



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

Poster from Natural Sciences Collections Association Conference 2017

Title: The Mobile Museum Economic botany in circulation

Author(s): Cornish, C., Driver, F., Nesbitt, M., Wilkey, B.

Source: Cornish, C., Driver, F., Nesbitt, M., & B. Wilkey. (2017). The Mobile Museum Economic botany in circulation. *Evolving Ideas: Provocative new ways of working with collections (Natural Sciences Collections Association Conference)*. Cambridge, UK, 20-21 April 2017. London: Natural Sciences Collections Association.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/poster/2385>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

The Mobile Museum

Economic botany in circulation

What is economic botany?

Economic botany was widely understood as a distinct subject in the period 1850-1950, filling its own museums worldwide, as well as galleries in civic or industrial museums.

Such collections of useful plants (e.g. fibres, rubber, medicines, woods) have often since been absorbed into wider collections of natural history or world cultures. Economic

botany is an example of a 'biocultural' collection.

The Museum of Economic Botany at Kew was originally established in 1847 as a public repository for 'all kinds of useful and curious Vegetable Products, which neither the living plants of the Garden nor the specimens in the Herbarium could exhibit'.

Who we are



Caroline Cornish,
Principal Researcher



Felix Driver,
Principal Investigator



Mark Nesbitt,
Co-Principal Investigator



Beth Wilkey,
Project Officer



What is the Mobile Museum?

Researchers at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and in the Geography Department at Royal Holloway, University of London, are embarking on a 3-year AHRC-funded project to map the circulation of economic botany specimens in the 19th and 20th centuries. The history of museum collections

is dominated by accounts of acquisitions; here we focus on a much less-studied aspect, dispersals.

Over the next 3 years we will be gathering and analysing data from institutional archives worldwide to trace objects from Kew, discovering new meanings, connections and relationships.

How you can help

If you think we can help trace Kew objects in your collection, or you want to get involved, we would love to hear from you:

@KewMobileMuseum
#KewMobileMuseum

Email: mobilemuseum@kew.org

Website: www.royalholloway.ac.uk/mobilemuseum



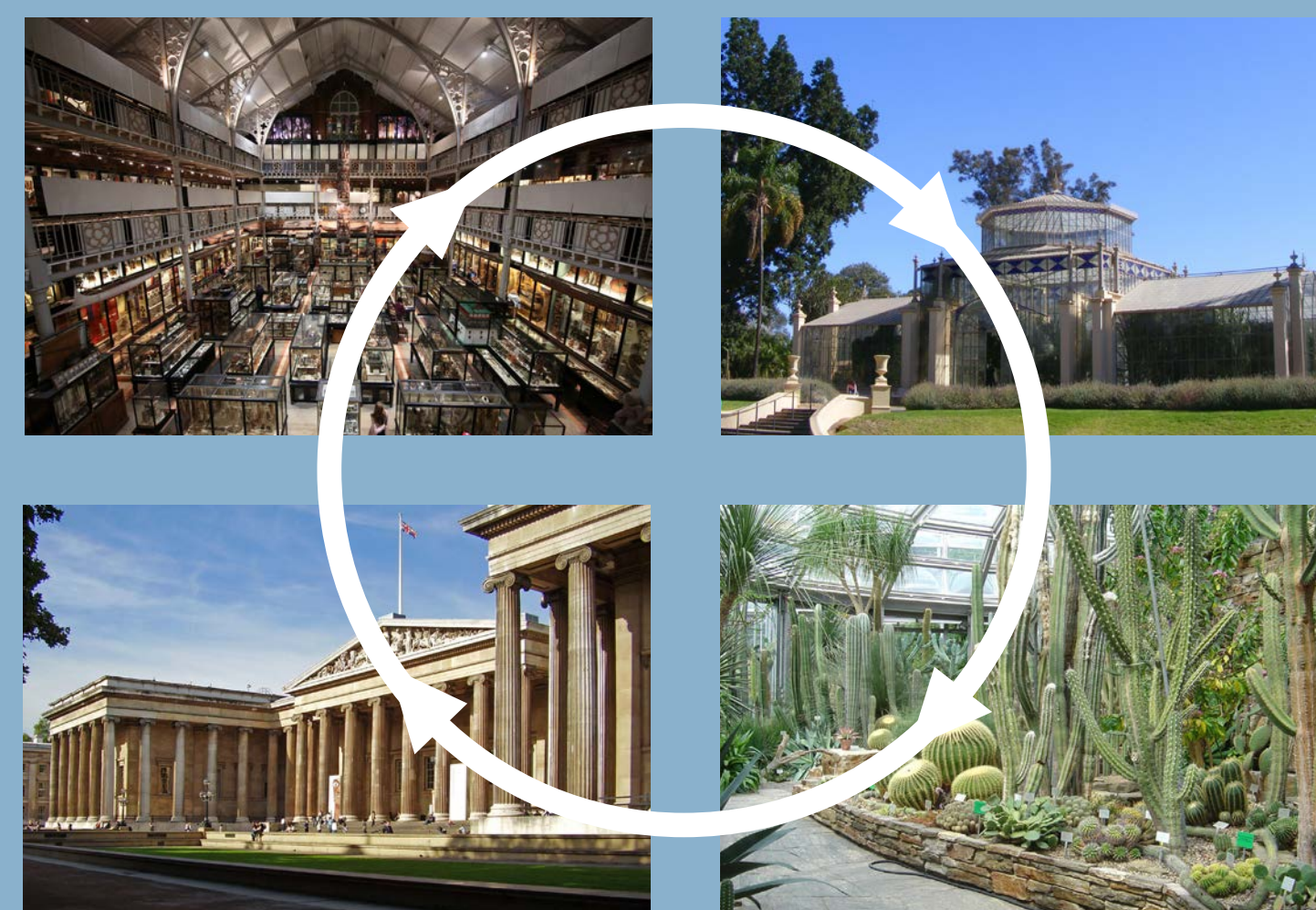
Education

Outreach project to recreate a museum in local schools.



Mapping mobility

Mapping the circulation of objects from Kew around the world, documenting transfers and relationships.



New uses

Greater access to collections through London Open House, tours and workshops.



UK institutions with biocultural collections

University of Aberdeen
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Bolton Museum
Bristol City Museum
British Museum
Canterbury Museum
Gallery Oldham
Glasgow Museums
Herbarium of the National Museum and Galleries of Northern Ireland
Horniman Museum

Ipswich Museum
Leeds City Museum
Liverpool Public Museums
Manchester Museum
McManus Museum and Art Gallery
National Museum Wales
National Museums Scotland
Pitt Rivers Museum
Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
Powell-Cotton Museum
Reading Museum

Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
The Royal Collections, Osborne House, Isle of Wight
Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery
Victoria and Albert Museum
Warrington Museum and Art Gallery
Weston Park Museum
And yours?