichordates (1); Mollusca (122); Parasitic worms (5); Phoronida (1); Pisces (10); Porifera (30); Protista (2); Reptilia (2); Sipuncula (1);



An example of one of A. V. Insole's Misaki samples, the Bryozoan *Adeonella*. Courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London.

and Urochordata (6). Alan Insole's Japanese collection resulted in his election as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. The article "Marine creatures from Japan" in *The Times* of 3 November 1921 states:

"An interesting series of marine invertebrates from Japan, presented by Mr. Alan V. Insole, contains a number of specimens of exceptional beauty and rarity. The gigantic proportions of some of the specimens make them a valuable addition to the museum, one of them being at least a couple of inches longer than any of which there was previously a record. They include also a *Pleurotomaria Beyrichi* which, though the commonest of its kind, is still rare enough for the whereabouts of every known shell to be recorded."

In 1921 Alan also visited Malaya where he collected two bird species, now held at the Natural History Museum at Tring: a large-tailed nightjar and a Malaysian eared nightjar.

Shortly after his Japanese trip, between December 1921 and February

1922, Alan stayed with Jan Juta in South Africa. Here he studied sea anemones from four locations near Cape Town: St James, Smitswinkel Bay, Sea Point, and Kommetjie.

Samples were taken to the laboratory of the St James Aquarium (the first marine biological station in South Africa) where they were painted, photographed and preserved. Alan produced a series of 20 annotated watercolour illustrations, photographs, and an accompanying twenty-nine page, hand-written, collection of notes.³ In 1937, Professor T. A. Stephenson (1898–1961) looked at Alan's illustrations, most of which he was able to identify as examples of four common species of anemones: the long-tentacled or crevice anemone, the sandy anemone, the false plum anemone and the knobbly anemone.

At this time, Alan and Jan planned a trip to Kenya and Tanganyika Territory and invited D. H. Lawrence to join them, but Lawrence had already decided to go to America and the trip did not go ahead.

On 1 January 1923, Alan married Denise du Cros. The honeymoon was to South America, where Alan hoped to obtain more specimens for the Natural History Museum. He did manage to collect a few samples in the Montevideo area of Uruguay, before Denise became ill and the honeymoon had to be cut short. The online NHM catalogue lists 17 species, all common reptiles or amphibians.

Alan's marriage to Denise ended in divorce in 1927 whereupon he planned an expedition to Mount Kenya to collect more specimens for the museum. He set off on 27 June from Southampton for Mombasa, accompanied by a 21-year-old assistant Leslie W. Ives. They arrived on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya in early August, staying at a lodge



Watercolour of a long-tentacled anemone, *Anthopleura michaelseni*, by A. V. Insole. Courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London.



The southern tree hyrax. Courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London.

loaned to them by the Kenyan Forestry Department. The lodge still exists and is now a hotel known as Castle Forest Lodge. It is in a remote location, about 5 km inside the Mount Kenya National Park.

The correspondence held at the NHM concerning this episode reveals that the expedition, which was initially planned to last a year, ended prematurely after three months when Alan ran out of money.⁴ His baggage, including ten cases of specimens, arrived back in UK on 4 January 1928. A few weeks later *The Times* reported that the museum had acquired specimens from Mount Kenya.⁵ Twenty-eight species from this expedition are listed in the museum's online catalogue: a terrestrial slug (*Anisotoxon deconincki* Van Goethem, 1975 marked as a Holotype), eight land snails, a nematode worm, two monkeys (including an embryo of one), two genets, two mongooses, leopard, dwarf deer, striped polecat, four types of rat, and a southern tree hyrax. It is evident from a list of samples included with one of Alan's letters, that many specimens have yet to be included in the NHM online catalogue.

Alan made no further contributions

to the NHM's collections, but his interest in natural history, particularly ornithology, lasted throughout his life. His second wife, Elizabeth Dawson neé Baker, recounts their travelling 2,000 miles to see a lyre bird (E. D. Insole, *Exile into Adventure*. Christopher Johnson, London, 1957).

Thanks to Mary Spencer Jones, Senior Curator, Bryozoa, Invertebrate Division, Life Sciences Department, Natural History Museum, London for showing me some of the Insole Collections. All photographs courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London.

Michael Statham

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- ² NHM, Archives, DF BOT/400/17/13, Correspondence I-J 1921.
- ³ "A. Insole's notes, photos & sketches of S. Afr. Sea anemones", NHM, Library.
- ³ NHM, Archives, DF ZOO/232/6/9/9/3. Insole, A. V. Mar–Oct 1927.
- ⁵ A Snow Leopard – Purchase by the Natural History Museum. *The Times*, 27 February 1928, p. 11. This is a general account of a huge range of new additions to the museum. Amongst many other things, it states "Purchases for the Department of Zoology include a collection of African Mammals from Mount Kenya; also a mounted specimen of an immature snow leopard from the north-west Himalayas."

Publisher's Announcements

27. *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from The Linnean Society of London*

Isabelle Charmantier & Leonie Berwick
Foreword by Sandra Knapp

Linnean Society of
London, 2020

124pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-

0993551017 (pb)

£12.00.



The Linnean Society has published its first 'book of treasures': *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from The Linnean Society of London* tells the tale of the world's oldest existing natural history society, founded in 1788 on the collections of the great Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus.

Spanning centuries, the Linnean Society's library holds almost 100,000 books, many influential and ground-breaking manuscripts, and over 46,000 specimens of plants, insects, shells and fishes, many of which hold the key to how species are named, even today.

From amongst the Society's rich collections, curators, researchers, archivists, librarians and Fellows have chosen their 50 favourite objects, stories and discoveries.

The book highlights well- and little-known treasures in the collections: objects such as the microscope that 'discovered' the cell nucleus, and Charles Darwin's vasculum (a simple but vital item that accompanied him on his *Beagle* voyage); specimens like the world's first spherical cultured pearls, the first scientific plant collections made in Nepal, and specimens that led to the first book on the flora of

Australia; and manuscripts and books belonging to Linnean Society Fellows, including, from 1905 onwards, some pioneering women.

The items tell the story of the study of natural history through the ages, and the intriguing story of the Society itself.

28. *Strata*

William Smith's Geological Maps

Oxford University Museum of Natural History (editor)

University of Chicago Press, 2020

256 pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-0226754888 (hb)

£52.00.

Lavishly illustrated with full-colour geological maps, tables of strata, geological cross-sections, photographs, and fossil illustrations from the archives of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the Geological Society, the London Natural History Museum, and others, *Strata* provides the first complete presentation of the revolutionary work of nineteenth-century geologist William Smith, the so-called father of English geology. It illustrates the story of his career, from apprentice to surveyor for hire and fossil collector, from his 1799 geological map of Bath and table of strata to his ground-breaking 1815 geological strata map, and from his imprisonment for debt to his detailed stratigraphical county maps.

Strata begins with an introduction by Douglas Palmer that places Smith's work in the context of earlier, concurrent, and subsequent ideas regarding the structure and natural processes of the earth, geographical mapping, and biostratigraphical theories. The book is then organized into four parts, each beginning with four sheets from Smith's hand-coloured, 1815 strata map, accompanied by related geological cross-sections and county maps, and

followed by fossil illustrations by Smith contemporary James Sowerby, all organized by strata. Essays between each section explore the aims of Smith's work and its application in the fields of mining, agriculture, cartography and hydrology. *Strata* concludes with reflections on Smith's later years as an itinerant geologist and surveyor, plagiarism by a rival, receipt of the first Wollaston Medal in recognition of his achievements, and the influence of his geological mapping and biostratigraphical theories on the sciences – all of which culminated in the establishment of the modern geological timescale. Featuring a foreword by Robert Macfarlane, *Strata* is a glorious testament to the lasting geological and illustrative genius of William Smith, a collection as colossal and awe-inspiring as the layers of the Earth themselves.

29. The Collectors Creating Hans Sloane's extraordinary herbarium

Mark A. Carine
Natural History
Museum, London,
2020
208pp., illus.
ISBN 978-
0565094881 (hb)
£25.00.



Sir Hans Sloane's herbarium, housed at the Natural History Museum in London, is probably the most extensive herbarium collection dating from the Early Modern period. Assembled between the 1680s and 1750s, it comprises 337 Horti Sicci and an estimated 120,000 pressed plant specimens. More than 300 people contributed to its development and over seventy countries and dependencies across the globe are represented in it.

The Sloane Herbarium exemplifies the rich history of exploration and discovery in the period preceding Cook's voyages. Its importance was fully recognised by Sloane's contemporaries and it remains of considerable scientific as well as historical value today.

Despite its name, the Sloane Herbarium was not the result of one person's collecting efforts. It is, in effect, a collection of collections. The contributors to what we refer to as the Sloane herbarium, include owners who accumulated large collections such as Courten and Petiver, that were acquired by Sloane. It also includes the collections assembled by botanists such as Plukenet, Buddle, Doody and Miller; the collections of gardeners, such as the Duchess of Beaufort and of sailors and those stationed overseas such as Samuel Browne, Edward Bulkley, James Cuninghame and Georg Kamel.

Other contributors to this book are: Esperanza Maribel Agoo, Richard Coulton, James Delbourgo, Stephen Harris, Robert Huxley, Neus Ibáñez, Charles E. Jarvis, Sebastian Kroupa, Sachiko Kusakawa, Domingo Madulid, Kathleen S. Murphy, Victoria Pickering, Laia Portet i Codina, Raneek Prakash, Chris D. Preston, Edwin Rose, Fred Rumsey, Sue Ryder, Adriano Soldano, Mark A. Spencer, Tod Stuessy, Jacek Wajer, and Anna Winterbottom.

30. The Flowering of Ecology Maria Sibylla Merian's Caterpillar Book

Kay Etheridge
Series: Emergence of Natural History,
Volume 3
Brill, publication date: 23 Dec 2020
386pp., illus.
ISBN: 978-9004284791 (hb)
£70.44, €75.00, US\$ 91.00.

The Flowering of Ecology presents an English translation of Maria Sibylla Merian's 1679 'caterpillar' book, *Der Raupen wunderbare Verwandlung und sonderbare Blumen-Nahrung*. Her processes in making the book and an analysis of its scientific content are presented in a historical context. Merian raised insects for five decades, recording the food plants, behaviour and ecology of roughly 300 species. Her most influential invention was an 'ecological' composition in which the metamorphic cycles of insects (usually moths and butterflies) were arrayed around plants that served as food for the caterpillars.

Kay Etheridge analyzes the 1679 caterpillar book from the viewpoint of a biologist, arguing that Merian's study of insect interactions with plants, the first of its kind, was a formative contribution to natural history.

31. Imperial Beast Fables Animals, Cosmopolitanism, and the British Empire

Kaori Nagai

Palgrave Macmillan, 2020
268 pp.
ISBN: 978-3030514921 (hb)
£69.99.

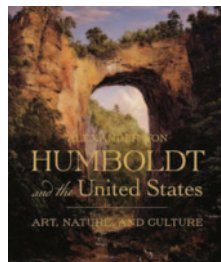
This book coins the term 'imperial beast fable' to explore modern forms of human-animal relationships and their origins in the British Empire. Taking as a starting point the long nineteenth-century fascination with non-European beast fables, it examines literary reworkings of these fables, such as Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books*, in relation to the global politics of race, language, and species. The imperial beast fable figures variably as a key site where the nature and origins of mankind are hotly debated; an emerging space of conservation in which humans enclose animals to

manage and control them; a cage in which an animal narrator talks to change its human jailors; and a vision of animal cosmopolitanism, in which a close kinship between humans and other animals is dreamt of. Written at the intersection of animal studies and postcolonial studies, this book proposes that the beast fable embodies the ideologies and values of the British Empire, while also covertly critiquing them. It therefore finds in the beast fable the possibility that the multitudinous animals it gives voice to might challenge the imperial networks which threaten their existence, both in the nineteenth century and today.

32. Alexander von Humboldt and the United States Art, Nature, and Culture

Eleanor Jones Harvey

Preface by
Hans-Dieter Sues
Princeton
University Press,
2020
448 pp., illus.
ISBN: 978-
0691200804 (hb)
£62.00, US\$75.00.



Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) was one of the most influential scientists and thinkers of his age. A Prussian-born geographer, naturalist, explorer, and illustrator, he was a prolific writer whose books graced the shelves of American artists, scientists, philosophers, and politicians. Humboldt visited the United States for six weeks in 1804, engaging in a lively exchange of ideas with such figures as Thomas Jefferson and the painter Charles Willson Peale. It was perhaps the most consequential visit by a European traveller in the young nation's history, one

that helped to shape an emerging American identity grounded in the natural world.

In this beautifully illustrated book, Eleanor Jones Harvey examines how Humboldt left a lasting impression on American visual arts, sciences, literature, and politics. She shows how he inspired a network of like-minded individuals who would go on to embrace the spirit of exploration, decry slavery, advocate for the welfare of Native Americans, and extol America's wilderness as a signature component of the nation's sense of self. Harvey traces how Humboldt's ideas influenced the transcendentalists and the landscape painters of the Hudson River School, and laid the foundations for the Smithsonian Institution, the Sierra Club, and the National Park Service.

Alexander von Humboldt and the United States looks at paintings, sculptures, maps, and artifacts, and features works by leading American artists such as Albert Bierstadt, George Catlin, Frederic Church, and Samuel F. B. Morse.

Published in association with the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC.

33. British Art and the East India Company

Geoff Quilley

Boydell and Brewer (2020)

376 pp.

ISBN: 978-1783275106 (hb)

£75.00.

This book examines the role of the East India Company in the production and development of British art during the 18th and early 19th centuries, when a new "school" of British art was in its formative stages with the foundation of exhibiting societies and the Royal Academy in 1768.

It focuses on the Company's patronage, promotion and uses of art, both in Britain and in India and the Far East, and how the Company and its trade with the East were represented visually, through maritime imagery, landscape, genre painting and print-making. It also considers how, for artists such as William Hodges and Arthur William Devis, the East India Company, and its provision of a wealthy market in British India, provided opportunities for career advancement, through alignment with Company commercial principles.

In this light, the book's main concern is to address the conflicted and ambiguous nature of art produced in the service of a corporation that was the "scandal of empire" for most of its existence, and how this has shaped and distorted our understanding of the history of British art in relation to the concomitant rise of Britain as a self-consciously commercial and maritime nation, whose prosperity relied upon global expansion, increasing colonialism and the development of mercantile organisations.

34. Planting the World Joseph Banks and his Collectors: An Adventurous History of Botany

Jordan Goodman

William Collins, 2020

560 pp., illus.

ISBN: 978-0007578832 (hb)

£25.00.

Botany was the darling and the powerhouse of the eighteenth century. As European ships ventured across the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans, discovery bloomed. Bounties of new plants were brought back, and their arrival meant much more than improved flowerbeds – it offered a new scientific frontier that would transform Europe's industry, medicine, eating and drinking

habits, and even fashion.

Joseph Banks was the dynamo for this momentous change. As botanist for James Cook's great voyage to the South Pacific on the Endeavour, Banks collected plants on a vast scale, armed with the vision – as a child of the Enlightenment – that to travel physically was to advance intellectually. His thinking was as intrepid as Cook's seafaring: he commissioned radically influential and physically daring expeditions such as those of Francis Masson to the Cape Colony, George Staunton to China, George Caley to Australia, William Bligh to Tahiti and Jamaica, among many others.

Jordan Goodman's epic history follows these high seas adventurers and their influence in Europe, as well as taking us back to the early years of Kew Gardens, which Banks developed devotedly across the course of his life, transforming it into one of the world's largest and most diverse botanical gardens.

In a rip-roaring global expedition, based on original sources in many languages, Goodman gives a momentous history of how the discoveries made by Banks and his collectors advanced scientific understanding around the world.

35. More Publications of Interest

Natural History of a Bronze Age jewel found in Crete The Malia Pendant



Nelson, E., Mavrofridis, G., & Anagnostopoulos, I. (2020) Natural history of a Bronze Age jewel found in Crete: the Malia Pendant. *The Antiquaries Journal*, 1–12.
doi:10.1017/S0003581520000475

The unique gold pendant found at Chrysolakkos, Malia, Crete, in 1930 has been variously interpreted, and usually is said to represent a pair of bees.

This vague interpretation is discussed, and it is pointed out that the three discs that are suspended from the pendant closely resemble the fruits of a native Cretan herb, *Tordylium apulum*. *Megascolia maculata*, a member of the order Hymenoptera, is proposed as the model for the insects.

Like a gold toggle pin, also from Chrysolakkos, the pendant demonstrates that Cretan goldsmiths were capable of creating aesthetically pleasing work by paying close attention to the local flora and fauna and used examples as the models for their unique jewellery.

John James Audubon, Portraitist

Peck, R. McCracken (2020) Audubon as a portraitist. *Art & Antiques Magazine* Autumn: 62–69.
<https://www.incollect.com/articles/john-james-audubon-portraitist>

Before John James Audubon (1785–1851) achieved international fame and financial success with the publication of his “double elephant folio” *The Birds of America* (1827–1837) and the smaller, but even more successful, octavo edition of that book a few years later, he struggled to make ends meet. He failed in several business ventures, and even spent a few weeks in debtors’ prison for his unpaid bills. During these lean years, he managed to generate a modest income by giving art lessons and mak-

ing pencil, charcoal, chalk and oil portraits. Human portraiture was never something he particularly enjoyed, but the surviving examples of his work suggest that it might have given him a very different artistic reputation had he chosen to make it the focus of his career.

New & Recent Publicationss

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.

Berta, A. & Turner, S. (2020) *Rebels, scholars, explorers: Women in vertebrate paleontology*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press. 344 pp. illus. ISBN 978-1421439709 (hb) \$49.95.

Burek, C. V. (2020) Female medal and fund recipients of the Geological Society of London: a historical perspective. In: Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B. (eds). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2019-190>

Burek, C. V. (2020) Margaret Chorley Crosfield, FGS: the very first female Fellow of the Geological Society. In: Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B., (eds). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2019-209>

Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B. (eds) (2020) *Celebrating 100 Years of Female Fellowship of the Geological Society: Discovering Forgotten Histories*. Geological Society Special Publication No. 506. Geological Society, London. <https://sp.lyellcollection.org/online-first/506>

Burke, P. (2020) *The Polymath: A cultural history from Leonardo da Vinci to Susan Sontag*. London : New Haven; Yale University Press. 352 pp. col. illus.

ISBN 978-0300250022 (hb). £20.

Burton, A. & Mawani, M. (eds) (2020) *Animalia: An anti-imperial bestiary for our times*. Durham: Duke University Press. ISBN: 978-1478010234 (hb). £82.

Carine, M.A. (2020) *The Collectors: Creating Hans Sloane's extraordinary herbarium*. London: Natural History Museum. 208 pp., col. illus. ISBN 978-0565094881 (hb). £25.

Chakrabarti, P. (2020) *Inscriptions of nature: Geology and the naturalization of antiquity*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press. 280 pp. illus. ISBN 978-1421438740 (hb). US\$54.95.

Charmantier, I. & Berwick, L. (2020) *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from The Linnean Society of London*. London: Linnean Society of London. 124pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0993551017 (pb). £12.00.

Coulton, R. (2020) 'What he hath gather'd together shall not be lost': remembering James Petiver. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* 74 (2): 189–211. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020.0012>

Coulton, R. & Jarvis, C. E. (eds.) (2020) Remembering James Petiver. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* 74 (2): 183–333. doi: [10.1098/rsnr.2020/74/2](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020/74/2)

Davis, L. S. (2019). *A Polar affair: Antarctica's forgotten hero and the secret love lives of penguins*. Pegasus Books, New York and London. IX, 358 pp., illustrated. ISBN: 978-1643131252 (hb). US\$29.95, GBP 19.99. [Biography of George Murray Levick (1876–1956), the 'father of penguin biology'.]

Dolan, J. R. (2020) Charles-Alexandre Lesueur in Philadelphia: His remarkable contributions to Natural History and Scientific illustration, *Arts et Sciences* 4, no. 3. doi: <https://doi.org/10.21494/ISTE.OP.2020.0550>

- Etheridge, K.** (2020) The flowering of ecology: Maria Sibylla Merian's caterpillar book. *Emergence of natural history*, vol. 3. Leiden : Brill. ISBN 978-9004284807 (e-book) 978-9004284791 (hb). €91.
- Etter, W. & Schmidt, O.** (2019) Gessner's fossil crab - An Icon for the early history of palaeontology, *Journal of the History of Collections*, fhaa003. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhaa003>
- Finnegan, R.** (2020) Richard Pococke's herbarium and manuscript index, *Journal of the History of Collections*, fhaa004. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhaa004>
- Fordham, D. et al.** (2020) Using paleo-archives to safeguard biodiversity under climate change. *Science* **369** (6507): eabc5654. doi: 10.1126/science.abc5654
- Goodman, J.** (2020) *Planting the World: Joseph Banks and his Collectors: An Adventurous History of Botany*. William Collins, 2020. 560 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0007578832 (hb). £25.00.
- Goodman, J. & Jarvis, C.** (2018) The John Bradby Blake drawings in the Natural History Museum, London: Joseph Banks puts them to work. *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* **34** (4): 251–275.
- Håkansson, H.** (2019) Museum Stobaeum: Baroque science at the margin of academia, *Journal of the History of Collections*, fhz032. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhz032>
- Hancock, E.G.** (2020). Thomas Pattinson Yeats (1746–1782), naturalist: connecting Margaret Bentinck, Duchess of Portland, and William Hunter. In: Milosch, J., & Pierce, N. (eds.). *Collecting and Provenance: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*. Washington DC: The Smithsonian, pp. 243–255.
- Hancock, E.G. & Ryder, S.** (2020) Silver and nickel pins in entomology: historical attempts at combating corrosion problems in insect collections. *Journal of Natural Science Collections* **7**: 44–48. <https://www.natsca.org/article/2580>
- Harrison, R. et al.** (2020) *Heritage futures: Comparative approaches to natural and cultural heritage practices*. London: UCL Press. ISBN: 978-1787356009 (Open access PDF) <https://www.ucl-press.co.uk/products/125034>
- Harvey, E. J.** (2020) *Alexander von Humboldt and the United States: Art, Nature, and Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 448 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0691200804 (hb). £62.00, US\$75.00.
- Hegarty, S.** (2020) Female students of geology in Victorian Dublin. In: Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B. (eds). *Celebrating 100 Years of Female Fellowship of the Geological Society: Discovering Forgotten Histories*. Geological Society Special Publication No. 506. Geological Society, London. 13 October 2020. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2019-222>
- Hedrick, B. P. et al.** (2020) Digitization and the Future of Natural History Collections, *BioScience* **70**, Issue 3, March 2020, pp. 243–251. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz163>
- Henriksen, M. M. A.** (2020) Rethinking performative methods in the history of science. *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* Special Issue: Rethinking Performative Methods in the History of Science, **43** (3): 313–322. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/bewi.202000017>
- Higgs, B. Matheson** (2020) Understanding the Earth: the contribution of Marie Tharp. In: Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B. (eds). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144>
- Hill, K.** (2020) *Museums, Modernity and Conflict: Museums and Collections in and of War since the Nineteenth Century*. Routledge Research in Museum Studies. Abingdon: Routledge. 304 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0367272500. £120.
- Hughey, J. R., Maggs, C. A., Mineur, F., Jarvis, C., Miller, K. A., Shabaka, S. H.**

- & Gabrielson, P. W.** (2019) Genetic analysis of the Linnaean *Ulva lactuca* (Ulvales, Chlorophyta) holotype and related type specimens reveals name misapplications, unexpected origins, and new synonymies. *Journal of Phycology* **55** (3): 503–508. doi: 10.1111/jpy.12860.
- Jarvis, C. E.** (2019) Georg Rumphius' *Herbarium Amboinense* (1741–1750) as a source of information on Indonesian plants for Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) – an Addendum. *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* **71** (2): 397–399.
- Jarvis, C. E.** (2020) James Petiver (c. 1663–1718): a concise bibliography. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* **74** (2): 329–333. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020.0013>
- Jarvis, C. E. & Coulton, R.** (2020) A chronology of the life of James Petiver (ca 1663–1718). *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* **74** (2): 183–187. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020.0010>
- Juniper, B. E. & Mabberley, D. J.** (2020) *La extraordinaria historia de la manzana*. Libros del Jata. 328pp., illus. ISBN: 978-8416443055. €28.50.
- King, R. K.** (2019). *Ahab's rolling sea: A natural history of Moby-Dick*. University of Chicago Press. 430 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0226514963 (hb). US\$30.00, £23.00.
- Kölbl-Ebert, M.** (2020) Ladies with hammers – exploring a social paradox in early nineteenth-century Britain. In: Burek, C.V. & Higgs, B. (eds.). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2019-193>
- Köhncke, M.** (2019). *Rattus, Mus und Pantholopus – ein Blick in die Geschichte der Zoologie von 1758 bis 1849. Dargestellt an den Autoren der Säugetiergattungen in Wort und Bild: 100 biografische Skizzen und 500 Gattungen*. Cuvillier, Göttingen. VIII, 342 pp.; illus. ISBN: 978-3736970908 (pb). €58.00.
- Lüttge, F.** (2020). *Auf den Spuren des Wals – Geographien des Lebens im 19. Jahrhundert*. Wallstein, Göttingen. 279 pp.; 40 illus.. ISBN: 978-3835336803 (hb). €28.00. [History of cetology in the nineteenth century.]
- Mariss, A.** (2019) *Johann Reinhold Forster and the Making of Natural History on Cook's Second Voyage, 1772–1775*. Lexington Books. 240pp. ISBN: 978-1498556149 (hb). £73.00.
- McAlister, E.** (2020) *The inside out of flies*. London: Natural History Museum. 288 pp. illus. ISBN 978-0565094898 (hb) £14.99.
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- Maydom, K. E.** (2020) James Petiver's apothecary practice and the consumption of American drugs in Early Modern London. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* **74** (2): 213–238. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2019.0015>
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- Mohnhaupt, J. W.** (2019). *The zookeepers' war: An incredible true story from the Cold War*. S. Frisch, translator. Simon & Schuster, New York. 272 pp.; illus.. ISBN: 978-1501188497 (hb). US\$26.00, GBP 18.99. [English translation of *Der Zoo der Anderen*, reviewed in the *Archives of Natural History* 45: 195–196 (2018)].
- Murphy, K. S.** (2020) James Petiver's 'Kind Friends' and 'Curious Persons' in the Atlantic world: commerce, colonialism and collecting. *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* 74 (2): 259–274. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2019.0011>
- Musgrave, T.** (2020) *The Multifarious Mr. Banks: From Botany Bay to Kew, The Natural Historian Who Shaped the World*. Yale University Press, 2020. 386pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0300223835 (hb). £25.00.
- Nagai, K.** (2020) *Imperial beast fables: Animals, cosmopolitanism, and the British Empire*. (Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature). Palgrave MacMillan. 252 pp. illus. ISBN 978-3030514921 (hb) £69.99.
- Nelson, E., Mavrofridis, G., & Anagnostopoulos, I.** (2020) Natural history of a Bronze Age jewel found in Crete: the Malia Pendant. *The Antiquaries Journal*, 1–12. doi:10.1017/S0003581520000475
- Orr, C. Campbell** (2019) *Mrs Delany: A life*. Yale University Press, 448pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0300161137 (hb). £30.00.
- Orr, M.** (2020) Collecting women in geology: opening the international case of a Scottish 'cabinetière', Eliza Gordon Cumming (c.1798–1842). In: Burek, C.V. & Higgs, B. (eds). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2019-205>
- Owen, J.** (2020) Alfred Russel Wallace's collecting journey in Dorey, New Guinea, *Journal of the History of Collections* 32, Issue 1, March 2020, pp. 129–142. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhy044>
- Oxford University Museum of Natural History** (ed.) (2020) *Strata: William Smith's Geological Maps*. University of Chicago Press. 256 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0226754888 (hb). £52.00
- Panciroli, E., Wyse Jackson, P. N. & Crowther, P. R.** (2020) Scientists, collectors and illustrators: the roles of women in the Palaeontographical Society. In: Burek, C. V. & Higgs, B. (eds). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP506-2020-98>
- Peck, R. McCracken** (2020) Audubon as a portraitist. *Art & Antiques Magazine* Autumn: 62–69.
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- Rønsted, N., Grace, O. M. & Carine, M. A.** (2020) Editorial: Integrative and translational uses of herbarium collections across time, space, and species. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 11: 1319. doi:10.3389/fpls.2020.01319
- Rose, E.** (2020) Publishing nature in the age of revolutions: Joseph Banks, Georg Forster, and the plants of the Pacific. *Historical journal*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0018246X20000011>
- Rose, L.** (2020) *Framing nature: Conservation and culture*. Hebden Bridge: Gritstone Publ. 256 pp. 13 linocuts ISBN 978-1913625009 (pb) £11.95.
- Shmuely, S.** (2020) Alfred Wallace's baby orangutan: game, pet, specimen. *Journal of the history of biology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10739-020-09611-8>
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vols., 332 pp., 161 plates. (No ISBN.) €599.00 (buckram). [Facsimile reprint in original folio size of the five volumes first published in Leiden by A. Arnz in instalments between 1833 and 1850: *Crustacea, Pisces, Reptilia, Aves* and *Mammalia*. Volumes available individually.]

Sorensen, W. C. (2019) *Charles Valentine Riley: Founder of Modern Entomology*. University of Alabama Press. 554 pp., illus. ISBN: 978-0817320096 (hb). £64.48

Speakman, C. (2020) John Phillips – Yorkshire's traveller through time. Gritstone Publishing, Hebden Bridge, with Yorkshire Geological Society. 192pp. ISBN: 978-0995560987. £15.00.

Stone, P. (2020) Robert Jameson's transition from Neptunism to Plutonism as reflected in his lectures at Edinburgh University, 1820–33. *Scottish journal of geology* 56: 85–99.

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ISBN: 978-3161568169 (hb). €59.00.

Tjernhaugen, A. (2019). *Von Walen und Menschen – Eine Reise durch die Jahrhunderte*. M. Bayer, translator. Residenz Verlag, Salzburg. 255 pp.; illus. ISBN: 978-3701734917 (hardback). €22.00. [History of Norwegian whaling, translated into German from the original Norwegian. At the time of writing, an English translation has yet to be announced.]

Trindade-Santos, Moyes, F. & Magurran A. E. (2020) Global change in the functional diversity of marine fisheries exploitation over the past 65 years. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B. Biological Sciences* 287 (1933). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.0889>

Vane-Wright, R. L. (2020) James Petiver's 1717 *Papilionum Britanniae*: an

analysis of the first comprehensive account of British butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea). *Notes and Records: the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* 74 (2): 275–302. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2019.0014>

Wallace, Gary D. (2020) "Plantae Californianae: Thomas Coulter's Californian Exsiccata," *Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany* 37, Issue 1, Article 2. doi:

<https://doi.org/10.5642/aliso.20203701.02>.

[An account of the importance of the Californian collections of Thomas Coulter in the herbarium (TCD) of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He was the first botanist to cross the desert of southern California to the Colorado River. Coulter's expansive interests in collecting and natural history included languages of the indigenous tribes he encountered in California.]

Watanabe, M. E. (2019) The Evolution of Natural History Collections: New research tools move specimens, data to center stage., *BioScience* 69, Issue 3, March 2019, pp. 163–169. doi:

<https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biy163>

Waters, C. N., Holliday, D. W., & Chisholm, J. I. (2020) The contribution of publications of the Yorkshire Geological Society to the understanding of the geological development of the Carboniferous Pennine Basin, northern England. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society* 63: 1-32.

Williams, R. B. (2020). Victorian book printing: the Norfolk Chronicle Company's twenty-six-letter signatures. *Journal of the Printing Historical Society* (third series), 1: 115–122.

Witeveen, J. & Müller-Wille, S. (2020) Of elephants and errors: naming and identity in Linnaean taxonomy. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 42 (43). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40656-020-00340-z>

SHNH Founders' Medal 2021

Open for Nominations
Closing date is 15 March 2021

The Founders' Medal is awarded to persons who have made a substantial contribution to the study of the history or bibliography of natural history.



Guidelines

- Nominations close on 15 March 2021.
- SHNH members and non-members can be nominated for this medal, which is open to nominees based in the UK and internationally.
- Medallists are chosen by the Council of the Society.

Nomination

Nominations must be sent to The Secretary (secretary@shnh.org.uk) and include the following:

- Your name as a nominator and your contact details.
- The nominee's name and contact details.
- A supporting statement (up to 600 words) describing why the nominee should receive the award.

Selection Criteria

Nominees should satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

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

SHNH John Thackray Medal 2021

Open for Nominations
Closing date is 31 July 2021

The SHNH John Thackray Medal is awarded for the best book published on the history or bibliography of natural history in the preceding two years.

The award was instituted in 2000 to commemorate the life and work of John Thackray (1948–1999), Past President of SHNH, an outstanding scholar of the history of science with an enviable knowledge of natural history. He served as Secretary of the Society for the History of Natural History for 24 years (1973–1997) and in 1999 became the society's president. He authored 30 books and articles including *Guide to the Official Archives of the Natural History Museum* (1998).



Guidelines

- Prize winners are chosen by a panel of 3 judges (all members of the Society).
- Competition opens on 1 January 2021.
- Nominations may be made by SHNH members, or submitted by publishers.
- All books must be received by the Secretary by 31 July. Please send 3 copies of the book you wish to be considered. PDFs will also be accepted.
- All books should have been published in the two calendar years preceding the year the award will be presented. For instance, works published in 2019 and 2020 will be eligible for the 2021 award.
- The Council reserves the right not to make an award in any given year if it is judged that no submission is of sufficient merit.

Nomination

Nominations must be sent to The Secretary (secretary@shnh.org.uk) and include the following:

- Your name as a nominator and your contact details.
- The nominee's name and contact details.
- A supporting statement (up to 600 words) describing why the nominee should receive the award.

Selection Criteria

The prize will be awarded to the book which contributes most significantly to the history of natural history. Significance will be assessed on the basis of:

- Originality
- Organisation and presentation of information
- Excellence of intellectual content
- Contribution to the literature of the field.



william T. stearn prize 2021

The
**W. T.
STEARNS PRIZE**
is awarded to the best
original, unpublished essay
in the field of the history of
natural history. The competition
is open to undergraduate and
postgraduate students in full or
part-time education.

The winner receives £300 and one year's free membership of the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH).

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

Rules for entry and an entry form can be downloaded from the SHNH website.

**Deadline for submissions is
30 July 2021.***

*Entry is not limited to members of SHNH.

www.shnh.org.uk

THE SOCIETY FOR THE
HISTORY OF
NATURAL
HISTORY

SHNH W. T. Stearn Student Essay Prize 2021

Instituted in 2007 to commemorate the work of William T. Stearn (1911–2001), a scholar whose work contributed much to the field and to this Society, the prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the history of natural history. The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students worldwide in full- or part-time education and not limited to members of SHNH.

The winner will receive £300 and the winning essay will normally be published in the Society's journal *Archives of Natural History*, subject to the normal editorial process.

Guidelines

- Prize winners are chosen by a panel of 3 judges (all members of the Society).
- Competition opens on 01 January 2021.
- All entries must be received by the Secretary by 31 July 2021.
- Essays should not have been previously published, and must not be under consideration at another journal.

Selection Criteria

- The prize will be awarded to the essay which contributes most significantly to the history of natural history, including its social and cultural aspects.

Submission

- Entries must be in English and between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length including footnotes and references. Each entry must be accompanied by an abstract of between 300 and 500 words and keywords.
- Entries must follow the Style Guidelines of *Archives of Natural History* (<https://www.euppublishing.com/page/anh/submissions>).
- Two copies of the essay (one Word document, one pdf) should be e-mailed to the SHNH Secretary (secretary@shnh.org.uk). If the files are large please send by We Transfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>).
- There should be no reference to your name or your institution on the essay itself.
- The completed Application Form (<https://shnh.org.uk/awards-honours-medals/william-t-stearn-student-essay-prize/>) and proof of student status should also be attached.
- Applicants will be notified of the results when the judges have reached their decision.

Purpose of SHNH Small Research Fund

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 Process

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.

Qualifying expenses for funding

Examples are:

- Charges made for use of privately-owned or professional-association libraries or museums by non-subscribers.
- Charges made by libraries or museums for new scanning, photographing or photocopying essential materials.
- Fees for image-publication rights.
- Cost of travel by public transport for an essential visit to a unique location of essential material.
- Organisation of conferences and other events relating to the history of natural history

Eligibility

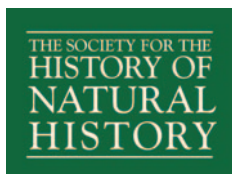
- There is no upper age limit; no academic qualification is required; nor is any academic affiliation necessary. But no more than one application per person may be made in any financial year of the SHNH.
- Applicants must not already be in receipt of any grant that would cover the expenses applied for. Application must be made before the requested expense is incurred.

How to apply

- Any member of the SHNH may apply for a Small Research-Fund grant, up to £500 (or non-Sterling currency equivalent).
- Please download the pro-forma application form, complete it and send to the SHNH Secretary at secretary@shnh.org.uk.

Further conditions

- The successful applicant must submit a brief, one-paragraph report of the achievements of the research to the SHNH secretary.
- It must be the applicant's intention to publish in the scholarly press or on a website any images or information obtained through an award; the SHNH Secretary must be informed of publication when completed.
- Dated receipts must be obtained for expenses.
- The decision of the SHNH on an application for a Small Research-Fund grant shall be final.



SHNH SMALL RESEARCH FUND
APPLICATION FORM

Please complete and send to SHNH Secretary at secretary@shnh.org.uk.

Name and title: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____

Member of SHNH? Yes ☐ No ☐

Employed as historian/ Yes ☐ No ☐

bibliographer for purposes of this research? Yes ☐ No ☐

Already receiving a grant covering requested expense? Yes ☐ No ☐

Has this expense already been incurred? Yes ☐ No ☐

Nature of expense for which funding sought: _____

Are there any free-of-charge alternatives? Yes ☐ No ☐

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“Anyone who loves the history of natural history will find a warm welcome.”

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Harvard University

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

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

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

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Archives of Natural History is the journal of the Society for the History of Natural History, publishing papers on the history and bibliography of all branches of natural history. Natural history is considered to include botany, general biology, geology, palaeontology, marine biology, mineralogy and zoology; the lives of naturalists, their publications, correspondence and collections; the institutions and societies to which they belong; and bibliographic studies of rare books, manuscripts and illustrative materials.

The journal welcomes articles on all these facets of natural history, including their cultural and social aspects, across all cultures.

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Announcement

Calling all historians of science Enter the 6th *Notes and Records* Essay Award

Are you a researcher in the history of science, technology and medicine? Have you completed a postgraduate degree within the last five years? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', you can enter our Essay Award for a chance to win £500 (or local currency equivalent) and publication of your winning essay in our history of science journal *Notes and Records*. One runner-up will also receive £250 and there will be £100 prizes for an additional three 'honourable mentions'. All winning categories will benefit from a free online subscription to *Notes and Records* for one year. Deadline for entries is 28 February 2021.

Further information available at:
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsnr/essay-award>

Society for the History of Natural History

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

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

Since its modest beginnings, the Society has grown in membership and international standing. It is known for its friendliness and provides a focal point for the history of all aspects of natural history. The Society also has a thriving international membership and representatives in North America, Europe and Asia organise local meetings. An international meeting is held at regular intervals, the most recent being “Trading Nature” (York, 2019) and “Bon Voyage” (World Museum, Liverpool, 2018).

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

All subscription matters are handled for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. For subscription enquiries, including payment methods, please contact the Subscription Administrators at Edinburgh University Press.
Email: journals@eup.ed.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)131 650 4196.

For more information contact the Secretary, Society for the History of Natural History, email: secretary@shnh.org.uk.

Newsletter 118 November 2020

Editor: Elaine Shaughnessy

Email: newsletter@shnh.org.uk

COPY DATE

The copy date for the next *Newsletter* is February 2021.

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2021

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is open to undergraduate and
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The winner receives £300 and one year's free membership of the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH).

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

Rules for entry and an entry form can be downloaded from the SHNH website.

**Deadline for submissions is
30 July 2021.***

*Entry is not limited to members of SHNH.

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