



<http://www.natsca.org>

Journal of Biological Curation

Title: Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery: Natural History Collections

Author(s): Howell, A.

Source: Howell, A. (1989). Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery: Natural History Collections. *Journal of Biological Curation*, Volume 1 Number 1, 5 - 19.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1031>

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.

Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery : Natural History Collections

Alan Howell

Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Abstract

This is the first time that details of the natural history collections at Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery have been published outside the island. The development of the three nineteenth century collections which came to be included in the present museum is considered in some detail. This is followed by general information on the main individual collectors and collections involved although this very much represents the present state of curatorial research.

Author's note

This seems to be the first time that details of the natural history collections in Guernsey have been published outside the island. It is proposed that this text will form a general introduction to the somewhat complex history of the collections currently housed at Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery. More detailed subject based accounts will follow in due course. The opening remarks are included for the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with Guernsey and its situation.

Guernsey in context

The island of Guernsey has a population of 56,000 people living in an area of around 64 sq km (24 sq miles). It lies 110 km from the closest point on the English coast and only 46 km from France. It is the largest of the northern group of the Channel Islands, (including Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jethou) which constitutes the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Jersey gives its name to the more southerly Bailiwick.

Though some of the southern islands of the archipelago are French possessions, the two Bailiwicks which include the majority of the Channel Islands remain British. Originally they formed part of the Norman-British area of northern France. The Bailiwicks are not part of the United Kingdom though they owe allegiance to the British Crown, the monarch being traditionally regarded as Duke of Normandy.

Guernsey and Jersey have their own separate elected governmental bodies, known as 'States of Deliberation' - usually referred to as 'The States' in common parlance; a history of Guernsey's States of Deliberation has been published recently (Hocart, 1988). There is no party political system and the sitting States members (called deputies in Guernsey) are simply elected as peoples' representatives by the various island parishes. The functions of the islands' administration are supervised by committees of States members; Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery being controlled by the States of Guernsey Ancient Monuments Committee and staffed by Guernsey Civil Servants.

Natural history in Guernsey's museums : a developmental summary

The public administration of Guernsey did not become involved with museums until 1907, but there were three institutions with natural history collections on the island before that date. These were:

- (i) **Guernsey Mechanics Institution and Literary Society**
- (ii) **The Guille-Allès Library and Museum**
- (iii) **The Lukis Family Museum**

Though these collections all eventually came under the care of a States run museum service, of the three, only the Lukis Museum collection is actually owned by the States of Guernsey. It was bequeathed to the States in 1907, followed by another substantial bequest (of non-natural history material) from William Carey in 1929. However, it was not until 1973 that the States appointed their first full-time and professionally qualified curator and the development of the present Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery service began. The Guille-Allès collection (which included the Mechanics Institution material) was transferred on permanent loan to the Museum and Art Gallery service in 1978. The first full-time natural history curatorial appointment was made in 1986, for an initial two year period and this has now (1988) been extended for a further five years. As may be imagined, there is a considerable backlog of curatorial and documentation work associated with these collections.

The natural history holdings of Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery are estimated at around 35,000 specimens with insects accounting for 20,000 of this number. Geological material accounts for a further 6,000 specimens with the remainder being spread over most of the traditional areas of natural history collecting. It is worth noting that the majority of non-insect collections were originally on display, so the birds, for instance, are all mounted specimens rather than study skins. A narrative describing the development of these substantial collections is not entirely straightforward as they largely existed in parallel although their periods of growth were slightly different. It is proposed to describe them in the order given above.

Guernsey Mechanics Institution and Literary Society

Little detail survives relating to the collections, but the Mechanics Institution itself was founded in 1831. The first president was Frederick Corbin Lukis, whose personal collecting activities will be considered later, though his apparent enthusiasm for collecting may not be without significance in relation to the Institution.

A printed letter appealing for funds to establish a museum was circulated by the Institution's committee on 5th December 1855. It mentioned an 'interesting collection of rocks and objects of natural history' presented by the 'Honourable court of Directors of the East India Company' and the desirability of adding this collection to the 'articles already in their possession ... to form a nucleus for a museum' (MacCulloch et al, 1855). It seems that a museum did develop but by 1862 the regular lectures of the institution had been in abeyance for several years, 'and the museum had been left to the voluntary assistance of a few working naturalists, without much reference to the Institution' (Ansted and Latham, 1862a). The same source described the museum as 'remarkably good in all respects as a local collection particularly rich in natural history, containing a series

of birds, insects, and shells all in good condition, well arranged and well named'. Further the authors expressed regret at the recent failure of an attempt to guarantee the survival of the museum by States involvement - presumably an attempt to secure official funding for the museum.

Early in 1863 a circular written by the poet Martin F. Tupper with the stated support of his cousin the Bailiff (Leader of the States) Edgar MacCulloch, sought to call a meeting in order to discuss the future of the museum (Tupper, 1863). It proposed an expansion of the one already in existence to form 'a large popular museum and school for design which shall be self supporting'. The letter went on to mention various promises of exhibits, collections and funds. These offers all depended on the successful raising of capital to support the erection of a building and the devising of a scheme to render the institution self-supporting. In modern terms it would appear that the supporters of the museum tried to raise funds from the private sector, after their earlier approach to the island authorities had met with no success. Despite the support of such an influential person as the Bailiff, this scheme also came to nothing.

Though the Mechanics Institution remained moribund, concern for the collections continued and, in 1874, trustees were appointed 'to take charge of the objects forming the museum ... with power to transfer them to any person or persons who would engage to make them available for the benefit of the public'. At the same time, the museum was effectively disconnected from the Institution itself. These events, at the Annual General Meeting of the Mechanics Institution in April 1874 were duly noted in a *Minute Book for the Trustees of the Guernsey Museum*. This survives in the Guille Allès Library local studies collection and gives details of several meetings which the trustees (who included Edgar MacCulloch and John Whitehead) held between 1874 and 1881. By November 1874 they had resolved to let a Miss C. B. Carey 'clean the foreign birds and to allow the public to have admission to the room on Saturdays, on such terms as may from time to time be decided upon'.

In 1876 public suggestions were still being made that the States should initiate the development of a public museum and lecture hall (Anon, 1876). At about this time there were also suggestions that the proceeds of the Admiral De Sausmarex memorial fund should be used for a similar purpose. These schemes came to nothing but, in 1882 the trustees of the Mechanics Institution collections were able to forge an agreement which met the requirements of their trust. Thomas Guille and Frederick Allès agreed to accept the collections of the Mechanics Institution and make them available to the public in rooms at their new library. In fact the collections were not physically transferred until 1884-85. Along with Messrs Guille and Allès, John Whitehead continued as a trustee of the collection, and supervised the setting up of the new Museum. Like the Trustees' minute book, the documents relating to the transfer refer to the Mechanics Institution collection as 'Guernsey Museum'.

The Guille-Allès Museum

Although it was not actually in public ownership, the Guille-Allès Museum was the first institution of its kind in Guernsey to be founded as such. It was an adjunct to the Guille-Allès Library and occupied rooms on the upper floors of that building in the centre of St Peter Port. The institution was founded by two remarkably philanthropic Guernsey men who made their fortune in the United States.

Thomas Guille and Frederick Mansell Allès were originally apprenticed into the housepainting and decorating business of a Mr David Mauger (another Guernseyman) in New York. Eventually Guille and Allès became partners in the firm and carried it on to make a considerable fortune after Mauger retired.

In 1834, shortly after Guille's arrival in America the books which he had found in Mauger's house and the extensive library of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, greatly inspired the young apprentice. He resolved, apparently on his first visit to this library, to found such an institution in Guernsey (Pitts, 1883). Allès arrived in New York in this same year and the two childhood friends became united with the same ideal. They began to acquire books for the projected library and also studied 'chemistry and practical science' together (Warren, 1959). They were also collecting geological specimens, but whether by purchase, gift, or field collection is not clear.

Though this is not the place for a detailed history of the development of their library, a brief outline is not inappropriate. As early as 1851, Guille made overtures towards presenting his books on Guernsey. A Guille Library was established by 1856, with five locations around the island, retracting into a single central premises in 1867. Around 1869, Guille retired from business and returned to Guernsey, continuing to promote his library, in which enterprise he was eventually joined by Allès. Their efforts culminated in the opening of the Guille-Allès Library on 2nd January 1882 (Rowswell, undated).

From the outset, it appears that the founders of the new institution intended it as far more than just a library. It was to be a cultural, educational and recreational centre for the island and, indeed, it did herald something of a renaissance. The addition of the museum to the library was followed by an Artisans Institute where educational lectures could be heard. Various clubs and societies were also encouraged to use the rooms as a meeting place and, pre-eminent among these (as far as the museum was concerned) was a group known as the Guernsey Society of Natural Science (G.S.N.S.). The published transactions of this society (which became known as *La Société Guernesiaise* in 1926) contain many references to the development of the Guille-Allès Museum. These fill a useful void as the early administrative records of the library do not seem to have survived.

The inaugural meeting of the new society was held at the Guille-Allès library on 24th October 1882, following on from a public meeting held on 10th October, 'for the purpose of forming a Natural History Society.' Principal aims of the society included the provision of mutual aid in the study of natural history, 'by means of papers, conversations, exhibitions of specimens and excursions.' The compilation of current lists of the 'natural productions of the Bailiwick of Guernsey' was also a stated aim, together with their publication in the proceedings of the society (Anon, 1889). Significantly, perhaps, no mention was made of the society building up collections, although it was preferred that 'natural productions' for inclusion in the Society's listings should be supported by specimens where possible. In practice some specimens were given to the society in their first year or so, presumably because the new museum was not yet arranged in the rooms above the library. A resolution to acquire a cabinet to hold their botanical and other specimens was passed on 6th March 1883 and, in the case of botany, established a considerable precedent. *La Société Guernesiaise* still maintains the island's main herbarium of local plants and the membership of the Botany Section has consistently been one of their most active.

Returning to 1883 and the Society's part in the growth of the new museum, at the first annual meeting one of the committee reported: '... such donations of specimens seem

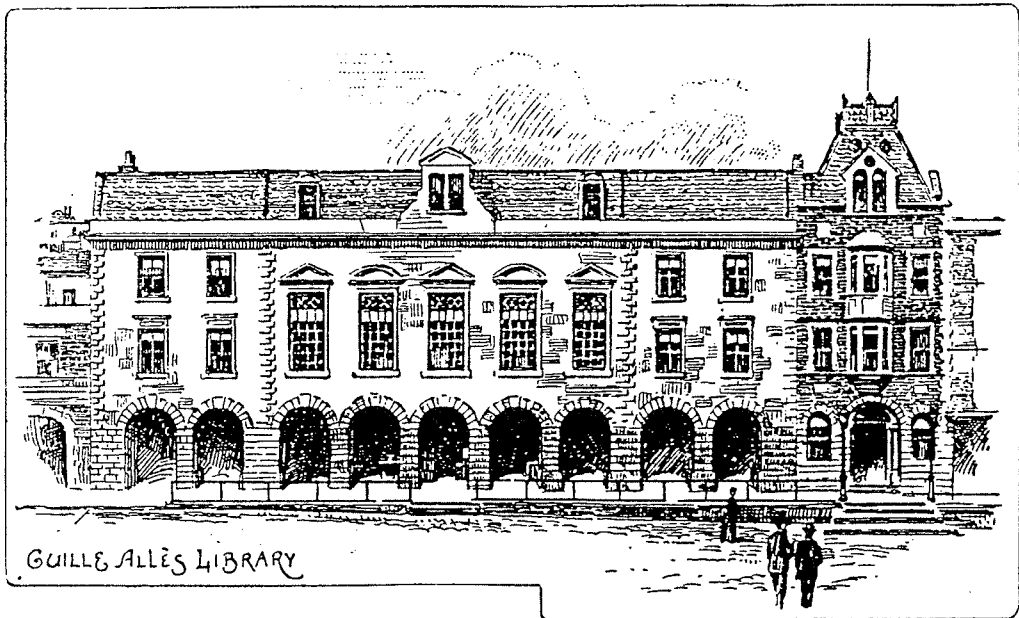


Fig 1. Guille-Allès Library, St Peter Port. The illustration was produced for a history of the Institution published in 1891.

to point to the necessity of room for their reception, and would, if encouraged undoubtedly increase into an island museum, but without much larger funds it would be impossible for this society to undertake the formation of this, so much needed and useful an institution' (Derrick, 1889). The 1884 annual meeting again saw reports of the presentation of some rock specimens and comments on the desirability of a suitable museum for their reception.

By 1885 the reality of a museum was much closer, Messrs Guille and Allès having provided rooms which Society members were urged to fill with specimens. On 24th November 1885, Thomas Guille in his role as President of the Guernsey Society of Natural History, said, '... the Natural History collection of the late Mechanics Institution is now being transferred to the upper storey of this building, where it is intended to be placed permanently with my own and Mr Allès' private geological and mineralogical collections, as nuclei of what we hope will later better deserve the name museum' (Guille, 1889). The condition of the Mechanics Institution specimens seems to have been very poor, due to indifferent storage or display conditions and general neglect. Guille commented that everything which was not, 'completely ruined', required 'careful cleaning' which would take some time. Earlier in his address he had been particularly scathing about Guernsey's general complacency and the lack of States' funding which had allowed an 'extensive and valuable' collection to reach such a condition.

By the seventh general meeting of the society, in 1889, the secretary was able to report that the museum was 'daily growing more valuable.' The decades around the turn of the century saw remarkable growth in the collections for the Guille-Allès Museum. Members of the Guernsey Society for Natural Science were intimately involved with this growth and there were clearly common and complimentary aims for the society and the museum. Although the museum was always under the control of the Board of Trustees of the

Guille-Allès Library, through their General Manager, the succession of Honorary Curators who looked after the museum were usually also active members of the Society.

Turning to the museum itself, state-of-the-art customised accession registers were bought in 1901 but, for some reason, they were never used. The only effective specimen documentation consisted of display labels and whatever labels might be stuck to the specimens. Virtually everything was on display and photographs of the interior show it to have been the archetypal 'Victorian Museum' which modern curators either dream or have nightmares about - depending on their point of view.

By all accounts few would dispute that by the 1970's the displays were very tired looking. A combination of poor environmental controls (rooms with unfiltered top lighting through sky-lights which occasionally leaked and cases which were not dust-tight), had inevitably caused considerable deterioration. The absence of full-time professional staff and the meagre budget available to the Honorary Curators also contributed to this gradual decline. It might ultimately have resulted in the loss of the entire collection, but thankfully the decline was halted. In 1978 the Trustees of the Guille-Allès Library placed these historically important collections on permanent loan into the care of the Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery Service.

The Lukis Museum

The collection on which the States' run museum service would ultimately be founded, saw its genesis long before the Guille-Allès Museum. Described in 1862 as a 'valuable and interesting private museum', the collection begun by Frederick Corbin Lukis and added to by his children was kept at Lukis House, the family residence in St Peter Port. Though essentially a private museum, all visitors with a genuine interest in science or natural history were made welcome (Ansted and Latham, 1862a). A visitors book covering the years 1876 - 1907 survives in the Lukis archive at Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery. It contains comments and visitors cards from people as diverse as the Russian Prince, Mestchersky, the wife of W. Holman Hunt and Professor J. Prestwich, together with many lesser mortals.

Frederick Corbin Lukis was primarily an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist. He pioneered the application of a systematic approach to excavation and recording in the islands. His four sons and three daughters assisted in these pursuits and, as a result, a remarkable archaeological collection with corresponding notes and drawings accumulated at the family home. This would have been noteworthy enough, but Frederick Corbin's interests extended into the natural sciences, and the family also developed collections of local and foreign geology, insects, plants and shells.

It is inferred in the circular written by Tupper mentioned earlier (Tupper, 1863), that the Lukis collection (or part of it) was among the material on offer to the projected new museum in 1863. However, with the failure of the latter venture, the collections remained in the possession of the family until 1907. Then they were bequeathed to the States of Guernsey by Francis Du Bois Lukis, in accordance with the wishes of his father. Prior to this, it seems that the museum may have been opened to the public from 1900, at least on a limited basis. On the bequest of the collections in 1907, the family sold Lukis House to the States for a nominal sum, in the hope that the museum would be maintained there. Some refurbishment was carried out and the new States-run Lukis Museum was formally opened on 18th September 1909. In the event, the museum only remained in Lukis House until around 1937 when the building, already partly used as offices, was completely given over to this purpose.



Fig 2. Lukis House, the former residence of the Lukis family in St Peter Port. Part of it opened as the Lukis Museum in 1909, though it closed around 1937.

The Lukis and Island Museum

Ostensibly as a rationalisation exercise, it was decided to combine the Lukis Collection with the Carey Collection (mentioned earlier, bequeathed to the States in 1929) to form one States-run island Museum. The two collections were moved to the redundant and deconsecrated church of St Barnabas - a very dominant feature of the St Peter Port skyline. This was opened to the public as the Lukis and Island Museum in June 1938. During the German occupation it was closed (as was the Guille-Allès Museum), only re-opening in 1946. It remained open until 1970 when structural deterioration of the roof forced its closure to the public.

The museum never had full time professional staff, being run on a shoestring budget by an honorary curator and a custodian/attendant. In retrospect, it seems to have been a half-hearted attempt at setting up a museum. However, gradually, the deficiencies came to be recognised and the political will to provide a proper museum service became established.

The Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery

In January 1974 Guernsey appointed its first full-time and professionally qualified museum curator to oversee the development of a projected new museum which would finally do justice to the excellent collections owned by the island. The purpose built



Fig 3. St Barnabas Church, St Peter Port. From 1938 until 1970 it housed the Lukis and Island Museum.

Museum and Art Gallery in Candie Gardens was opened in 1978 consisting essentially of display and administrative facilities (Cole and Reed, 1978). The initial high standard which attracted a Museum of the Year award in 1978 has undoubtedly been instrumental in assuring the relatively rapid growth of the museum service. The staff of three in 1974 has now grown to ten in the professional, technical and secretarial roles.

Economies of scale precluded the incorporation of storage and workshop areas in the new Museum at Candie but the need remained to remove the main reserve collections from the old Lukis and Island Museum building. Fortunately an excellent alternative became available, only five minutes walk from Candie, in the shape of the redundant St John Street telephone exchange. This now houses the main storage and technical facilities of the museum service, the Lukis and Island collection having been transferred there in 1978. Following the agreement with the trustees of the Guille-Allès Library, the extensive collections of the Guille-Allès Museum were moved to St John Street in September 1979.

Collections and collectors

It will be apparent from the foregoing that the natural science collections at Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery essentially derive from two sources:

- (i) **The Lukis family collections;**
- (ii) **The Guille-Allès Museum which includes the Mechanics Institution collection.**

There have also been a few additions since the inception of a professionally run museum service in 1974.

Lukis collection

Bequeathed to the States of Guernsey in 1907 by Francis Du Bois Lukis, youngest son of the collection's originator Frederick Corbin Lukis. As noted earlier, Frederick Corbin's children also added material both during their father's life and after his death; it is generally difficult to differentiate between material collected by the various family members.

Frederick Corbin Lukis FSA (1788-1871)

The Lukis family came to Guernsey in the mid seventeenth century. By the time of Frederick Corbin the family had prospered considerably, his father John having made substantial sums from shares in privateering and the wine trade. Frederick Corbin was a colonel in the Royal Guernsey Militia, Aide de Camp to the Governor and a busy public servant. As we have seen, he was involved with the Mechanics Institution, clearly espousing popular education and self-development. The manuscript notes of some geological lectures he delivered to the Institution are present among the Lukis papers in the museum. Primarily known for his archaeological work, he was also an authority on the natural history of the islands and contributed a list of some 140 lichens to one book on the island flora (Babington, 1839). Frederick Corbin Lukis was also known as a shell collector, particularly being cited by J. G. Jeffreys as the authority regarding the discovery of living *Triton* specimens in Guernsey waters in 1825 (Jeffreys, 1858). He was also quoted by Yarrell (1836) in relation to the behaviour of seahorses.

Frederick Collings Lukis MD, FSA (1814-1901)

Problematically having the same initials as his father. Frederick Collings was noted as having (in addition to archaeology) botany, entomology, geology and conchology among his interests and for having left a fine shell collection.

In relation to conchology, Jeffreys (1863) praised him as a true naturalist rather than a mere collector and often cited distribution records from him. At least some of his collection is probably among the shell material, formerly at the old Lukis and Island Museum which is still awaiting curatorial attention. The documentation with this material appears to be minimal. Recently (1988) a rather better ordered Lukis shell collection has been passed to the museum by Eric Lukis, a great grandson of Frederick Corbin. This is the same cabinet described to the Conchological Society in an address concerning the aforementioned Guernsey *Triton* specimens (Crowley, 1960).

Among the material from the Guille-Allès Museum there are several insect storeboxes, labelled as from the 'Dr Lukis Collection'. Most of them are empty, though two are crammed with specimens (mostly coleoptera) in rather poor condition. The style of mounting is interesting, some specimens being glued to card discs mounted mushroom-like on top of thick pins with a blob of sealing wax. Cryptic data is present on some

specimens and the writer would appreciate help with tracing any entomological contributions penned by Dr F. C. Lukis MD.

John Walter Lukis (1816-1894)

The second son of Frederick Corbin Lukis, John Walter was a mining engineer by profession. In the course of this he seems to have amassed a substantial collection of minerals though these are only separable from the main body of the Lukis Geological collection (see below) by distinctive stuck-on labels. He had developed the family passion for archaeology which clearly impressed the Cardiff Naturalists Society when he moved there in 1872, for he became their President in 1875 (Anon, 1895-96). He remained in this office until 1877 when he moved to Morlais in Brittany. After his wife died in 1893 he returned to Guernsey but died the following year, 1894.

Rev William Collings Lukis MA, FSA, FRSNA (1816-1894)

He was at Trinity, Cambridge and attended lectures on archaeology and natural science. He was a founder member of the Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society, and made various archaeological contributions and the British Museum purchased artefacts and pottery from his estate, after his death at Wath, Yorkshire. He had been rector at Wath for 31 years. Natural history collections by W. C. Lukis are not known but in the Lukis archive there are some manuscript notes for geological lectures (delivered in Ripon) which may be in his handwriting.

Captain Francis Du Bois Lukis (1826-1907)

He retired from the army in 1870 and carried out some archaeological excavations in Alderney. In keeping with the wishes of his father he bequeathed the family collections to the States of Guernsey.

The largest and most important part of the Lukis collection is undoubtedly the archaeological material. However, the natural history material also has many merits. Apart from the shells and the insects mentioned above, the principal Lukis natural history material is the **geological collection**. It is considered here separately as it clearly contains material gathered by several members of the Lukis family. The collection includes around 3000 specimens, some of which relate to a *Catalogue of Minerals Belonging to Frederick C. Lukis*, held in the Lukis Archive. This has 901 entries and is undated though the water marks in the paper are from 1801. It is assumed to refer to Frederick Corbin Lukis and the collection is especially valuable for the local specimens which make up about half of the total. Some of the catalogue entries include details of who supplied the specimens to Lukis. Many are local names, but a couple of specimens came from **Dr Buckland** (with whom Lukis had corresponded about a cave deposit at Corbierre, Guernsey) and several dozen Scottish specimens originate from **Dr John MacCulloch MD, FRS, FLS, FGS (1778-1835)**, described as 'a distinguished Guernseyman and eminent geologist' (Marr, 1984). In the second decade of the nineteenth century MacCulloch conducted a survey of Scotland for the Board of Ordnance, with the object of determining the best types of rock for safe employment in powder mills. In 1811 he contributed the first paper in the Transactions of the new Geological Society of London (an account of Guernsey and the other Channel Islands). Between 1826 and 1832 he worked on a commission to produce a geological map of Scotland. Although he was educated in England and studied Medicine in Edinburgh, it would appear that MacCulloch always retained some links with the place of his birth.

At the time of the transfer of the Lukis Collection to the Lukis and Island Museum, that well known Channel Island geologist, Dr A. E. Mourant, worked on the geological collection and was responsible for arranging the geological exhibits (Mourant, 1984).

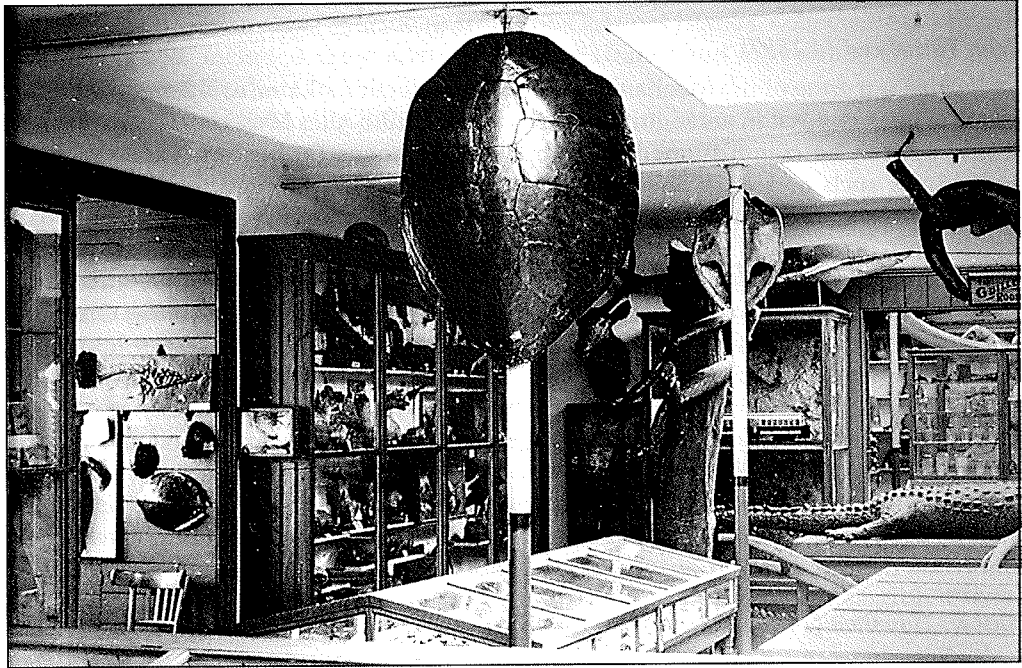


Fig 4. Guille-Allès Museum; a general view of the Guille Room, taken about 1975.

Guille-Allès Museum collections

Guernsey Mechanics Institution and Literary Society

As related earlier, this collection was absorbed into the Guille-Allès Museum when the latter was founded. It is convenient to regard it as a single entity as little related documentation survives. However, tantalising evidence has begun to emerge, including several pages of accounts mainly relating to the acquisition of bird specimens and a single page torn from a manuscript accession register for 1839-40. This lists among other things the tusk and bones of a Siberian mammoth presented by Mr B. Maingy (a frequent donor of minerals to F. C. Lukis). These specimens are still present among the material from the Guille-Allès Museum. Other less distinctive entries like 'numerous Swiss lichens', and sundry collections of unspecified minerals and shells will probably never be recognised among the mass of uncatalogued Guille-Allès specimens.

Thomas Guille (1817-1896)

North American geological material, collected mid-nineteenth century. The size of collection is not known, but a substantial number of Pennsylvanian fossil plants and other specimens bear a small letter 'G' in red paint which may indicate their original ownership. See earlier historical notes for more details of Guille and Allès.

Frederick Mansell Allès (1818-1895)

North American geological material collected at the same time as that of Thomas Guille. Details of the size and content of the collection is also scanty, but handwriting on the labels of North-American specimens may ultimately prove helpful.

John Whitehead (d.1897)

Earlier, a trustee of the Mechanics Institution collection. Later, as the first honorary curator, instrumental in arranging the embryonic Guille-Allès Museum. Particularly, it would appear, he commissioned the supply of specimens (at his own expense) from individuals such as Joseph Sinel, the Jersey-based marine biologist and preparator. Marine invertebrates (especially crustacea) and mammals were among his donations.

William Ambridge Luff (1851-1910)

Luff was the moving spirit behind the entomological work of the young Guernsey Society for Natural Science. This resulted in several published lists of insects found in the various islands, with periodic updates and revisions. Luff collected copiously and his extensive collections were acquired by purchase in 1913, though no manuscript notes or catalogues accompany the material. Largely, the more important specimens can be linked with some certainty, to the data in the published lists in the G.S.N.S. Transactions. However, there is a large amount of duplicate and unsorted material, originally left by Luff in collecting boxes labelled as to locality and date of capture. These have, to an uncertain degree, suffered various rationalisation and sorting attempts over the years.

Gilbert Hamilton (1803-1882)

A collection of minerals was presented to Charlotte Brabazon Hamilton (née de Sausmarez, a prominent Guernsey family) in 1889. It had belonged to her husband, Gilbert, who was a managing partner in the Soho Works founded by James Watt and was, in fact, related to Watt by marriage. The collection of minerals was reported to be in several cabinets at the time of donation (Guille, 1890). This statement was either erroneous or what appears to be the collection has since been removed into a single cabinet which originally had 24 drawers. The specimens are small but generally of a high quality, though mechanically and environmentally caused damage has occurred. There are about 400 specimens. Data is minimal, though about half the specimens are numbered and presumably some kind of list or catalogue once existed. The reference given above implies that the collection was started by James Watt the engineer and given to Hamilton by Watt's son.

Dr Frederick Collings Lukis MD

See entry under Lukis Collection.

Louisa Elizabeth Collings née Lukis (1818-1887)

Louisa was Frederick Corbin's eldest daughter and developed a keen interest in lichens, probably from her father. In 1847 she married the Rev W. T. Collings, Seigneur of Sark and, as Mrs Collings, contributed a list of some 185 Guernsey lichens to one book describing the islands (Ansted and Latham, 1826b). Her collection was given to the Guille-Allès Museum after her death and includes much material from the well known lichenologist Charles LARBALÉSTIER (who was a family friend) and the Rev Churchill Babington. Martin Tupper, the poet mentioned earlier, refers to her

rather quaintly as the Queen of Sark, in a letter to her father (Tupper, 1866b). Another letter notes that she had a shell collection (Tupper, 1866a), the fate of which is unknown.

Lilian Lyle (1890-1936)

A series of marine algae specimens from the Channel Islands, collected early in this century. These included dried and mounted specimens and microscope slides. Lists were published in the G.S.N.S. Transactions. Also donated material to the British Museum (Natural History) and the National Museum of Wales (Kent and Allen, 1984).

J. W. Sinel and J. Sinel

Father and son, marine biologists and preparators of Jersey, supplied numerous models (especially fish casts), taxidermy services and set-piece museum displays, over a considerable period of time. Also provided 'peripatetic technical services' to the museum during an annual summer-time visit, when cases were fumigated, exhibits renovated etc. This annual custom was taken over from 1926, until shortly before his death in 1955 (except for the war years), by a Mr S. G. Finch of London.

J. W. Belle

Guernsey and Alderney Odonata, three storeboxes collected 1978. Also re-determined Odonata in existing collections, for a published study of local dragonflies (Belle, 1980).

E. D. Marquand (1848-1918)

Twelve drawer cabinet and twenty storeboxes of mixed Guernsey and English insects. The latter were collected principally in the Penzance, New Forest and London areas where the Marquand family had lived. The collection may have been in the possession of W. A. Luff (q v) at the time of his death, as no record of its separate transfer to the museum can be traced and its separate identity has only been established by handwriting comparisons.

Mr Harman

Twelve storeboxes of European lepidoptera, mostly from Switzerland and Guernsey, presented 1970-71. About half of this collection, which was originally of very high quality, with full data, has been reduced to dust by the activities of dermestid beetles. The data from the lost specimens does, however, survive and may prove useful. No biographical details of the collector have so far been traced.

Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery, recent additions

C. J. Shayer (d.1981)

Eleven drawer cabinet of local lepidoptera presented to Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery by his widow in 1982.

Cyril Shayer was the secretary of the entomological section of La Société Guernesiaise, from 1942 until the time of his death.

In 1982 the museum was offered on long loan two large (420mm x 335mm) volumes of natural history paintings, presumed to have been executed by various members of the Lukis family. They vary considerably in quality and style. Inscriptions in each volume record that they were substantial series of fish, shells, beetles and butterflies. It is evident that the original sheets have been trimmed when the volumes were bound.

Inscriptions in each volume record that they were originally presented in 1870 by Frederick Corbin to his second daughter, Mary Ann Mansell Lukis.

Postscript. The above lists are acknowledged to be incomplete and represent the current state of knowledge regarding the history of these extensive but poorly documented collections.. More information will undoubtedly come to light as the work of curation proceeds.

Perhaps, too, attention should be drawn to the main herbarium of local plants which remains in the care of La Société Guernesaise. It was started in 1892 by the G.S.N.S. (which became La Société in 1926) and formed the basis for the publication of E.D.Marquand's *Flora of Guernsey* in 1901. The herbarium has been continually added to since then, as the botany section of the Société has remained consistently active. The herbarium is stored at the Société headquarters which was opened in a shared extension to the Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery in 1986. La Société also own and keep the island's most prized scientific collection, the Gosselin Herbarium of local plants. This collection was started in 1788 by Joshua Gosselin, a local crown official. It was presented to La Société Guernesaise in 1946 but sank into obscurity for many years until its relatively recent rediscovery and recognition as the main starting point for Guernsey botany (McClintock 1982).

Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank the many UK colleagues who have responded cheerfully to requests for information, particularly Pat Francis, Geoff Hancock, Steve Howe and Hugh Torrens. Staff at the Guille-Allès Library, Guernsey, have been most helpful, providing access to their archives and responding efficiently to frequent requests for information. The latter can also be said of Guernsey's Priaux Library. The other staff at Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery have also shown great forbearance, answering frequent queries about the days before the staff included a natural historian. Lilla Desmond and Sandra Henderson translated the manuscript into a typescript, despite the author's handwriting and text alterations.

References

- Anon., (1876 October, 24). A Museum in Guernsey. *Guernsey Mail and Telegraph*.
 Anon., (1889). Meetings 1882. *Rep. and Trans. Gnsy. Soc. Nat. Hist.* 1, 9-11.
 Anon., (1895-6). John Walter Lukis. *Trans. Cardiff Nat. Soc.* 28, pt.1, 1-2.
 Ansted, D. A. and Latham, R. G. (1862a). *The Channel Islands*. Allen and Co., London.
 Ansted, D. A. and Latham, R. G. (1862b). *op. cit.*, 187-89.
 Babington, C. C. (1839). *Primitiae Florae Sarnicae*. Longman, London.
 Belle, J. W. (1980). Survey of the Dragonfly Fauna of the Sarnian Islands. *Rep. & Trans. Société Guernesaisie* 20, pt.4, 465-81.
 Cole, H. R. and Read, R. (1978). The Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery: a new Museum in the Channel Islands. *Mus. Jnl.* 78, pt.3, 126-30 (including a review by N Thomas).
 Crowley, T. E. (1961). F. C. Lukis and the Triton. *Jnl. of Conch.*, 25, pt.1, 17-20.
 Derrick, G. T. (1889). Meetings 1883. *Rep. & Trans. Gnsy. Soc. Nat. Hist.* 1, 16.
 Guille, T. (1889). Meetings 1885. *Rep. & Trans. Gnsy. Soc. Nat. Hist.* 1, 29.
 Guille, T. (1890). Meetings 1889. *ibid.*, 1, 115-116.
 Hocart, R. (1988). *An Island Assembly. A History of the States of Guernsey 1700-1949*. Guernsey Museum Monograph No.2.
 Jeffreys, J. G. (1858). Gleanings. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 2, 130.

- Jeffreys, J. G. (1863). *British Conchology*. Van Voorst, London.
- Kent, D. H. and Allen, D. E. (1984). *British and Irish Herbaria*. B.S.B.I. London.
- Lounger, The ([1875], February 14). *A Loud Voice, Advertiser*. Guille-Allès Library Archives.
- MacCulloch, E., Gallienne, J. T. and Le Cocq, A. (1855, December 5). *Printed circular in the form of a letter*. Guille-Allès Library Archives.
- Marr, L. J. (1984). *Guernsey People*. Phillimore, Chichester.
- McClintock, D. (1982). *Guernsey's Earliest Flora*. Ray Soc., London.
- Mourant, A. E. (1984). The Lukis Geological Collection. *Rep. & Trans. Soc. Gnsaise*. 21, pt.3, 387-90.
- Pitts, J. L. (1883). *The Story in Brief of the Guille-Allès Library*, in *The Patois Poems of the Channel Islands*. Guille-Allès Library, Guernsey.
- Roswell, B. R. (undated). *Story of the Guille-Allès Library in the Island of Guernsey*. Book Auction Records.
- Tupper, M. F. (1863, Feb 9). *Handwritten draft copy of a circular, proposing the establishment of a museum in Guernsey*. Lukis Archive, Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery.
- Tupper, M. F. (1866a). *Letter to F. C. Lukis, dated 31 July 1866*. Lukis Archive, Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery.
- Tupper, M. F. (1866b). *Letter to F. C. Lukis, dated 30 August 1866*. Lukis Archive, Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery.
- Warren, J. P. (1950, October 7). *Unpublished address, on the occasion of a visit by La Société Guernesiaise*. Guille-Allès Library Archives.
- Yarrell, W. (1836). *A History of British Fishes*. Van Voorst, London.