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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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The Biology Curator

Title: Untitled

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1995). Untitled. *The Biology Curator*, Issue 4, 2.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/778>

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By the time this issue appears on your desk BCG's twenty-first birthday celebrations will have come and gone. For those that were not around in the mid 1970's and who are more familiar with the current system of specialist groups and good communications (comparatively at least - yes this issue is a month late!) it is hard to visualise the fragmented scene that predated BCG. Despite efforts of the Museums Association, the professionalisation of museums as exemplified by the founding of the Leicester and Manchester Museum Studies courses, coupled with the creation of new and specialist curatorial posts in provincial museums which had never had them before, left the new incumbents of these posts looking for an outlet for their skills. Mainly graduates used to dealing with publications and belonging to societies and clubs, it seemed only natural to band together for the greater good, to swap information and to organise meetings. The publications of the group have come on a long way from the duplicated pages of the early issues but, and you can guess what is coming, this newsletter, just like its predecessors depends entirely on you for its content. BCG has always encouraged all of its members to contribute to its publications, I hope it will always do so. Do not be put off by its appearance or the typeface. Please consider contributing yourself. It may be that you have a point to air, a process to describe, a new display to illustrate, all are the bread and butter of the editor and I cannot recall a single item that has been rejected outright. Send your item to the editor now!

As you can see, this is a bumper issue, several items have had to be held over and news has been truncated to give you all more meaty bits. A full account of the BCG Birthday Party will appear in the next issue.

Data Protection Act: please note that, in order to gain exemption from the provisions of the DPA all members must give permission for their names and addresses to be included on the computerised database which generates our mailing list. Permission can be by default so any member who has not informed the BCG Secretary of their objection to inclusion on the database in writing by October 31st will be deemed to be in agreement with the current situation.

The second half of this issue contains several papers that were presented at the Chester 'Bones' meeting earlier this year and includes an unusually high number of figures. These undoubtedly increase the value of the papers and rest the eyes a little too! Papers with figures and scurrilous photos of any kind are welcome.

Liverpool Fax: Liverpool Museum's new fax number is 0151 478 4390.

Natural Sciences Conservation Group: the following update has been submitted by James Dickinson on behalf of the committee of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group.

As you may be aware, UKIC has been going through a complete restructuring process, with severe implications for membership and subscription levels.

At the Natural Sciences Section AGM on 8 March it was agreed that the section would be left with no option but to separate from UKIC should the intended changes be ratified on 12 July.

In the light of this, the section Chair, William Lindsey, held further discussions with UKIC leading to UKIC Chair, Diane Dollery, attending the Natural Sciences Section Committee on May 18. Agreement was reached on an amicable split from UKIC and a proposal to this effect was prepared for submission to UKIC Executive. This was subsequently rejected by the Executive and on the 12 July the UKIC AGM ratified the proposed constitutional changes. The motion agreed on March 8 has therefore been implemented - *Those attending this meeting request the Natural Sciences Section Committee to prepare a new autonomous group ... to be activated in the event of an unacceptable new structure being adopted by UKIC.* The existing members of the group voted that they wished to stay together to represent the full spectrum of natural sciences conservation. Members who are paid up full or associate members of UKIC have been asked to write and request a transfer to another section to avoid an apparent division of loyalty between the new Natural Sciences Conservation Group and any remnant Natural Sciences Section operated by UKIC. The existing committee will run the new group until the next AGM (provisionally March 27 1996). Subscriptions will be £10

(considerably less than the £28 or £60 of UKIC). As members will no longer receive *Conservation News* it is intended to expand the NSCG's newsletter. A new subscription form will be issued shortly.

Care of Collections Forum is launched: details of this new multi-disciplinary group which operates across the widest spectrum of subjects and professions within museums can be obtained from Jane Henderson, CMW, The Courtyard, Letty Street, Cathays, Cardiff CF2 4EL.

PEOPLE

Jane Mee has been appointed Principal Museums Officer at Scarborough and has been replaced as Curator of Natural Sciences at Ludlow by **Kate Andrew**. **Donna Hughes** has been appointed Assistant Keeper of Botany (Herbarium) at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. At Perth, long standing BCG member **Jim Blair**, who received the OBE earlier this year for services to museums in Scotland, has been appointed Director of Leisure and Cultural Services for the new unitary authority of Perthshire and Kinross while BCG Editor **Michael Taylor** has been appointed Head of Arts and Heritage. Congratulations also to Mike and to GCG's *Coprolite* Editor, **Tom Sharpe**, for their recent award of the Fellowship of the Museum's Association.

DIARY DATES

6-10 Nov 1995. Information: The Hidden Resource, MDA Conference, Edinburgh. Full programme now available from Museums Documentation Association, Lincoln House, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DH. Tel 01223 242848.

8-12 Nov 1995. BCG study visit to Brussels!

29-30 Nov 1995. Geology for all - the role of the curator in developing the public understanding of geology. GCG seminar, AGM and fieldtrip. Ludlow. Contact Colin Reid, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, tel 01384 453574.

27 Mar 1996. AGM of Natural Sciences Conservation Group (provisional).

April 1996. BCG AGM Newcastle. Details in next issue.

INFORMATION WANTED

A colleague working on a historical