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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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NSCG Newsletter

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Conservation Forum

In June this year the NSCG joined the Conservation Forum. This is an umbrella organisation forming a collective voice for many conservation disciplines, with the aim of working together on matters of common concern. The Forum intends to:

- ◆ act together to set, maintain and improve professional standards
- ◆ speak with one voice on matters of common interest throughout the UK and abroad
- ◆ share expertise and information
- ◆ co-operate in activities of common interest

The Conservation Forum has been active since 1993 and is currently supported by the Conservation Unit of the Museums and Galleries Commission. Since 1995 the Forum's activities have been administered by the Consultant Forum Co-ordinator. Regular meetings are held with representatives from each of the professional bodies to discuss current and future projects.

The Conservation Forum is presently made up of the following professional bodies:

- The Association of British Picture Restorers (APBR)
- The British Antique Furniture Restorers' Association (BAFRA)
- The British Society of Master Glass Painters, Conservation Committee (BSMGP)
- The Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland (ICHAWI)
- The Institute of Paper Conservation (IPC)
- The Irish Professional Conservators and Restorers' Association (IPCRA)
- The Natural Sciences Conservation Group (NSCG)
- The Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration (SSCR)
- The Society of Archivists, Preservation and Conservation Group (SoA, P&CG)
- UK Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (UKIC)

The NSCG will benefit from membership of the Forum because it will raise the profile of natural science conservation within the conservation community. It will also allow us to be involved with some of the key issues and initiatives which currently concern the Conservation Forum, for example:

- ◆ Assessment and monitoring of professional standards
- ◆ Continuing professional development
- ◆ Co-ordination of the annual UK conference calendar
- ◆ Guidelines for competitive tendering
- ◆ Standard form of conservation contract
- ◆ Insurance tailored to the conservation profession

FIRE!!!



Request for papers, articles, anecdotes, pearls of wisdom

Over the next few issues we will be looking at various agents that adversely affect natural science collections. We need people to contribute their knowledge and experience of dealing with the different problems and hazards that face natural science collections and their curators and conservators. The first subject will be fire, appearing in the March issue.

Have you had a fire recently or in the dim and distant past? How did you deal with it, what were the effects on the collections or your working practices? How does your disaster plan deal with fires? Are wooden cabinets better than steel ones or is this just anecdotal?

Any contributions from a few lines outlining your experiences or thoughts to fully researched and referenced papers are needed.

Contributions should be sent to :

Simon Moore, Hampshire County Museums Service, Chilcomb House,
Chilcomb Lane, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8RD