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Deposited on: 29 July 2014
History & Mystery is a delightful collection of notes and queries from past SHNH Newsletters. The book is £15 (post paid) for the UK and £18 for the rest of the world (ROW). Ordering online is easy: go to the SHNH website (www.shnh.org.uk) and click on the DONATE by PayPal button;

Proceeds from the sale of this volume will help replenish the Alwynne Wheeler Bursary to support young scholars in attending SHNH conferences and meetings.

Charles Nelson (2011) recently discussed the origin of the old natural history saying, “What's hit is history; what's missed is mystery”, in the fine anthology History and Mystery published by the Society. He could trace the saying as far back as 1829, in the context of game-shooting and similar country pursuits. We here show that an alternative form, the briefer phrase “a history and a mystery”, is of considerably greater antiquity, and that we can suggest a different first use in what might be called a natural history context – though this cannot be dated accurately and may not be earlier than the previously noted 1829 usage.

An anonymous article on Mary Anning the younger (1799-1847), the fossil collector of Lyme Regis, was published in Chambers’s Edinburgh Journal in 1857. It ends (Anon. 1857, 7: 383-384; the emphasis is ours):

Who can ever hope to fill the place she occupied? Were Mary alive, I should like to have extracted from her a list of the famous men of all countries with whom she maintained a correspondence. The Geological Society subscribed towards the window [in Lyme parish church], ‘in commemoration of her usefulness in furthering geology.’ Molly Anning, the mother, who was quite an original, used to say of her famous daughter that she was a history and a mystery. The lower orders, who could not understand what she had achieved, remembered the deadly flash of lightning.

We show elsewhere (Taylor & Torrens, forthcoming) that this article was credited by the publisher to the naturalist Frank Buckland (1826-1880),
who however also included material from his friend George Roberts (bap. 1804-1860), Lyme Regis historian and schoolmaster, and from a MS. memoir probably by his father, the geologist William Buckland (1784-1856), recalling the day of the 1800 lightning strike on a group including the infant Anning. We further argue that the particular paragraph quoted here appears to have been written by Frank.

The reference to Anning’s mother Molly (= Mary Anning the elder) calling her daughter ‘a history and a mystery’ may have come from Frank’s personal experience, or it may have been passed on within the family by his father, or his mother Mary Buckland (1797-1857). All we can say about the timing of the original expression is that it must stem from some time before Molly died in 1842, and some time after her daughter developed her idiosyncracies of character, so some time after, say, 1810 or 1820, particularly after she took up fossil collecting for a living.

Where did Molly find this phrase? It may of course have been a variant – perhaps her own or a local one – of the shooters’ expression. But game hunting is an unlikely occupation for even the menfolk of a respectable working class family in early 19th century Dorset, especially given the attitudes of landowners to any breach of the penal game laws.

A more promising line of thought is suggested by the fact that the Anning family was Nonconformist¹ and attended the Coombe Street Chapel in Lyme (Torrens 1995). A search of the internet shows that the phrase does indeed occur in religious discourse, as for instance in the works of William Huntington (1745–1813), a popular independent preacher, as

*So much for the history and introduction; — now for the mystery and explication of this name.* (Huntington 1811, 1: 65-66)

And

*Having given the reader an account of the history and mystery of this wonderful name [...]* (Huntington 1811, 1: 100)

And the title:

*The history and mystery of Abraham’s entertainment* (Huntington 1811, 8: 20)

And

*Here, reader, is another history, and another mystery. Here is a man who acts in nothing so irrationally as in religion [...]* (Huntington 1811, 10: 269).

In general, the expression does not seem to be particularly common, but it does occur elsewhere in a religious context, for instance in the title of pamphlets by [Robinson] [1782] and Anonymous (1739), and from the 1640s in the writings of Joseph Salmon, a chaplain in the New Model Army, and a Ranter, a member of one of the more extreme sects of this period during the Civil Wars of Britain and Ireland and the rule of the Commonwealth (quoted by Parnham 1997: 129). We therefore suspect that Molly was using a phrase from religious discourse heard in chapel.

The phrase “a history and a mystery” and close variants occur also in non-sacred contexts in the titles of books, from venereal disease (Maynwayrge 1673) to political and local controversy (Cobbett [1810-1815], Davies 1840), to take a few examples from the British Library catalogue (www.bl.uk, accessed 25 February 2013). Intriguingly, this also throws up the charmingly titled *The history and mystery of a glass of ale* (Kirton 1863) and the factual potboiler *All about it! or, The history and mystery of common things* (Anon., 1858). The latter includes mention of Liassic fossils, and its date of
publication raises the possibility that the author had read the Chambers’s Journal piece, so perhaps Molly Anning’s version of the expression found new life here as well as in the many books and articles on her daughter which quote this saying (Taylor & Torrens, forthcoming). It should certainly not be assumed to be an idiosyncratic, and even malapropistic, expression originated by an uneducated woman.

Alas, we cannot plausibly credit Molly with being the source of the shooters’ version of the expression, for Frank Buckland, otherwise a fine potential conduit to the naturalists’ community, was born just too late, in 1826. Perhaps, after all, it did come from shooters – but deriving from the hunting parsons in their community? The question does however remain open of whether the shooters added the double play on words to an earlier version of “a history and a mystery” to create their fuller and more profane version, “What’s hit is history, but what’s missed is mystery”.

1 In the English context: members of a Reformed, and so Protestant church or congregation which did not adhere to the Church of England, which was the official State religion.

References
Anon. 1739 A discourse on the mystery and history of the scriptures and on the nature and uses of miracles. Occasioned by Mr. Woolston’s Discourses on the miracles of our Saviour. London.
Anon. 1858 All about it! or, The history and mystery of common things. London.
Cobbett, W. [1810-1815] Paper against gold: containing the history and mystery of the Bank of England, the funds, the debt, the Sinking Fund, the Bank stoppage, the lowering and the raising of the value of paper-money; and shewing that taxation, pauperism, poverty, misery and crimes have all increased and ever must increase, with a funding system. London.
Davies, G. 1840 The history and mystery of the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools, first established in 1810. Including correspondence with Dr. Murray the President, the Rev. G. B. Kidd, the Messrs. Rowntree, and many others. Scarborough.
Huntingdon, W. 1811 The works of the Reverend William Huntington, S.S. minister of the Gospel at Providence Chapel, Gray’s Inn Lane, completed to the close of the year MDCCCVI in twenty volumes. 20 volumes. London.
Maynwaringe, E. 1673 The history and mystery of the venereal lues concisely abstracted and modelled (occasionally) from serious strict perpensions, and critical collations of divers repugning sentiments and contrary assertions of eminent physicians [...]. London.
Taylor, M. A. & Torrens, H. S. (forthcoming) An anonymous account


Michael A. Taylor & Hugh S. Torrens  
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A. M. LUCAS: James Rennie (1786–1867) in Australia, 1840–1867.
Y. SAMYN, A. SMIRNOV & C. MASSIN: Carl Gottfried Semper (1832–1893) and the location of his type specimens of sea cucumbers.
S. L. OLSON & C. LEVY: Eleazar Albin in Don Saltero’s coffee-house in 1736: how the Jamaican mango hummingbird got its name, *Trochilus mango*.

**Short Notes**

L. K. OVERSTREET: Inscribed copy of *Animal life on the shores of the Clyde and Firth*.
G. BOANO & G. AIMASSI: Bonelli’s record of the demoiselle crane, *Grus virgo* from Piedmont, Italy.
P. G. MOORE: Sea spiders misrepresented (1887) as crustacean parasites of cetaceans.

The following papers and short notes will be issued in *Archives of natural history* 41.1, in print and online in April 2014.

Y. SAMYN: Return to sender: Hydrozoa collected by Emperor Hirohito of Japan in the 1930s and studied in Brussels.
R. MIDDLETON: The Royal Horticultural Society’s 1864 botanical competition.


A. M. LUCAS & P. J. LUCAS: Natural history “collectors”: exploring the ambiguities.
A. G. KNOX: The first egg of Jerdon’s courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* and a review of the early records of this species.
H. FUNK: Describing plants in a new mode: the introduction of dichotomies into sixteenth-century botanical literature.
I. SVANBERG & S. CIOS: Petrus Magni and the history of fresh-water aquaculture in the later Middle Ages.
C. J. BIDAUX: The katydid that was: the tananá, stridulation, Henry Walter Bates and Charles Darwin.
S. L. OLSON: The early scientific history of Galapagos iguanas.

**Obituary**


**Short notes**

K. D. HUSSEY: Ming the forgotten celebrity: a giant panda skull at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
E. C. NELSON: The natural history interests of the Barrington family of Fassaroe, County Wicklow, Ireland.


R. B. WILLIAMS: An annotated catalogue of the marine biological paintings of Thomas Alan Stephenson – a fourth missing painting found.

R. M. PECK: Discovered in Philadelphia: a third set of Thomas Horsfield’s nature prints of plants from Java.


E. C. NELSON: Additions to Philip Henry Gosse’s bibliography: letters to newspapers and horticultural periodicals 1864–1879.

**Corrigendum**

*Archives of natural history* 40.2, p.369.

Peter Davis
Honorary Editor

13. **Accessing *Archives of Natural History* online**

The full content of *Archives of Natural History* dating back to 1936 is available to SHNH members freely online. Electronic copies of new issues are available in advance of the printed version.

Members will have been advised of how to access the publications online by Edinburgh University Press in 2013. Members and new members will receive a letter with information and instructions in April from EUP. The terms of the access token have been extended to include 2014, to simplify the process. If you have any queries, please contact EUP by email: JournalsEditorial@eup.ed.ac.uk.

**Society Events News**

14. **Collectors and Collecting**

**Spring Meeting and AGM**

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter

Saturday 18th May

The one day meeting at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum was attended by 32 people, almost all of whom were SHNH members.

Talks in the morning session focussed on natural history collectors represented in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum collections. In place of Peter Dance, who was unable to come, Ron Cleevely opened the session on George Montagu, giving us some biographical background to explain Montagu’s very complex, and often irregular relationships, then going on to discuss his contribution to Devon natural history in both ornithology and invertebrate zoology. He showed us some of the beautiful drawings by his “companion” Eliza Dorville.

David Nicholls, from Exeter University, was next, with the story of W. Percy Sladen and his echinoderm collections, now on display in a special room in the Museum. We also learnt about Sladen’s life, his work on the material from the Challenger expedition, echinoderm morphology and their present day role and importance in marine ecosystems.

The morning finished with Anne Secord bringing us into the world of the seaweed collectors, focussing on Mrs Griffiths who took up collecting seaweeds following the death of her husband. She and Mrs Gatty made major contributions to knowledge of cryptogamic botany through her links to Samuel Goodenough and Dawson Turner, the pre-eminent workers in that
field at the time. Some of her collections are in the Exeter Museum. Other women collectors included Ellen Hutchins in Ireland as well as Mrs Griffith’s servant, Mary Wyatt, who created and sold albums of seaweeds.

After an excellent buffet “ploughman’s” lunch, delegates were taken behind the scenes by Helen Burbage, the Collections and Audiences Assistant. An evening dinner followed overlooking the cathedral precinct.

Special thanks go to Isabelle Charmantier for helping to set this up and to the Museum staff.

15. “Unremitting passion for the beauty and mystery of the natural world”

Alfred Russel Wallace Centenary
SHNH, Linnean Society & University of Bournemouth joint meeting in association with the Bournemouth Natural Science Society
7-8 June 2013

The Wallace Lecture Theatre on the Talbot campus of the University of Bournemouth was the opening venue for this joint event, attended by 74 people, of which at least 23 were SHNH members.

Andrew Sortwell and his travelling companion, David Ord-Kerr, a wildlife artist, introduced us to Wallace’s Amazonian experiences in their re-tracing of his footsteps, often in similar conditions. Apart from beautiful, and sometimes dramatic, photographic images, we also had indigenous artefacts and David’s sketchbooks to view.

Janet Ashdown spoke next, explaining and showing us how she had conserved Wallace’s field notebooks, held in the Linnean Society, ensuring that their original character was retained as much as possible.

That led on to James Costa and his interpretative work, published just after the meeting, on Wallace’s “Species Notebook” of 1855-1859, which reveals Wallace’s evolutionary insights.

A break for lunch was followed by Caroline Catchpole telling us about the Wallace Correspondence Project at the Natural History Museum in London, then Annette Lord on the Wallace letters and collections in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. The formal session finished with Charles Smith telling us about his work on Wallace, and what he has learnt about Wallace’s use of both Humboldt and Charles Lyell’s work. A panel discussion, moderated by Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, was followed by the delegates moving to a nearby theatrical space for a short performance of “Dorset’s Darwin: You should ask Wallace”.

On Saturday morning delegates visited Broadstone Cemetery, where a nature walk in a nearby heathland reserve was led by members of the Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society. We then all met by Wallace’s grave to remember his contribution to Natural History, with everyone most impressed by the fossil tree, *Protocupressinoxylon purbeckensis* Francis, which marks his grave.

16. The end of the A.R. Wallace year

The afternoon and evening of Thursday 7th November brought together many of those who had helped with events celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the death of Alfred Russel Wallace during 2013. The occasion was the unveiling, at the Natural History Museum Darwin Centre, in London, of a new bronze statue showing Wallace in his thirties, in the field with a butterfly net, during his expedition to the Malay Archipelago. It captures the moment he
first saw the magnificent golden birdwing butterfly, *Ornithoptera croesus*. Now moved outside the Museum, there is a bronze butterfly on the glass of the Darwin Centre, just where his gaze is fixed. The artist is Anthony Smith, who has also produced a highly acclaimed statue of the young Charles Darwin, as well as a bust of the young Carl Linnaeus.

Sir David Attenborough unveiled the statue, accompanied by Bill Bailey, Patron of the Wallace Memorial Fund and with Richard Wallace, Alfred’s grandson, also present. Sir David went on to deliver the tenth and final lecture in the series of Wallace100 events, focusing on birds of paradise, one of Wallace’s specialties.

For more information and pictures, see: [http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2013/november/sir-david-attenborough-unveils-wallace-statue125452.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2013/november/sir-david-attenborough-unveils-wallace-statue125452.html) and [http://www.entangled-bank.co.uk/wallace-statue-campaign.html](http://www.entangled-bank.co.uk/wallace-statue-campaign.html)

Gina Douglas
Meeting Secretary

17. Mark Catesby's third centennial in America - celebrating his impact on our world (2012)

David Elliot writes that The University of Georgia Press has advised that it is enthusiastically going to publish “The curious Mister Catesby: a ‘truly ingenious’ naturalist explores new worlds”. Containing significant new information, this work is intended to be the most comprehensive and accurate book written about Catesby and is the legacy of the Catesby Commemorative Trust's Mark Catesby Tercentennial symposium, co-sponsored by SHNH. For more information, see: [www.catesbytrust.org](http://www.catesbytrust.org).

18. Naturalists’ Libraries

350th Anniversary of John Goodyer (1592–1664), 17th-century botanist

SHNH Spring Meeting, SGM & AGM

Magdalen College, Oxford University

Oxford

Saturday 19 July 2014

This one day meeting is in celebration of 350 years since the death of John Goodyer (1592–1664), the 17th-century botanist who added many plants to the British flora. He clarified the four principal types of British elm tree and introduced the Jerusalem Artichoke to English gardens and cookery. He produced translations of Theophrastus and Dioscorides and, together with Thomas Johnson (d.1644), revised ‘Gerard’s Herbal’ (1633). He left his extensive collection of books, manuscripts and notes to Magdalen College, Oxford.

Goodyer is commemorated in a genus of European orchids named by Robert Brown in his honour, by a memorial window in Buriton church, where he is buried, and through a dedication in the second *Flora of Hampshire* (1996).

Talks will focus on the libraries of John Goodyer, John Nidd, Phillip Miller, and Richard Richardson. Speakers include: Liam Dolan, John Edgington, Chris Preston, and Bill Noblett.

The Society’s Special General Meeting and AGM will take place in the afternoon. A display of books from Goodyer’s Library is anticipated, together with a visit to the University Botanic Garden nearby. To register, please return the registration form at the back of the newsletter to Gina Douglas, Meetings Secretary. It is also available on the Society’s website ([www.shnh.org.uk](http://www.shnh.org.uk)).
Outline Programme
09.30 - 10.00 Registration
10.00 - 12.40 Morning session and refreshments
12.40 - 14.00 Lunch break
14.00 - 14.35 Afternoon session
14.40 - 15.10 SHNH Special General meeting and AGM (details will be in SGM/AGM papers to be circulated nearer the date)
15.15 - 17.00 Final session & refreshments

19. Joint Meeting
The history of teaching natural history
Horniman Museum & Gardens
London
10 – 11 October 2014

SHNH is planning a joint meeting with the Horniman Museum and invites potential speakers to contact the Meetings Secretary, Gina Douglas, by email (meetings@shnh.org.uk) or post (23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU, UK).

The Horniman has been open since Victorian times, when Frederick John Horniman first opened his house and extraordinary collection of objects to visitors. Since then, the collection has grown tenfold and includes internationally important collections of anthropology and musical instruments, as well as an acclaimed aquarium and natural history collections. For more information on the museum and gardens visit: http://www.horniman.ac.uk/home

20. Reichenbach’s Orchids
A Hidden Treasure at the Natural History Museum
Natural History Museum, Vienna
Through 21 April 2014.

The heart of this exhibition is the orchid collection bequeathed to the Natural History Museum by Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach in 1889. Reichenbach had great numbers of orchids shipped to him in order to study and classify them – especially from South America and Asia. His legacy includes over 70,000 orchid documentations. The Botany Department and the Historical Science Archives are exhibiting a small collection of these documented herbarium specimens and illustrations as well as photographs of Austrian orchids. Live orchid displays will also enhance the exhibition. See: http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/en/exhibitions/special_exhibitions

21. Natural Histories
The Prado Museum, Madrid
Through 27 April 2014

Conceived and curated by the Spanish artist Miguel Ángel Blanco, this exhibition, explores the Prado’s past association with the sciences – the museum was originally designed and built to accommodate the Royal Cabinet of Natural History– through a series of interventions which juxtapose artworks and natural objects. See: http://www.museodelprado.es/en/exhibitions/exhibitions/at-the-museum/historias-naturales

22. Discoveries: Art, Science & Exploration from the University of Cambridge Museums
Two Temple Place, London
Through 27 April 2014

An exhibition exploring human discovery in all its forms, selected from
more than five million objects at eight University of Cambridge Museums. It includes ancient fossils, Darwin’s only surviving egg from the *Beagle* voyage, and a rare dodo skeleton. See: wwww.twotempleplace.org/exhibitions/current-exhibition/

23. Joseph Banks, a Great Endeavour
The Collection & Usher Gallery
Lincoln, UK
Through 11 May 2014

Sir Joseph Banks, the naturalist, explorer and patron of learning, grew up in Lincolnshire, gaining a concern for the county's countryside and rural affairs. His work is explored and celebrated in an exhibition bringing together material associated with Captain Cook’s *Endeavour* voyage. See: http://www.visitlincoln.com/whats-on/joseph-banks-a-great-endeavour

24. Curious Beasts
Animal Prints from the British Museum
Ulster Museum, Belfast
28 February – 25 May 2014
Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
7 June – 31 August 2014

This touring exhibition explores our enduring curiosity about the animal world through the beautiful and bizarre imagery found in prints of the 15th to the early 19th centuries in the British Museum’s collection. See: http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats-on/uk_tours_and_loans/curious_beasts_animal_prints.aspx

25. Woodward 150
Fossil fishes and fakes
Natural History Museum, London
21 May 2014

Arthur Smith Woodward (ASW) built his scientific reputation on detailed and meticulous studies of fossil fish, many of which helped to form the foundations of current research on numerous fish groups. However, he also contributed to our knowledge of other extinct animals and regional geology, and he endured some notoriety for his involvement in the Piltdown Man hoax. Almost no attempt has been made to assess Smith-Woodward’s wider impact on palaeontology. This one day symposium aims to rectify this omission, with invited speakers who will present papers on Smith Woodward’s life and career, his varied scientific outputs, and his involvement in Piltdown.

ASW joined the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) at South Kensington in August 1882 at just 18 years of age following his examination success in competition with thirteen other candidates. He was made Assistant Keeper of the Department of Geology 10 years later and succeeded Henry Woodward (no relation) as Keeper in 1901 at the age of 37, a position he held until his retirement in 1924. He died at his home in Haywards Heath in 1944.

When he arrived, the building in South Kensington had been open to the public for just 16 months and ASW immediately became involved in creating the public displays of fossils. More importantly, it was at this time that the extensive fossil fish collections of Sir Philip Grey Egerton and William Willoughby Cole, (the 3rd Earl of...
Enniskillen) were acquired by the Museum. These collections contained many important type specimens and also many specimens that had been figured by Louis Agassiz in his monumental work on fossil fishes *Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles* (1833-1843). No doubt inspired by the series of lectures he attended given by Ramsay H. Traquair (1840-1912) in 1883, he devoted all his energies to the study of fossil fish, culminating in the four part *Catalogue of the Fossil Fishes in the British Museum (Natural History)* published between 1899 and 1901. This was and remains a very important reference point for fossil fish workers.

ASW published extensively throughout his career at the Museum and following retirement. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society in 1901, received numerous awards and medals and was knighted on retirement.

The symposium is open to the general public and is free of charge but pre-registration is required. There will be displays of important fossil specimens, memorabilia and other items of interest.

To pre-register and receive further information please e-mail the Meeting Coordinator at ASW150@nhm.ac.uk.

26. Maria Sibylla Merian, 17th century naturalist/artist
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam
26-27 May 2014

This two-day symposium will focus on Merian's biography, her work in the context of early modern entomologists and artists, the biology/ecology in Merian's work, and her influence on both art and science. An invited panel of speakers will discuss their research on Merian's life and work and include: Kay Etheridge, Jo Francis, John Fuegi, Truuje Goedings, Eric Jorink, Brian W. Ogilvie, Leslie Overstreet, Florence F. J. M. Pieters, Katharina Schmidt-Loske, Joos van de Plas, Kurt Wettengl, and Brigitte Wirth.

For more information see: http://exploringmerian.wikispaces.com/home and/or contact Kay Etheridge for more information at: ketherid@gettysburg.edu

27. Illustration & Identification in the History of Herbal Medicine
Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Richmond, UK
Wednesday 18th June 2014

This seminar aims to bring together researchers to explore issues related to plant illustration and identification in the history of herbal medicine. The day has been organised with a particular focus on presenting research into finding, and interpreting archival and other sources. Main speakers include Julia Boffey, Celia Fisher, Isabelle Charmantier, Marie Addyman and Maria D’Aronco. Advance registration is required. To check place availability, e-mail Nicky Wesson at: nicky@nickywesson.com. See: http://events.history.ac.uk/event/show/12436

A seated woman holding a flower, from Bartolommeo della Rocca [Cocles], *Phisonomei: Complexio und Art eins ieden Menschen* (Strasbourg, c.1550). Courtesy of the National Library of Medicine.
28. SPNHC 2014
Cardiff, Wales
22-27 June 2014

National Museum Wales, in partnership with the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA), are hosting the 29th Annual Meeting for the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) in Cardiff. The theme is “Historic Collections: A Resource for the Future”. Activities and events include workshops, fieldtrips, workshops, and tours of the museum collections. See: http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/spnhc2014/

29. Duets
The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Pittsburgh, PA
Through 30 June 2014

The Annual Conference provides an opportunity for scholars throughout the history of science, technology and medicine to meet and exchange ideas. For more information see: http://www.bshs.org.uk/cfp-bshs-annual-conference-2014-university-of-st-andrews-3-6-july-2014

University of St Andrews
Scotland
3-6 July 2014

As with duets in music, this exhibition creates new, harmonious couplings of botanical art with items created between the 16th and 21st centuries from the Hunt Institute collections. The subjects of these pairings explore the parallels between works created for numerous botanical applications. They include works painted during expeditions and in native environs; plants of the Americas and introductions now cultivated for the garden; works that showcase the Eastern aesthetic and its modern influence; plants illustrated for agricultural and economic purposes and for their pure aesthetic; and work by historical masters and the contemporary artists they influenced.

31. Natural Histories
American Museum of Natural History, New York
Through October 12, 2014

Inspired by the 2012 book Natural Histories: Extraordinary Rare Book Selections from the American Museum of Natural History Library, this exhibition includes reproductions from more than 20 rare and beautifully illustrated scientific works, dating from the 16th to early 20th century. Exhibits include a rhinoceros taken directly from Albrecht Dürer’s 1515 woodcut, and lithographs from Sir Richard Owen’s Monograph on the Aye-aye. See: http://www.amnh.org/calendar/natural-histories
32. Island Adventurer
Alfred Russel Wallace
Science Centre Singapore
Through 30 November 2014

Created in collaboration with the National University of Singapore’s Faculty of Science and Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, The Island Adventurer exhibition focusses on Wallace’s adventure in expeditions and field studies. See: www.science.edu.sg/exhibitions/Pages/wallace.aspx

33. 200 Years of Smith’s Map
23-25 Apr 2015

The History of Geology Group (HOGG) is organising the 2015 annual William Smith Conference entitled ‘200 Years of Smith’s Map’ to celebrate publication of the first nationwide geological map Delineating the Strata of England and Wales with Part of Scotland’. This bicentenary meeting aims to address Smith’s achievements and his impact on the state of geology in his time, his fossil collection, his contemporaries, his relationship with the Geological Society of London, and his various careers including canal builder, land drainer, mineral surveyor and lecturer.

Confirmed keynote speakers are Prof. Simon Knell, Prof. Hugh Torrens, and Dr Tom Sharpe. HOGG invites interested participants to submit abstracts for oral presentations on topics of relevance. More information can be found on the website under ‘meetings’. See: http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/

34. Oxford Museum of Natural History reopens

Oxford’s Museum of Natural History reopened in February following a £2 million roof restoration. More than 8,500 glass tiles were removed, cleaned and resealed to repair the leaking Victorian roof. Staff carried out conservation work on whale skeletons, which were treated for the first time in 100 years. See: www.oum.ox.ac.uk/

35. News from NatSCA

Times have been tough for museums since the economic downturn, increasing the need for organisations like the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) to become more active advocates for natural history collections. In order to improve our ability to support the sector and advocate effectively NatSCA is undergoing a bit of an overhaul, with help from Arts Council England (ACE) Subject Specialist Network (SSN) funding.

Internally we are developing a strategic plan to focus our efforts for the next 5 years and provide guidance for how we can conduct our business in a more effective way. Part of this plan involves improving communications internally and between ourselves and other SSNs, societies and institutions. We’re all in this together and by uniting our voices we have a better chance of being heard.

Our newsletter/journal the NatSCA News has been replaced by the new peer-reviewed Journal of Natural Science Collections, which will be published once a year to provide a more academic forum for sharing quality research relevant to both collections care and collections used as a scientific or historical resource. Other content such
as reports and opinion pieces will now be made available on the NatSCA blog or our new website (natsca.org).

We have commissioned research into museum audiences, with ACE support, in an effort to understand how the public responds to different galleries in mixed discipline museums – the results of which suggest that natural history is the most popular gallery type (natsca.org/understanding-audiences). We are also working on a project to finally get to grips with the location and composition of natural history collections around Britain. Finally, we have two new patrons – Professor Alice Roberts and Professor Iain Stewart – who have kindly agreed to help us in our efforts to advocate for natural history. Busy times ahead, but hopefully our efforts will help support natural history collections now and into the future. For further information or to get involved please contact: advocacy@natsca.org.

Paolo Viscardi
Horniman Museum & Gardens

36. Early maps of Nepal relating to the natural history collections of Dr Francis Buchanan-Hamilton, 1802-3

A set of three manuscript survey maps of Nepal, executed by Major Charles Crawford and relating to the British Mission to Nepal in 1802-03, have recently been acquired by the Linnean Society of London (GB-110/401M/1-3). These maps once belonged to Scottish surgeon-naturalist Dr Francis Buchanan-Hamilton, and relate closely to the botanical materials he collected during the year he spent in Nepal as Surgeon to the Mission. Buchanan-Hamilton’s were the first natural history collections from this Himalayan country, and so he has become known as the ‘father of Nepalese botany’.

In 1806, Buchanan-Hamilton gave his entire Natural History collection of manuscripts (notes and a partial *Flora Nepalensis*), coloured drawings (see http://linnean-online.org/buchanan_hamilton.html and SHNH Newsletter 103, inside cover and p.13) and herbarium specimens to James Edward Smith and these are also now in the Linnean Society Archives. Perhaps Buchanan-Hamilton retained the maps anticipating their use on a future posting in the Bengal Presidency – which indeed occurred when he returned to India the following year. Crawford’s maps were sold by auction by one of Buchanan-Hamilton’s descendants and finally reunited with his other Nepal materials in Linnean Society archives via an antiquarian map dealer.

Buchanan-Hamilton’s map of the Kathmandu Valley drawn by Charles Crawford in 1804/5.

The Linnean Society’s Buchanan-Hamilton collections are of international significance as they form the basis of many hundreds of scientific names of Himalayan plants, and are the foundation of scientific botanical knowledge in Nepal. Buchanan-Hamilton’s only other Nepalese botanical material from this period is a very incomplete, duplicate set of herbarium specimens, which he gave to Aylmer Bourke Lambert - now in the Natural History Museum, London.

Crawford’s were the first accurately surveyed British maps of Nepal and hence of exceptional rarity and
cartographic importance. The Surveyor General, Lt. Col. Robert H. Colebrooke, found the maps ‘executed with particular neatness’, and recommended that Crawford be directed to survey the Northern Frontier of Bengal, which he did in 1804-05. These maps would have been politically sensitive documents, and so it is very unusual for a civilian to be given access to them. However, Buchanan-Hamilton’s patron was the influential Governor-General of India, Marquis Richard Wellesley, and it was through his orders that Crawford was able to favour him with copies.

These fascinating maps are not only cartographically superbly detailed, but they record the routes and camps used by the mission when travelling to and from Kathmandu, and the excursions undertaken and base camps within the Valley of Nepal. They can be correlated with Buchanan-Hamilton’s botanical records and so establish more precisely where these collections were made. Only one other extant set of these very rare maps is known, in the British Library India Office Collections (BL IOR X/2979-2981), and so they are of major cartographic as well as scientific importance.

Mark Watson  

37. ICHSTM 2013
The International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine 2013 in Manchester attracted a great deal of discussion and reporting from various sources and a collection of this material is now available from the Congress website at: http://ichstm2013.com/reports/. A special BSHS 8-page report is available as a PDF at: http://ichstm2013.com/downloads/viewpoint-article.pdf. The next meeting will take place in summer 2017 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

38. Two Lost Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution [BRLSI] fossil specimens returned after 80 years
Some time after 1993, the large natural history collections, especially strong in malacology, of Robert Pickford Scase (born Frome 1914 - died Leatherhead 1993) F.L.S. 1983, passed, by will, to Glasgow Museums. This was because of his friendship with their former natural history curator, Frederick R. Woodward. They were found to include some fossils, two of which my friend Geoff Hancock, their replacement natural history curator, then passed on to me, to try and identify their provenance. Their label read:

[Line 1] “Upper [i.e. Great] Oolite, near Wraxall, Rev. B. Richardson”  
[Line 2] “Palatal teeth, Ptychodus polygyrus”

From the donor’s name, it was immediately clear these were specimens which must once have formed part of Benjamin Richardson’s (1758-1832) 1825 or 1828 donations to the BRLSI (see Geological Curators’ Group [GCG] Newsletter, 1, pp. 91 & 104, April 1975). A later Richardson donation, made by Eliza Cave Jelly (c.1798-1860). “Richardson’s distant relation through his wife”, in 1860 (see GCG, 1, pp. 98-99 and H. S. Torrens & J. E. Winston, 2002, “Eliza Catherine Jelly (28th September 1829 – 3rd November 1914): pioneer female bryozoologist, pp. 299-325, in P. N. Wyse Jackson & Mary E. Spencer Jones (eds), Annals of Bryozoology, International Bryozoological Association, Dublin, 2002), is clearly not relevant.

This material had been carefully curated at the BRLSI by William Lonsdale (1794-1871) their first, and devoted, curator. They were not yet listed in his MSS “Catalogue Raisonée of Rocks from the Neighbourhood of
Bath”, dated 12 March 1829 (in BRLSI archives). But in the later version, which Lonsdale published in 1832, they are listed (Transactions of the Geological Society of London, second series, 3 (2): 274) as “Great Oolite, Pisces, Palatal Teeth, Box [which is near Wraxall]”. The genus and species identifications had to have been added later, as they were not available until 1835, when Louis Agassiz first named them (see Sherborn, Index Animalium).

The main question now is how, and when, Scase had acquired them. The BRLSI was in crisis in the 1930s, when the local novelist Horace Annesley Vachell (1861–1955), of Widcombe Manor, could write ”Th[eir] old museum is full of fossils, and [is] run by fossils. Away with it” (The Golden House, 1937, pp. 202-203). The BRLSI building, with its museum, had been demolished in 1933 and all had been moved to Queens Square. It must have been during this period that Scase somehow acquired these fossils. He was then reading zoology at Bristol University, under Professor Charles Maurice Yonge (1899–1986, see ODNB), who held the chair of zoology at Bristol from 1933 to 1944.

Peter Dance’s fine 1966, Shell Collecting: an illustrated history (p. 290) also noted of the Jenyns collection of Recent shells in the BRLSI, how his “Pisidium types [once there] were destroyed (teste R.P. Scase 1965)”. This was in a book (see also p. 212), in which many of Scase’s own illustrations of his own shells were also included. Fred Woodward (in lit. to me, 6 March 2003) confirmed that “Bob [Scase] also informed me that he personally had acquired material from the former BRLSI, this being supported by material from the Rev. L. Jenyns, later known as Rev. Leonard Blomefield”, also since found in Scase’s collections. These links between the reformed BRLSI’s and Glasgow Museums’ natural history collections clearly deserve to be examined further.

39. History of Early and Modern Plant Sciences (1450-1850) (HEMPS)

The HEMPS LIST is a new list serve with subscribers from all over the world and from various academic fields. If you are interested in subscribing to exchange information, start discussions, ask questions, suggest projects, and issue Calls for Papers, write to the email address: plant-early-modern-sciences@univ-lille1.fr

40. Joseph Hooker’s Correspondence online

The personal and scientific correspondence of Joseph Hooker (1817-1911) is being made available online. The first series of correspondence available dates from Hooker’s expedition to India (1847-1851) and contains accounts of his pioneering exploration of the Himalayas. He writes about the challenges of plant collecting at altitude and in terra nova, his imprisonment by the Rajah of Sikkim, and everything from riding elephants to observations on his friend Darwin’s fledgling ‘species theory’ and his own thoughts on plant distribution. See: www.kew.org/collections/hooker/letters/index.htm

41. Wellcome images online

Over 100,000 high resolution images from the Wellcome Library are now freely available for commercial as well as and non-commercial use. The images can be searched and downloaded from http://wellcomeimages.org.
They include hundreds of plates from works ranging from Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina* and the *Hortus Malabaricus* to texts on medical botany and anthropology. Simon Chaplin, Head of the Wellcome Library, said: “Together the collection amounts to a dizzying visual record of centuries of human culture, and our attempts to understand our bodies, minds and health through art and observation. As a strong supporter of open access, we want to make sure these images can be used and enjoyed by anyone without restriction.” See: http://blog.wellcomelibrary.org/2014/01/thousands-of-years-of-visual-culture-made-free-through-wellcome-images/

42. **Board of Longitude manuscripts now online**

The archives of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, held in Cambridge University Library, include the complete run of the surviving papers of the Board of Longitude through the 18th century until its abolition in 1828. These papers throw a vivid light on the role of the British state in encouraging invention and discovery, on the energetic culture of technical ingenuity in the long 18th century, and on many aspects of exploration and maritime travel in the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic. See: http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/longitude

43. **Linnean manuscripts online**

Through a collaboration between Exeter University and the Linnean Society of London, 16 manuscripts from the Manuscripts Collection of Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) are now available online at: http://linnean-online.org/linnaean_mss.html. The MSS were researched and edited by Staffan Müller-Wille, Isabelle Charmantier, and Robert Leigh. This research, together with the online digital images, is the offshoot of the project ‘Rewriting the System of Nature. Linnaeus’s Use of Writing Technologies’ (2009-2012). It explored what is sometimes called ‘the first bio-information crisis’, through a detailed reconstruction of the ways in which Carl Linnaeus assembled, filed, and cross-referenced information about plants and their medicinal properties. For more information on the project, see: http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/research/centres/medicalhistory/projects/writing/

44. **RHS Lindley Libraries – Archives Hub**

Descriptive catalogues of archives held by the RHS Lindley Libraries are being made available online via the Archives Hub. The first collection to be made available is the papers of William Robinson which include letters from Charles Darwin, John Ruskin, Joseph Hooker, Edward Burne-Jones and many other prominent individuals. See: http://archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/royalhorticulturalsoociety.html

45. **ICHO has a new website and blog**

The International Commission of the History of Oceanography, a global body devoted to linking scholars, writers, and teachers interested in the history of the marine sciences, has a new website and blog. See: http://oceansciencehistory.wordpress.com

46. **Undamaged eggs on the lawn**

It is not uncommon to find intact starling *Sturnus vulgaris* eggs on the lawn during the spring and early
summer. For a long time their appearance was a mystery - where had they come from and why had they been deposited on the lawn instead of the nest?

In the 1970s it was discovered that starlings behave as brood parasites on their own species. Some female starlings lay an egg in the nest of another starling, essentially duping them into rearing an un-related offspring: a phenomenon known as intraspecific nest parasitism. Often the dumping female removes one of the host's eggs as she lays. She flies off with it and drops it - often on a lawn.

I am trying to find published records of ‘dumped’ starling eggs found on the ground from before 1970, and the earlier the better. If anyone has come across such records, I’d be interested hear.

Tim Birkhead
T.R.Birkhead@sheffield.ac.uk

47. A Hero of Marine Biology
Sir Frederick Stratten Russell (1897-1984)

Volunteers are sought for the completion of a project at the Royal Society: to scan a collection of Sir Frederick’s personal and scientific materials, to be made available online. The collection includes some of his watercolours, letters from friends, and documents about his awards and scientific interests. A modest contribution to travel costs would be available. For further information please contact the Archivist of the Royal Society:
Joanna.Corden@royalsociety.org.

Sir Frederick was born at Bridport and grew up by the sea in Dorset and Cornwall. From his father's preparatory school he went to Oundle School and after the Great War to Cambridge. The early classical education from his father enriched his natural style. His parents encouraged a fine artistic talent which he developed to good use, and each of them had a lasting influence on his leisure pursuits. He shared his father's enjoyment of fishing all his life, at home or on holiday in good company.

He was a hero of both World Wars. He served with distinction during 1916-18 in the RNAS and the RAF, for which he received the DSC, DFC and French Croix de Guerre (with Palme). During 1940-45 he served in RAF Intelligence as Wing Commander.

His scientific career was influenced by Cambridge (Zoology 1919-1922), and by early studies at the Plymouth Laboratory. In 1923 he married Gweneth Moy Thomas, just before sailing to Egypt to take up a post as Assistant Director of Fisheries Research. In 1924 he was appointed to the staff of the Plymouth Laboratory and worked there until he retired. In 1928 he joined the Great Barrier Reef Expedition (C.M.Yonge’s plankton team) for 6 months with his wife. His first book The Seas (1928) co-authored by Russell and Yonge, is an enthusiastic introduction of remarkable clarity and breadth by two remarkable young scientists.

Sir Frederick’s seminal work at Plymouth on diurnal rhythms and distribution of planktonic species underpins much of today’s research. He was elected FRS in 1938. After the devastation of WW2 he returned from London and served for 20 years as Director of the Plymouth Laboratory (1945-65). He restored and developed the Laboratory, its vessels, library, and great research potential with untiring
vigour, while at the same time pursuing his own work on the taxonomy and biology of *British Medusae* (Vol 1 (1953); Vol 2 (1970)), and the development of young fish (1976). He gained many scientific awards. As leader and administrator he was notably approachable and friendly and kept up a wide personal correspondence. He enjoyed his leisure with zest and his retirement was long and fruitful. After the death of his wife in 1978 he moved to a retirement home not far from his son.

48. Edwin Brown (1818/21-1876)

*Naturalist, Bank Manager and Family Man*

Edwin Brown (1818/21-1876) was nothing if not energetic. A devoted family man, professionally, he held the post of bank manager for much of his life. As an enthusiastic and probably self-taught naturalist, Edwin Brown was a prolific collector of natural history specimens both from his own neighbourhood of Burton-on-Trent and through purchase of exotic specimens from noted naturalists overseas. In particular, he maintained a lifelong interest in Coleoptera. He published frequently, but due to the eclectic nature of his work and the fact that his publications were scattered through a wide range of journals, the full picture of his efforts remains obscure. After his death his collection was sold and dispersed in a notable auction, a number of lots being acquired by some key museums. Information is sought on the whereabouts of his other specimens and notebooks, and other publications and contributions to natural history societies of his day.

There is some doubt about Edwin Brown’s date of birth, sources variously quoting 1818 to 1821. However, the International Genealogical Index reports a christening record in St Mary’s Church, Stafford dated 13th September 1818. There is nothing in his family history to suggest any particular expertise in scientific matters; he was the son of a Burton-on-Trent builder, and from the age of about 15 for the rest of his life he was employed by the Burton, Uttoxeter and Ashbourne Union Bank, becoming manager in about 1851. In 1849 he married a widow, Jane Tabberer, and took on the six children by her first husband; he and Jane then proceeded to have two more sons (Adrian and Edwin), with the family living above the bank, as was often the custom. In 1876 she died following a long and painful illness. Gravely weakened, his friends and colleagues urged him to take a holiday, but on 1st September 1876 Edwin died suddenly ‘of an apoplectic fit’ in Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

Edwin Brown was eclectic in his scientific pursuits. I have found about 40 publications, covering topics as diverse as local archaeology, geology, bird records, weasel behaviour, natural history of fungi, all spread throughout a range of journals over an extended time period – small wonder that the authors of his various obituaries never grasped the full extent of his studies. However, his particular focus was entomological, particularly in relation to Coleoptera. From an early age he had a friendship with Henry Walter Bates; they explored the flood plains of the River Trent together, obviously exchanged notes and specimens, and Brown lent Bates a small volume on the Amazon, which apparently inspired Bates and Alfred Russel Wallace to embark on their famous expeditions. He corresponded with many notable naturalists of the day, including Charles Darwin. Brown probably never travelled abroad, but he
amassed an enormous collection of Coleoptera and other natural history material, including exotic specimens which he purchased from Wallace. It seems that the collection became so large, an annex had to be built on to his house to hold it, and after his death it was auctioned by John Crace Stevens, the well-known Covent Garden auctioneer in 1877, raising the then enormous sum of £1,670. The collection was thus dispersed, but thanks to their helpful curators, I have been able to inspect specimens in the Natural History Museum (London), University Museum of Zoology (Cambridge), and National Museum of Ireland (Dublin). However, this is almost certainly only part of the surviving resource.

Brown’s activities were not just confined to collecting. Other key areas of work currently noted in addition to his publications were:

- a significant contribution on the local fauna and flora in *Natural History of Tutbury, together with the fauna and flora of the district surrounding Tutbury and Burton-on-Trent* edited by Oswald Mosely (1863);
- classification of the taxonomic status of the aquatic micro-moth *Acentropus Niveus* (today’s *Acentria ephemera*);
- contributions to the debates about the mutability of species in the 1860’s following publication of *Darwin’s Origin of Species*.

It is not intended to cite all the works so far discovered, since it is likely to be incomplete at this stage. However, publications so far found to contain his papers include (in approximate order of first appearance):

- *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*
- *The Zoologist*
- *Entomologist’s Weekly Intelligencer*
- *Proceedings of the Northern Entomological Society*
- *The Reliquary*
- *The Weekly Entomologist*
- *Entomologist’s Monthly Magazine*
- *Transactions of the Midland Scientific Association (probably)*
- *British Association for the Advancement of Science*
- *The Geological Magazine*
- *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London*
- *Nature*

Following further research, it is proposed to present a more extensive and complete record of Edwin Brown’s activities as a naturalist. Any information relating to his efforts would be extremely welcome, particularly in the following areas:

- **Location of specimens and collection:** Whilst it has been possible to trace the present whereabouts of some parts of the collection, a full audit is encumbered by closure and/or re-organisation of museums over the last 140 years, disappearance or non-documentation of privately acquired lots, and other causes. If anyone has knowledge of, or access to, material that can be attributed to Brown, this would be extremely useful.

- **Where are the notebooks?** It is inconceivable that a man who was able to document his local biodiversity so well, and moreover was probably a meticulous bank manager, did not habitually compile notes of his efforts and data. Yet there is no reference to notebooks in Steven’s auction catalogue, and possibly they were retained or discarded by Brown’s family or sent to one of his collecting colleagues. These would be invaluable both as
an understanding of his collecting activities as well as an important context for the existing elements of his collection.

- **Are there other areas/subjects of publication?** It is almost certain there are more publications to be discovered and additional works continue to be located through library investigations and the internet, but there may be additional fields in which Brown engaged that may bring to light completely new lines of discovery.

- **Correspondence archives:** A few letters are archived in the Darwin Correspondence Project, and the present author intends to investigate archives relating to Bates and Wallace, but it would be enormously helpful if holders of other likely archives might check their records in case of correspondence from or to Edwin Brown.

I have so far been unable to trace minutes or proceedings of some meetings, for example the Burton-on-Trent Natural History Society, Midland Scientific Association etc., but it is almost certain that Brown played a significant role in these.

Edwin Brown presents a fascinating and enthusiastic character: banker, family man, eclectic naturalist. It is possible much remains to be discovered about his life and his contributions to the natural history of his area and time, and the elements of his work re-connected. The author of this paper, apart from being a descendent, is a biologist in his own right. Any assistance or information would be very welcome.

Robert (Bob) Brown, BSc, PhD, OBE
Bob.brown@saltydepths.com

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**Publisher’s Announcements**

49. *Ten Thousand Birds: Ornithology since Darwin*

Tim. R. Birkhead, Jo Wimpenny & Bob Montgomerie
Princeton University Press, 2014
544 pp., 94 colour illus., 60 halftones
ISBN: 978-0691151977 (hb) £29.95, US$45

*Ten Thousand Birds* provides an engaging and authoritative history of modern ornithology, tracing how the study of birds has been shaped by a succession of visionary and often-controversial personalities, and by the unique social and scientific contexts in which these extraordinary individuals worked. This beautifully illustrated book draws on a wealth of archival material and in-depth interviews and reveals how research on birds has contributed more to our understanding of animal biology than the study of just about any other group of organisms.

50. *Shadow among splendours: Lady Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe’s adventures among the flowers of Burma*

E. Charles Nelson
National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, 2014. 223 pp., approx. 200 illus.
ISBN: 978-0957594814 (hb) £27.50

Signed copies available by contacting the author directly at:
tippitiwitchet@phonecoop.coop
An account of the remarkable life of “Shadow” (Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe),
especially about her adventures in Burma between 1897 and 1921 during which time she twice visited Mount Victoria (Namatataung) where she discovered, among other plants, *Rhododendron culteanum* and *R. burmanicum*. She painted more than 100 large watercolours of native Burmese orchids, and was given the task of establishing the Maymyo Botanic Garden. Lavishly illustrated with numerous examples of her watercolours.

51. John James LaForest Audubon
An English Perspective

Christine E. Jackson
Christine E. Jackson, 2013
256 pp., 89 illus., 8 col. pl. (hb)
£46 (incl. p+p), US$60 (p+p $15.50 approx)
Signed quarter leather limited edition
£75 (p+p £6.50), US$115 (p+p $15 approx)
Email: cejacksonbirdart@waitrose.com
This new publication examines the influence and part played by the English in the publishing of Audubon’s *Birds of America*, printed in London by Robert Havell Jr. Audubon spent the years 1826-39 in England, where he received generous hospitality which helped him to survive financially. During this period he met industrialists, aristocrats and merchants who were subscribers to his publication as well as a number of naturalists whose reaction to him varied considerably.

The author details the lives and careers of Audubon’s subscribers and those who befriended him whilst in England, many of them the most prominent members of English Society. She includes valuable new research on the social and historical background of Audubon’s time in England and additional data on Audubon’s English wife, Lucy Green Bakewell and her family. This is a major contribution to the Audubon archive.

52. Who found our ferns?
A history of the discovery of Britain’s ferns, clubmosses, quillworts and horsetails

John Edgington
BPS Special Publication No 12
British Pteridological Society, 2013
216 pp.
ISBN: 978-0992612016 (pb) £15
*Who found our ferns?* tells the story of the discovery of Britain’s pteridophytes, from Saxon times to 2012. The lives of those who noticed, collected and described our ferns, horesetails, quillworts and clubmosses are interwoven with accounts of how, where and when they found them.

It includes historical accounts supplemented by recent taxonomic research of 85 taxa that grow wild in Britain and Ireland, or have done so in the past, with details of almost all records before 1724, or later for subsequent discoveries. Comprehensively referenced to primary sources. Over 160 illustrations include engravings from contemporary literature, nature prints, and herbarium specimens. With a list of pre-Linnaean phrase names and their scientific equivalents, chronological summaries of early reports, and a full index of plant names.

53. The Natural History of Selborne

Gilbert White. Edited by Anne Secord
OUP, 2013
352 pp., illus.
ISBN: 978-0199591961(hb)
£14.99, US$24.95

Over a period of 20 years White describes in minute detail the behaviour
of animals through the changing seasons in the rural Hampshire parish of Selborne. Written as a series of letters, White’s book has all the immediacy and freshness of an exchange with friends, yet it is none the less crafted with compelling literary skill. His gossipy correspondence has delighted readers from Charles Darwin to Virginia Woolf, and it has been read as a nostalgic evocation of a pastoral vision, a model for local studies of plants and animals, and a precursor to modern ecology. This new edition includes contemporary illustrations and an introduction setting the work in its eighteenth-century context, as well as an appendix tracking the remarkable range of responses to the work over the last two hundred years.

54. Alfred Russel Wallace
   Letters from the Malay Archipelago

*John van Wyhe & Kees Rookmaaker, Editors*
Oxford, 2013
ISBN: 9780199683994 (hb)
£16.99

This volume brings together the letters of A. R. Wallace (1823-1913) during his travels of 1854-62 in the Malay Archipelago. Beautifully written, they are filled with lavish descriptions of the remote regions he explored, the peoples, and fascinating details of the many new species he discovered during his time there.

The editors present new transcriptions of the letters, including those recently discovered that shed light on the voyage, Wallace’s reluctance to publish on evolution, and why he chose to write to Darwin rather than to send his work to a journal directly. A revised account of Wallace’s itinerary based on new research forms part of an introduction that sets the context of the voyage, and the volume includes full notes to all letters.

Together the letters form a remarkable and vivid document of one of the most important journeys of the 19th century by a great Victorian naturalist.

55. Walter Potter’s Curious World of Taxidermy

*Pat Morris*
Constable & Robinson, 2013
128 pp., illus.
ISBN: 978-1472109507 (hb)
£20

A new edition of the 2008 book on Walter Potter and his taxidermy tableaux and famous museum in Sussex (later moved to Cornwall). Potter’s museum is no more and these books are now all we have left to remind us of a quirky example of English whimsy, including the kittens’ wedding, squirrels’ club and rabbits at their Victorian school, that delighted so many visitors for over 100 years. The text is an abridged version of the original and its particular value is that it includes many new images, especially of items that were exported to America when Potter’s collection was dispersed in 2003.

*Note from Pat Morris.* There has been a spate of books about taxidermy just lately and one of the best is *Taxidermy* (2013) by Alexis Turner. It focuses particularly on a resurgence of interest in old taxidermy as a component of modern interiors. There are 400 pages of minimal text and masses of excellent images.

57. Tractatus de Herbis - Sloane 4016

M. Moleiro Editor, 2012
218 pp., all illuminated
ISBN: 978-8496400764
Price on request.
In 2012, the publishers M. Moleiro Editor produced the only facsimile edition of the Tractatus de herbis Sloane 4016, made in Italy circa 1440. This edition, limited to 987 copies, goes with a companion volume of study by Alain Touwade of the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions and the Smithsonian Institution. The companion volume (512 pp.) is lavishly illustrated and includes a reproduction and translation of the text, the identification of all the plants, a bibliography and several indices. See: http://www.moleiro.com/en/books-of-medicine/tractatus-de-herbis.html

Many thanks to everyone who contributes material to this section. May I just remind you to forward details of your own publications as well as those of general interest. Please include as many publication details as possible: such as publisher, date and ISBN.


Cadbury, J. (2013) The botanical


Dawson, G. (2012) Palaeontology in parts: Richard Owen, William John Broderip, and the serialization of science in Early Victorian Britain. *Isis* 103: 637-667. [Owen’s celebrated palaeontological reconstructions from the 1830’s and 1840’s were reported serially in *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, in his own *History of British Fossil Mammals* and, in particular, the *Penny Cyclopaedia* – sequential publication of which they exploited to evoke suspense and expectation in accounts he co-authored anonymously with Broderip of Owen’s palaeontographical researches.]


Harris, S. A. (2013) Mark Catesby’s Collections in Oxford. *Oxford Plant Systematics* 19: 13-14. [348 localised specimens in Oxford University herbaria bear Catesby’s names; a further 71 are unlocalised. Rediscovery of a pen-and-ink drawing by him reveals he resorted to that in the case of a flower he found it impossible to preserve.]


of a gradually expanded Flora of West France, which went to 5 editions 1844-97.]


**Mylechreest, M.** (2010) Thomas Andrew Knight (1759-1838) and the application of experimentation to horticulture. *Annals of the History and Philosophy of Biology* 15:15-27. [Although the paper and the volume number are given as 2010 the journal itself it was not printed until 2012 as stated on the title page with Universitatsverlag Gottingen as the publisher.]


**Pugliano, V.** (2012) Specimen lists: artisanal writing or natural history paperwork? *Isis* 103: 716-726. [Routine paperwork and techniques developed to preserve materia medica employed by apothecaries for commercial purposes may have been a more defining influence on early-modern naturalists than the humanist practices of indexing.]


**Schneider, U. J. & Vieler, A.** (2013) Römers Garten: Aus der Pflanzenbuchsammlung der Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig [Roman Garden - From the plant Library of the University Library in

Scofield, P., Cooper, J. H., & Turvey, S. T. (2012) A naturalist of the very first order? Percy William Earl (1811-1846) in New Zealand. Records of the Canterbury Museum 26: 1-19. [Hampstead-born son of a ship’s captain, Earl and his son George (later a noted orientalist) briefly visited the Swan River Colony in 1830. Returning to England in 1839, Earl raised backing for a zoological collecting trip to New Zealand, arriving in 1842. The many insects resulting included type material of 29 species. His single most important discovery were Moa bones, of which Richard Owen was offered the pick, while some were sold to the British Museum along with 30 specimens of N.Z. birds. A return trip in 1846 got no further than Torres Strait, where he drowned in a shipwreck at the age of 35.]


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**SHNH new members 2013 - 2014 (as of April 2014)**

James Braund  
Hannah-Lee Chalk  
John Cunningham  
Caradoc Doy  
Erik Ducker  
Angelica Groom  
Michael Flannery  
Garth Foster  
Esther van Gelder  
Paul Henderson  
Ronald A Javitch  
Caroline Kerkham  
Ahren Lester  
Richard Middleton

Nuno Gomes Oliveira  
Heather Pardoe  
Jorgen Quick  
Anantanarayanan Raman  
Elizabeth Scott  
Belen Serrano-Anton  
Leora Siegel  
Michael Smith  
E M Somerville  
Tom & Judy Taylor  
William Walston  
Samuel Whitbread  
Sarah Wilmot  
Low Yee Wen
350th Anniversary of John Goodyer (1592–1664)

SHNH Spring Meeting, Special General Meeting & AGM
Saturday 19 July 2014
The meeting will be held at Magdalen College, Oxford University
Oxford OX1 4AU

This one day meeting is in celebration of 350 years since the death of John Goodyer (1592–1664), the 17th-century botanist. Talks will focus on the libraries of John Goodyer, John Nidd, Phillip Miller and Richard Richardson. Speakers include: Liam Dolan, John Edgington, Chris Preston, and Bill Noblett.

The Society’s Special General Meeting and AGM will take place in the afternoon. A display of books from Goodyer’s Library is anticipated, together with a visit to the University Botanic Garden nearby.

Outline Programme April 2014

09.30 - 10.00 Registration
10.00 - 12.40 Morning session and refreshments
12.40 - 14.00 Lunch break
14.00 - 14.35 Afternoon session
14.40 - 15.10 SHNH Special General meeting and AGM (details will be in SGM/AGM papers to be circulated nearer the date)
15.15 - 17.00 Final session & refreshments

Registration Form

Please complete and return this form, with payment (cheques payable to The Society for the History of Natural History) to: Ms Gina Douglas, Meetings Secretary, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU, UK.

The closing date for registration will be Tuesday 1st July 2014. The Conference fee includes tea/coffee breaks, and a self-service lunch*. (e-mail meetings@shnh.org.uk for additional information or late registrations).

Conference Fee
£30 Members of SHNH
£30 Partners of SHNH
£20 Student members
£35 Non-members of either organisation

If you wish to stay for dinner after the meeting on Saturday 19th please indicate below: I am/am not interested in joining the Conference Dinner (delete as applicable).

* Please indicate if you have special dietary requirements for lunch.

Name(s) Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/other)

Address

Post code Country

Telephone Number E-mail address
The Society for the History of Natural History is a friendly international society for everyone who is interested in natural history in the broadest sense. This includes botany, zoology and geology as well as natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography. Everyone with an interest in these subjects – professional or amateur – is welcome to join.

The Society was founded in 1936 by a small group of scientists, librarians and bibliographers centred on the British Museum (Natural History) in London. The Society is still closely associated with the Museum, now the Natural History Museum, which contains the national collections of natural history specimens and has a strong tradition in the historical study of these collections.

Since its modest beginnings, the Society has grown in membership and international standing. It is known for its friendliness and provides a focal point for the history of all aspects of natural history. The Society also has a thriving international membership and representatives in North America, Europe, Asia and the Antipodes organise local meetings. An International Meeting is held at regular intervals, the most recent being in the United States in November, 2012.

The Society’s main publication is *Archives of natural history*, produced twice a year, and distributed free to all members. It contains refereed, illustrated papers and book reviews and is published for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. All volumes published since 1936 are now available online. A more informal *Newsletter* is published two or three times a year.

For more information contact the Secretary, Society for the History of Natural History, c/o the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK or search on www.shnh.org.uk.

All subscription matters are handled for the Society by Edinburgh University Press. For subscription enquiries, including payment methods, please contact the Subscription Administrators at Edinburgh University Press. E-mail: journals@eup.ed.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1316 506207.

**Newsletter 106 April 2014**

**Editor:** Elaine Shaughnessy  
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**COPY DATE**  
The copy date for the next *Newsletter* is 15 July 2014.
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William T. Stearn Prize 2014
for an original essay in history of natural history

The W. T. STEARN PRIZE is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the field of the history of natural history.

The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students in full or part-time education.

Submission deadline is 30 June 2014.

Entry is not limited to members of SHNH.

The winner receives £300 and one year’s free membership of the Society for the history of Natural History.

The winning essay will normally be published in the Society’s prestigious journal Archives of natural history.

The Prize’s rules and an entry form are available for download as Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files from the SHNH website www.shnh.org.uk