



<http://www.natsca.org>

The Biology Curator

Title: "Mollusca for the Millennium": Leeds Museum Resource Centre and Molluscan Storage and Documentation Project

Author(s): Norris, A.

Source: Norris, A. (2000). "Mollusca for the Millennium": Leeds Museum Resource Centre and Molluscan Storage and Documentation Project. *The Biology Curator*, Issue 18, 20 - 23.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/410>

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.

preservative fluid, the jar, and the sealant. ICOM Natural History Conservation 11: 12-14.

Horie, C.V. 1989. Conservation of Natural History Specimens: Spirit Collections. University of Manchester Department of Environmental Biology and The Manchester Museum.

Horie, C.V. 1994. Environmental control for spirit specimens. Biology Curators Group Newsletter 6(4): 43-44.

Lee, L.R. and Thickett, D. 1996. Selection of materials for the storage and display of museum objects. British Museum Occasional Paper 111.

MGC. 1998. Ours for keeps – A guide to conservation and collection care.

Moore, S.J. 1989. Conservation of spirit collections. In C.V. Horie (ed) Conservation of Natural History Specimens: Spirit Collections. University of Manchester Department of Environmental Biology, and The Manchester Museum, p 65-90.

Moore, S.J. 1994. What fluid is in the bottle ? Biology Curators Group Newsletter 6(4): 44-45.

Moore, S.J. 1999. Fluid Preservation. In D. Carter and K.W. Annette (eds) Care and Conservation of Natural History Collections. Butterworth Heinemann, p92-132.

Pitkin, B. 1995. Labelling specimens in the life science departments at the natural history museum, London using computers. The Biology Curator, 4: 24-26.

Simmons, J. E. 1995. Storage in fluid preservatives. In C. Rose, C.A. Hawks and H.H. Genoways (eds) Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventative Conservation Approach, p 161-186.

Tennant, N.H. and Baird, T. 1985. The deterioration of mollusca collections: identification of shell efflorescence. Studies in Conservation 30: 73-85.

Von Endt, D.W., Harasewych, M.G. and Post, J. 1996. Byne's disease revisited. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual 11th Meeting Abstracts, p19.

Julian Carter

Conservation Officer, Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology, National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP

"MOLLUSCA FOR THE MILLENNIUM"

LEEDS MUSEUM RESOURCE CENTRE MOLLUSCAN STORAGE AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT.

The Leeds Museums and Galleries "Mollusca for the Millennium" project is funded by the Designation Challenge Fund, formally administered by the Museums and Galleries Commission M.G.C. now the Museum Libraries and Archives Council. This three-year project is designed to enable the service to develop the city's extensive world-wide shell collections.

The funding will enable us to:

- Install new roller racking to hold the shell collections
- Store the collection in scientific order
- Install a new networked computer system
- Upgrade the documentation of the collections from the present manual system
- Research and publish a series of papers on the collections, including

A catalogue of the type and figured material held in the collection

A register of the collection, range and content, by family, (or maybe even species).

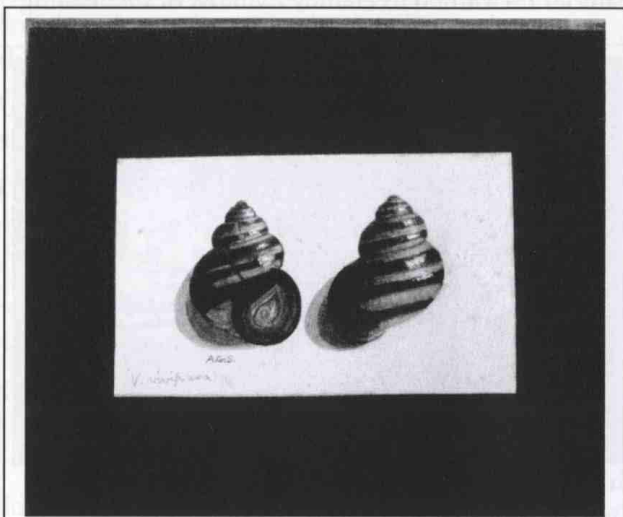
- Help pay for extra staffing within the natural history department
- Help with travel and subsistence expenses
- Help research, develop and produce one or more exhibitions on mollusca

All of the above will help us to develop new, innovative methods, as well as alternative ways of using and displaying the shell collections in any future new museum development within the city.

MOLLUSCAN COLLECTIONS - LEEDS MUSEUM RESOURCE CENTRE

The Leeds Museums and Galleries hold a large number of shell collections, some of which are very well known and others not so well known. It is difficult to separate the more important collections as even the less well known collections have important material within them. Two major collections however, contain large numbers of type, figured and cited material. These are the collections of Sylvanus Charles Thorp Hanley (1819-1899) and Terence Eldon Crowley (1915-1999).

The collection of Sylvanus Charles Thorp Hanley, was originally housed in some 13 cabinets and over



Original painting by A.G. Stubbs of *Viviparus viviparus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from the River Lea, Rye House, Hertfordshire collected by A.G. Stubbs in 1908

206 drawers, and was transferred to Leeds, from the Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield in 1957. After Hanley's death in 1899 the collection went to his nephew Crew Hanley who sold the collection to H Harvey a dealer. The collection was later sold at auction to Mr. J.C. North who gave the collection to the Tolson Museum. The Hanley collection contains several hundred type, figured and cited specimens, and as such is considered to be of international importance.

The collection of Terence Eldon Crowley came to the museum in two parts. The tropical marine in 1993, followed by the tropical land and freshwater elements, after his death in 1999. He listed 94 paratypes as occurring in his collection, but did not list all the other type specimens or the cited material. The author of a number of monographs, his collection contains a good quantity of other important material.

Over the years an inter-disciplinary approach to collecting, within the natural sciences department at Leeds, has resulted in material being held within the department, which in other museums may be split through several differing departments. For example, within the molluscan collections we have original paintings, photographs, manuscript documents, books, medals and social history material. This has left us with a rich and varied resource with which we can illustrate the work of the department.

The main shell collections housed at Leeds

Alien, Charles, Acc.No. LEEDM.C.1968.4 Contents - mainly Yorkshire land and Freshwater material.

Appleyard, S.G., Acc.No. LEEDM.C.1969.7

This collection includes several boxes of shells from the old Leeds Co-operative Naturalists' Society

collection. This includes material collected by Hans Schiess. Contents - British & Continental L. & F.W.

Armitage, John, (1900-1996) Obit. *J. Conch.* 36:86-87. Acc.No. LEEDC.C.1993.1 (1997)

This large collection was purchased with the aid of a Science Museum grant. The collection contains material by most of the main collectors of the 20th century, mainly British and continental L. & F.W.

Ashford, Charles, (1829-1894) Obit. *J. Conch.* 7:405. Acc.No. LEEDM.C.1975.9

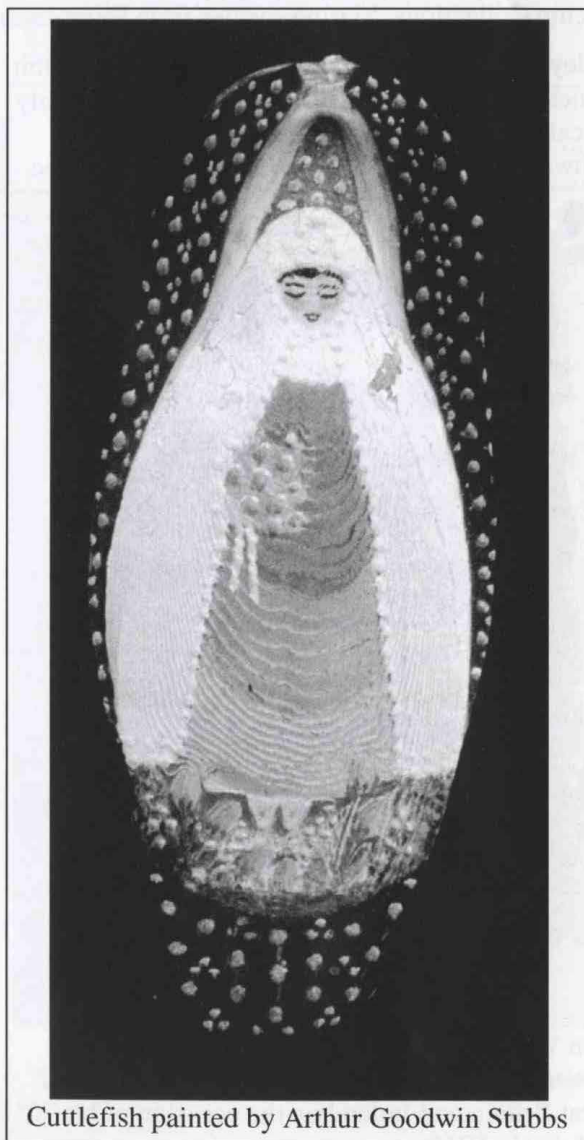
An early British collection, mainly L. & F.W. Within the main collection is an early collection of darts. His collection of *Pisidia* was re-identified by S. Peter Dance.

Atkinson Memorial Collection,

Acc.No. LEEDM.C.1975.10

The Atkinson Memorial Collection is in memory of Francis E., Edward and Victor Rupert Atkinson. Tropical L. & F.W.

Aubrook, Edward Wrigley, (1915-1990) Obit. *The Naturalist* 116:36-37



Cuttlefish painted by Arthur Goodwin Stubbs

A collection of land, freshwater and marine species from New Zealand collected as a result of several trips to that country. This collection has a series of accession numbers.

Baynes, Una M., Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1991.4 Mainly South African marine.

Brooksbank, Hugh, Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1954.61 Presented by D.Osborne via Bradford Museums, British L. & F.W.

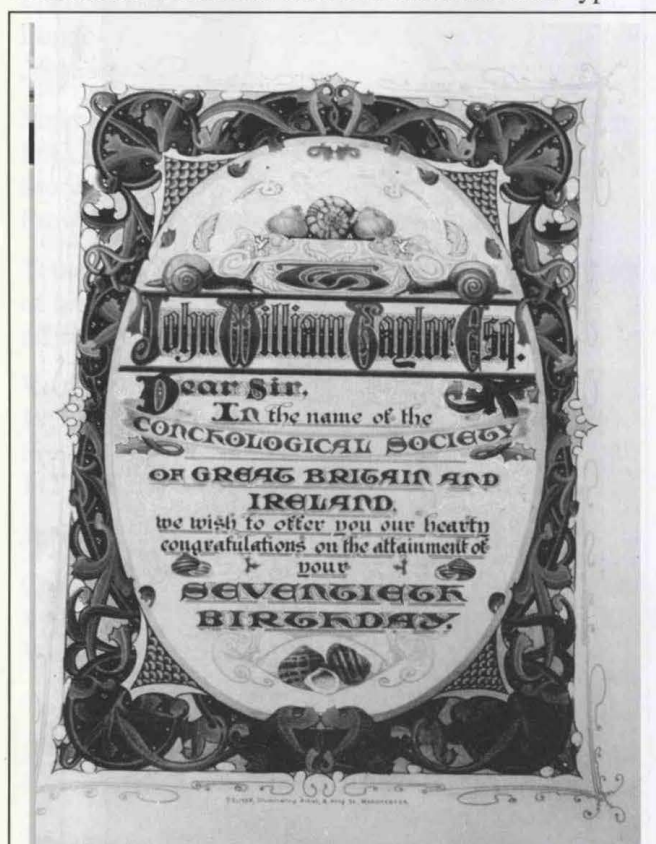
Castell, C.P., (1907-1972) Obit. J.Conch. 27.520. Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1975.4 Mixed British & Tropical.

Crowley, Terence Eldon, (1915-1999) Acc. No. LEEDM. C. 1993.5 World-wide collection of land, freshwater and marine mollusca. Contains numbers of type, figured and cited specimens. This collection includes large numbers of specimens origination from other major collections, such as A.E.Salisbury, C.J.Maynard and Da C(:)sta.

Davis, J.W., (1846-1893) Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1990.1 L. & F.W. & Marine World- Wide, (ex Halifax Museum).

Frazer, C., Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1990.1 Ex Halifax Museum Collections. Marine species from Fiji

Hanley, Sylvanus Charles Thorp, (1819-1899) Obit. J.Conch. 9:269 Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1957.173 Mainly tropical marine bivalves and North American Freshwater Unionid's. This collection contains type



John William Taylor's Illuminated Address presented to him by the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland on the occasion of his 70th birthday in 1915.

material forwarded to Hanley by most of the leading



Silver Grenfell Medal inscribed "to A.G.Stubbs for Drawings of Flowers R.H.S. 12 Jan. 1932".

19th century conchologists.

Maddrell, Mariefta, Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1972.5 and 1973.1 British Marine.

Moore, C.H., Obit. J. Conch. 23.85. (1869-1949), Acc. No. LEEDM. C. 1 949.2 Tropical L & F.W. & Marine. Originally estimated at circa 20,000 specimens.

Nelson, William, (1835-1906) Obit. Naturalist 1906XX:1 159, J.Conch. 11:357. Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1960.99 Transferred to the museum from Leeds University. British L. & F.W.

Norris, Adrian, (1942-) World-wide but mainly European L. & F.W. some marine, Numerous accession numbers. Includes type material.

Purdy, J., Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1972.3 British Pisidia, 126 sets.

Seville, Jack & Vi, Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1990.1 ex Halifax Museum. Mainly American Marine species.

Stratton, L.W., (1900-1971) Obit.J.Conch.27.427. Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1971.2 Purchased jointly with Manchester University, Leeds took mainly the British marine and some L.& F.W. and the tropical collection, including American Unionid's (The New Zealand and most of the British L. & F.W. went to Manchester).

Stubbs, Arther Goodwin, (1871-1950) Obit. J. Conch.23:120 Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1925.2 British and some continental L. & F.W.

Taylor, Fred, (1871-1949), Obit. J.Conch.23.86. Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1975.16 and 1984.1 8 British L. & F.VJ.

Taylor, George H., Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1988.1 British L. & F.W. 544 sets.

Temple, William, (1989-1960), Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1977.1 British L. & F.W. 24 boxes;

Thurgood, William, Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1993.1,
British and continental L. & F.W., Donor
Mr.S.G.Appleyard.

Anon Acc.No.LEEDM.C.1981.6, ex Huddersfield
Naturalists'Club. Tropical L & F.W. c. 1,500 sets.

Anon Ac.No.LEEDM.C.1982.366, Marine Red Sea &
North American via Prof Alexander, Leeds
University.

Further reading on the Leeds City Museum Natural
History Collections

Nunney, J.H., & Norris, A., 1978, A Note on the
Natural History Collections, Leeds City Museum
Biological Curators Group Newsletter 1 : 6-1 0

Norris, A., 1989, Natural History, pp.47-52. chapter
within Brears, P., 1989, Of Curiosities & Rare Things,
The Story of Leeds City Museums, published by The
Friends of Leeds City Museum.

Norris, A., 1993, Leeds City Museum - its Natural
History Collections. (Part 1). Journal of Biological
Curation 1:(314) 1991-92 : 29-39.

Norris, A., 1993, Shell Collections in Yorkshire
Museums - No. 1. The Leeds City Museum
Collections - Section 1. British and European Land
and Freshwater Molluscan Collections. Bulletin,
Y.N.U. 20:27-29

Norris, A., 1995, Shell Collections in Yorkshire
Museums - Part 2. The Leeds City Museum and its
Shell Collections. 2. Section 2. The British Marine
and Tropical Collections. Bulletin Y.N.U. 23:17-19.

Norris, A., 1995, Leeds City Museum - its Natural
History Collections Part 2. The Biology Curator 4:1
9-24.

Adrian Norris

Senior Curator, Natural Sciences and Ethnography
Leeds Museums Service

A Method of Rehydrating Specimens

1. Prepare a solution of Decon 90 detergent and water in approximate concentration 1:20; exact proportions are not necessary to obtain good results. (The phosphates in the detergent penetrate the cells allowing water to osmose into them)
2. Add the solution to the dried out material. Make sure no labels are affected. (The solution causes serious damage to paper and script)
3. Leave for an average of 3 days but check daily to ascertain if the solution needs to be changed or renewed. (Rinse material thoroughly in running, cold water before re-immersing.)
4. After rehydration is complete, rinse material in running, cold water for at least 10 minutes.
5. Replace material in alcohol (usually 80%) with information that it has been rehydrated.

Ideally check the material for a further week. If the appearance of the alcohol changes it could mean the material needs a further rinsing in water before final curation

