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Alfred Déséglise (died 1883) Botanist

A sizeable herbarium of Déséglise's specimens including several sheets of Rosa species are in the collections at Bolton Museum. Déséglise was best known for his work on the roses and the national herbarium have "a very large collection of critical Roses from various collectors containing all the species in his works, purchased 1884". (The History of the Collections contained in the Natural History Departments of the British Museum, 1904). At Bolton we have an accession of 1899 of "2002 species of vascular plants from M. Déséglise collection purchased from E. C. Horrell" and there are also some Rosa specimens in the Philip Brookes Mason collection.

A current examination shows that there are more like 1,200 species collected between 1830-1880 from France, Germany, Italy, Sicily, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, Algeria, the United States, Hungary, Austria, Israel, Holland and Sardinia. The sheets show a range of specimens illustrating the various stages of development and the same site may have been visited several times at different times of the year or even in different years. The P. B. Mason portion was probably obtained by him from the Stevens Sale of 9 July 1895 at which auction parts of the herbarium of the Prince of Mantua and Montserrat (alias Charles Ottley Groom, C. O. Groom-Napier, etc.) were sold whose collection is incorporated in the Mason Herbarium. Other collectors in the 1899 accession include C. Billot, Heldreich, Al. Jordan, Ch. Ozanon, Bureau, Huguenin, Franqueville, Tribout, A. Guillon, A. Boullu, D. Boutigny, Savi and Letourneux.

The number of Rosa "species" in the Déséglise portion of the herbarium is 57, all non-British. If any museum has spare or duplicate sets of monographs or reprints on his work we would like to obtain them by gift or barter. Also an appeal is made for a rose expert to come and examine and update nomenclature, etc.

Patricia Francis, Natural History Department, Bolton Museum & Art Gallery.

FERAL DEER

Muntjac deer were introduced into Britain by the Eleventh Duke of Bedford and feral animals can be found now over much of East Anglia, the Midlands and Southern England.

Both the Indian and Chinese species were introduced (and escaped) and there has been, and still is, confusion as to the identity of the feral deer. Although it is generally accepted that it is the Chinese Muntjac that is at large, some people still think that it is the Indian species and the author of a recent article in "Deer", the journal of the British Deer Society, belives that the deer are probably bybrids.

The Mammal Fund, which is administred by the Mammal Society, has awarded me a small grant to study the taxonomic status of feral muntjac in England. I wish to borrow specimens of skulls and jaws of feral deer from as many localities as possible, so that I can measure them. Specimens from animals that died in the first half of this century would be of particular value. In addition, I would like to borrow authentic specimens of both Indian and Chinese muntjac. I have written already to many museums that I thought might have specimens. If, however, any museum has specimens but has not received a letter from me, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

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