



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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reclaimed by the illegal importers after the DoE provided licences applied for in retrospect. In one case the items had already been passed to a museum! We are pursuing this with the DoE and Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The idea of a seminar or debate to discuss collection valuation is progressing.

An attempt is being made to collate all the work being achieved as a result of the MGC Natural Science Collections Incentive money allocations. This subject should form part of the 1992 AGM in Carlisle.

The Curatorial Training Course in Sheffield was successfully run again in 1991, several junior Natural History Museum staff were in attendance.

The next issue (1990) of the Journal is going to press soon and a 1991 issue is nearing completion. We hope to catch up with ourselves in 1992!

Unfortunately, the impetus generated by the bird egg seminar at Tring has been temporarily lost due to the double blow of Peter Robinson leaving the RSPB and Clem Fisher's major commitment to her PhD studies. This project - with its ultimate aim to register all bird eggs and collections in the UK - is temporarily suspended, unless someone out there ...

Two BCG members, Peter Davis and Geoff Halfpenny have agreed to participate initially in the MDA Terminology Working Party - although, as yet, we have not heard any reports.

Derek Whiteley is relinquishing his secretarial responsibilities, but is currently looking towards another Beetle Down ... drive and maybe another printing of the beloved leaflet.

Alec Coles has prepared a revamped Sunflower Campaign leaflet. We hope to dispatch one to each member with either this or the next Newsletter. Ideal for refreshing the memories of your Committee, Trustee body, superiors etc etc.

Steve Garland  
Chairman

## **Collections at risk**

Part of BCG's remit is to monitor real or potential problems in the storage or curation of Natural Science collections and more pleasantly to record new staffing initiatives or storage developments. This work is co-

ordinated by the Committee and recent responses by the Chairman and Secretary have been influential in securing natural history posts at Oldham and in the Lancashire Museum Service.

Two North East Museum Services are unhappily under the spotlight at present. The Council of Newcastle University is considering the closure of the Hancock Museum, unless it is shown that there is sufficient support for a fund raising exercise, which will secure the future of the Museum. A further report will go to Council in November and they will consider ways that the Museum can generate additional income next financial year. Whilst at Tyne and Wear the Natural History Section might face a substantial deficit next financial year as a consequence of new funding arrangements.

If you know of any natural history collections or services that are currently neglected or under future threat and require BCG action, please forward the details in confidence to Steve Judd (address below). Good news is also particularly welcome!

Steve Judd, Curator of Entomology, Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN

## **Exhibition cases for sale**

Nine display cases from the National Garden Festival Discover Exhibition are available for sale. Their external measurements are:

height 90mm  
length 150mm  
width 50mm

Six cabinets are 15 mm deep; three are 42 mm deep. All cabinets are made of wood, painted green and are fitted with fluorescent lighting. Cost is about £200 each although any offers will be considered.

Interested parties please contact:

Oisín MacNamara, Higher Education Support for Industry in the North, 24 Claremont Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU. Tel: (091) 2226068.