

THE SOCIETY FOR THE
HISTORY OF
NATURAL
HISTORY

Newsletter

DIARY

Number 100
March 2011

Spring meeting 2011
From Royal Gifts to
Biodiversity Conservation:
Chester Zoo
19–20 May 2011
See Item 9

Anchoring Biodiversity
Natural History Museum
Friday 28 October 2011
See Item 10



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SHNH

75

YEARS

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Society for the History of Natural History

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, which contains the national collection of natural history specimens and has a strong tradition in the historical study of these specimens.

Since its modest beginnings, the Society has grown in membership and international standing. It is known for its friendliness and its meetings combine intellectual excellence with opportunities for informal exchange of ideas. It is a focal point for the history of all aspects of natural history. This includes biographical accounts and bibliographic reviews of literary and artistic aspects of natural history, as well as more extensive and investigative historical studies.

Although it maintains strong links with the Natural History Museum, London, the Society also has a thriving international membership. Representatives in North and South America, Europe, Asia and the Antipodes organise local meetings and an International Meeting is held every other year, the most recent being in Edinburgh, in May 2008.

The Society produces two regular publications: *Archives of natural history*, a refereed journal, and the more informal *Newsletter* which is published three or four 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:

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phone 01316 506207

Editor: Vacant

email: newsletter@shnh.org.uk

First and Foremost

Welcome to this belated, but hopefully bumper 100th edition of the the Newsletter, the first of our 75th year. I hope you will find much in it to inform and entertain you. In celebration, we have decided to mark the occasion by also having this as our very first full-colour edition. You will find a double page spread on the 75th anniversary in the centre pages.

This 100th edition is also to be my last as editor. I have decided after fifteen years that it's really time to move on to pastures new and for a fresh eye to take the Newsletter on into triple figures! Please continue to use the **newsletter@shnh.org.uk** email address for correspondence and submissions as this will transfer to my eventual successor (for more on this, see the President's message and Item 7).

Society News & Announcements

I. President's message

Council met on 10 February so it is appropriate to give members an update on the Society's affairs in this particularly significant year, our 75th anniversary. Akin to the beginnings of Lloyd's, 75 years ago the Society was founded at a meeting in a Lyons coffee house near the BM (NH). We have lots of projects and events planned to commemorate this landmark in the Society's affairs (watch out for further announcements); but note particularly our spring meeting in Chester (19–20 May, Item 9). I look forward to seeing many members and would-be members there. Our Meetings Secretary is working on some more events, so members please watch this space.

Council approved the nomination of our erstwhile Treasurer, Dr Kees Rookmaaker, as our overseas representative for South East Asia, after his recent translation to Singapore.

If anyone in S. E. Asia wants more information about the Society then please contact Kees directly; his address being on the overseas representatives page of the website.

Julia Bruce will be retiring as Newsletter Editor after the next issue. Julia has served us fantastically well in that capacity since 1996 but she feels that our 75th anniversary is an appropriate moment to hand the mantle onto someone else. So, we are looking for a volunteer from our membership to take over this role. As you know the newsletter appears three or four times a year and is always something that members look forwards to receiving as a source of information and a forum for members' queries. Council has decided to embargo the newsletter from appearing on our website until after two months has elapsed, so that members have the privilege of access to its contents before it is available to all.

The February meeting of Council was the last for Les Jessop and Elaine Shaughnessy in their period in office as Councillors, and we thank them both for their considerable contributions. Les, however, will remain as Associate Editor of *Archives* and Elaine will continue to be in attendance at Council in her capacity as webmaster. Kathie Way has resigned from Council for personal reasons and we thank her for her tremendous help with our membership database records.

Council wishes to give a real push to membership recruitment. If each member could recruit a friend then we'd double the membership overnight, so can I make a plea to each of you to do what you can to help here? We shall be putting the Society's brochure online so that people can download and use it as they see fit. We are successfully recruiting 'fans' on Facebook, but we want to translate these into subscriptions if we can.

Geoff Moore
President

2. John Thackray Medal 2010

The 2010 recipient of the John Thackray Medal, which recognises significant achievements in the history or bibliography of natural history, is the Biodiversity Heritage Library www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

Biodiversity Heritage Library is an internet resource, a collaboration between a dozen major natural history libraries, which makes available a vast range of natural history literature free of charge to everyone. The participating libraries have over two million volumes in their collections and at the time of nomination BHL had placed online more than 41,000 titles; by mid-February 2011 the number had risen to almost 49,000. It will undoubtedly grow even larger and make available more and more works that are often difficult to find.

Council offers many congratulations to the project on creating such a fantastic resource.

The Thackray Medal is awarded for a significant achievement in the history of those areas of interest to the Society. The award can be made to an individual or a team. Recognition may be for any completed piece of work (e.g. the cataloguing of an archive collection), a publication (book or journal article), an exhibition, etc.

Nominations can only be accepted from members of the Society.

Letters of nomination should be sent to the Honorary Secretary by 1 June 2011. Nominations must indicate the item and the producer to be nominated. They also must provide the

name and contact details of the person submitting the nomination. They should include a brief statement on the nature of the significant achievement involved and

describe how the prize committee can obtain supporting evidence, such as publication details or photographs of exhibitions, etc. We may ask for a loan of such evidence for use by the prize committee. Self-nomination is discouraged.

Nominations and queries should be sent to: The Honorary Secretary
c/o The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD
secretary@shnh.org.uk

3. *History and mystery:* *notes and queries from the newsletter of the Society for the History of Natural History*

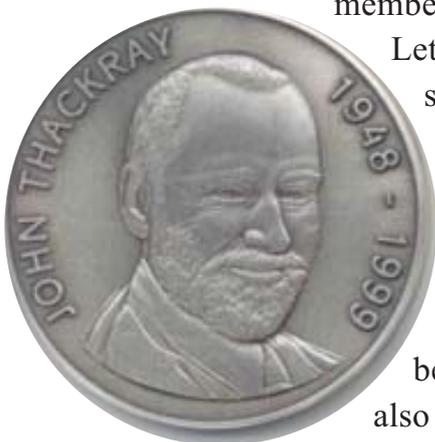
A celebratory volume to be published in late 2011; approx 192pp, illustrated, with a cover based on artwork by Dr Rebecca Jewell (see centre pages).

Price (estimated) £12.50 (post not included).

As part of the events being organised by the Society to mark its Diamond Jubilee (1936–2011), Dr Charles Nelson, editor of *Archives of natural history*, had a brilliant idea; he would volunteer to collate a selection of articles and snippets from past copies of the Society's Newsletter, to enable them to be brought to the attention of a wider audience and help swell the coffers of the Society.

The Society is always looking for imaginative ways to raise money to support its aims and objectives. *History and mystery* ticks all the boxes. Proceeds from the sale of this volume will help replenish the now depleted funds of the Alwyne Wheeler Bursary, which supports young scholars who want to make original contributions to the study of the history of natural history by attending conferences and meetings of the SHNH.

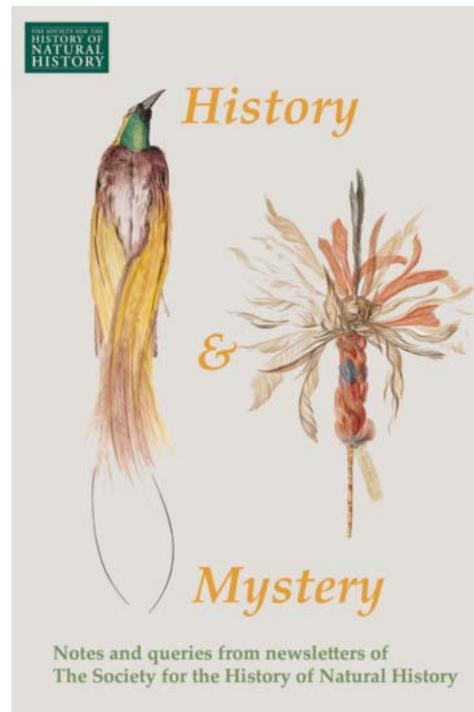
As a more ephemeral publication than *Archives*, and not available online until recent years, the Newsletter is much less readily available for consultation; few are likely to



have access to its full run since 1977. I repeat the observation by Ray Desmond (formerly Chief Librarian and Archivist at Kew Gardens) regarding the Society's editorial tradition apropos *Archives*: "I am not aware of any other periodical concerned with the history of natural history that consistently maintains such a high standard of scholarship". That is a fine testament to the contributors and editors of *Archives* over the past 75 years. Equally, there is erudition aplenty on display in the contributions made by stalwarts of the Society to its Newsletter. It seemed a shame that the scholarship displayed in its back-numbers had so limited a present-day circulation.

If you've ever wondered what Broadwood pianos, criminals, wrapping paper, forged wills, the British Secret Service, bad lighting or Blandings castle have ever had to do with natural history, then read on. Perhaps you've never heard of an elephant collecting geological specimens? Become informed. Was Sigmund Freud a secret mycologist? How do you pronounce Jameson? Veritably all human life is here, including a new definition of a "botaniff": one who dispenses herbal cures for ladies' sore breasts!

Readers of this volume, which we anticipate will be published in the autumn, will have many such gossipy delights in store. As Jack Gibson would advocate, find a cosy corner, a log fire and a wee (or maybe not so wee!) dram and settle back to be amused, enlightened and inspired. As they say in restaurants, enjoy! While we do not recommend emulating H. C. Watson who, desirous to make his books scarce, bought up copies and destroyed them; if you want to purchase multiple copies, don't let us stop you! And, having made your purchase and enjoyed *History and mystery*, why not emulate these contributors and submit your own quirky mental meanderings to future SHNH Newsletters?



If you would like to reserve a copy (or two) of *History and mystery*, please send an email to info@shnh.org.uk or write to the Honorary Editor at the Society's address. We will provide further information in the next newsletter.

Geoff Moore
President

4. Book Reviews Editor

Dr Diarmid Finnegan is reluctantly standing down as Book Reviews editor after four years in post due to pressures of other commitments. Dr Isabelle Charmantier has kindly agreed to take over from him. Council wishes to extend to Diarmid its thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the Society and wishes Isabelle well in taking over this responsibility

5. Archives News

The next issue (volume 38 part 1), due to be issued in April, will contain the following papers and short notes. It opens with a revised version of the William T. Stearn Prize 2010 essay: N. P. HELLSTRÖM: The tree as evolutionary icon: TREE in the Natural History Museum, London.

G. MANGANELLI, A. BENOCCI & V. SPADINI: Biagio Bartalini's "Catalogo dei corpi marini fossili che si trovano intorno a Siena" (1776).

C. E. JACKSON: The painting of hand-coloured zoological illustrations.

C. E. JACKSON: The materials and methods of hand-colouring zoological illustrations.

R. A. BAKER & R. A. BAYLISS: The Valencia Harbour survey (1895 and 1896) in Ireland, with special reference to the work of Edward Thomas Browne (1866–1937).

T. W. PIETSCH: Charles Plumier's "Manicou Caraibarum" (c. 1690): a previously unpublished description and drawing of the common opossum, *Didelphis marsupialis* Linnaeus, 1758.

B. MORTON: The Great Barrier Reef Expedition's "Coral Corroboree", Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 10 July 1928: an historical portent.

E. C. NELSON: "A botanical encampment at the foot of Ben Voirlich June 22d. 1821" by Robert Kaye Greville, and a Scottish beetle.

E. C. NELSON & D. M. PORTER: Archibald Menzies on Albemarle Island, Galápagos archipelago, 7 February 1795.

K. J. LAMBKIN: The golden geyser – Robert Logan Jack and the geology of Mount Morgan, Queensland.

E. ROTA: Early oligochaete science, from Aristotle to Francesco Redi.

There are also book reviews and seven short notes:

P. A. COCHRAN: On the identity of Samuel de Champlain's "chaousarou".

J. J. F. J. JANSEN: Sale catalogue of Adriaan Vroeg's collection in the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

P. G. MOORE: Briefly befitting breffits.

R. B. WILLIAMS: The artists and wood-engravers for Thomas Bell's History of British quadrupeds.

J. P. HODGES: Mode of address of the nineteenth-century naturalist P. H. Gosse.

G. MANGANELLI & A. BENOCCI: Niccolò Gualtieri (1688–1744): biographical sketch of a pioneer of conchology.

P. DASZKIEWICZ: Feliks Jarocki's Zoologia czyli zwierzętopismo (1821–1838): an example of scientific misconduct in the 19th century.

Papers accepted since completion of the next issue are as follows (in alphabetic order of the first author's surname):

K. FREDGA, T. STJERNBERG & I. SVANBERG: An early (1834) illustration of the wood lemming, *Myopus schisticolor* (Lilljeborg, 1844), from Finland.

E. W. GROVES: Lieutenant W. R. Broughton (commanding the *Chatham*), James Johnstone (Master), Archibald Menzies (Surgeon/Naturalist) and the survey of the San Juan Archipelago.

P. G. MOORE: Eric Fitch Daghish (1892–1966): naturalist, illustrator, author and editor.

P. G. MOORE: The background to the proposition that plankton be utilised as food in the United Kingdom during the Second World War.

H. J. NOLTIE: A botanical group in Lahore, 1864.

S. G. SEALY & M. F. GUIGUENO: Cuckoo chicks evicting their nest mates: coincidental observations by Edward Jenner in England and Antoine Joseph Lottinger in France.

R. B. WILLIAMS & P. G. MOORE: An annotated catalogue of the marine biological paintings of Thomas Alan Stephenson (1898–1961).

I expect these to be included in volume 38 part 2 (due for publication in October 2011).

E. Charles Nelson
Honorary Editor

6. **Special publication 3 (1985):**
From Linnaeus to Darwin: Commentaries on the history of biology and geology

Does anyone have a spare copy of the above, please, containing papers from the Fifth Easter Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History 28–31 March, 1983?

As part of the online archive of back-issues of the Society's publications, the three Special publications issued in 1981, 1983 and 1985 will also be made available via the Edinburgh University Press website. To produce the necessary scanned text, a copy of each one has to be dismantled for scanning. We have the requisite copies of the first and the second Special publications, but not of the third one.

If any member can assist by making available a duplicate or an unwanted copy of Special publication 3, please contact me. The copy will be disbound and after scanning it will be archived with the rest of the scanned copies.

E. Charles Nelson
editor@shnh.org.uk

7. **Situations Vacant!**

If anyone is interested in taking over the editorship of the Newsletter please contact either me or Geoff Moore and we can provide more details about what the job entails.

Julia Bruce
newsletter@shnh.org.uk

Society Events News

8. **Joint Meeting**
350th Anniversary of John Ray's Catalogue of Cambridge Plants

Cambridge University Library

3rd November 2010

The Morison room provided an ideal venue for this event, giving the 44 registered partic-

ipants an opportunity to see the current public exhibition "Dream voices, Siegfried Sassoon, Memory and War" on their arrival and departure, as well as a Library exhibition showing John Ray's works, sources and successors: "A great deal in a little room" – John Ray's Cambridge catalogue (1660).

The focus of the event was the forthcoming publication of a new translation of the "Catalogue of Cambridge Plants 1660" by the Ray Society. The first speaker, Dr Chris Preston, one of the co-authors of that work, challenged our view of John Ray, as presented by his biographer Canon Raven. He discussed findings that had emerged as part of the work done by him and Philip Oswald on the structure of the "Catalogue", Ray's information sources and Ray's possible co-authors, among other aspects. Preston and Oswald's use of resources in the Cambridge University Library made this a particularly relevant occasion. Dr Karen Reeds followed on with a more detailed look at the availability of Ray's bibliographic sources and the contents of his own library.

After this the programme reverted to more botanical considerations with Dr Mark Hill talking on Ray as an early worker on mosses and liverworts, with the addition of the mosses being highlighted on the title page of Ray's second edition. The morning session finished with Alex Wragge-Morley explaining to us the formalities underlying the ways knowledge was communicated in Ray's time and their belief that this could change the moral and ethical disposition of their readers, the choice of the right scale for metaphors and similes being of prime importance, giving examples for Ray's own writings.

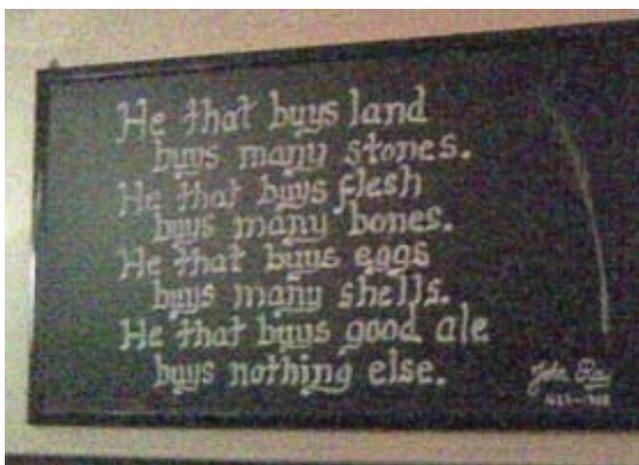
After enjoying excellent refreshments provided by the University Library catering services in the lunch break, delegates had an opportunity to view the accompanying Library display. The captions for the display were

available to all in printed form, the extensive notes being prepared with assistance from the University Library staff. We are most grateful to Philip Oswald, Chris Preston and Emily Dourish for all their hard work in making this available and to Bill Noblett for facilitating the display and the use of the Morison Room.

The afternoon session embraced wider aspects of Ray and his legacy. His zoological work was clearly presented by Professor Tim Birkhead, who introduced us to Ray’s “Wisdom of God” as well as to Ray’s patron, Francis Willughby and their “grand tour” focused on ornithology. The “Ornithology” was published in 1676 under Willughby’s name, although it was actually Ray’s work. The next speaker, Professor Paul Foster, discussed the links between John Ray and Gilbert White, with particular reference to White’s “Calendar of Flora”, one of the main sources for White’s natural history information being Ray’s “Methodus Plantarum” of 1682. The last speaker, Professor Sam Berry, extended our view of Ray by showing the progression from the physico-theology of Ray as exemplified in the “Wisdom of God” to “Intelligent design” in the present day, showing us how ideas and concepts evolved as might be expected from an evolutionary biologist.

Professor Berry closed his talk with this image of a proverb of Ray’s written up on a board in an inn in Helsinki.

Photo by kind permission of Prof. S. Berry



The text reads:

*He that buys land buys many stones
 He that buys flesh buys many bones
 He that buys eggs buys many shells
 He that buys good ale buys nothing else.*

Thanks are expressed to the Cambridge University Library, for providing such an appropriate venue for the meeting, with excellent support staff and facilities, to all those involved in mounting the accompanying exhibition and to all the speakers, as well as to Professor David Mabberley, a member of the Ray Society Council and former SHNH President, for chairing the first session and to Dr Isabelle Charmantier, a member of the current SHNH Council, for chairing the afternoon session.

Gina Douglas
 Meetings Secretary

Forthcoming Society Events

9. **75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Natural History From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation: The History and Development of Menageries, Zoos and Aquariums**
 Chester Zoo, UK

Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May 2011
 This international symposium is being held in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Natural History. It is a joint collaboration between SHNH, the Linnean Society and Chester Zoo, supported by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Bartlett Society. The focus of the symposium is to provide a comprehensive overview of the history and development of living wild animal collections across the world. The Symposium proceedings will be made available.



A 19th century engraving of the entrance to London Zoo

Invited speakers will be talking on:

- The Foundations of Zoo Biology
- The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Living Collections in the Ancient World
- Royal and Private Animal Menageries
- Aquariums and Marine and Freshwater Biological Associations
- The Development of Regional and National Zoo Associations and Outreach

Additional themes to be covered during the symposium include:

- The History and Development of Zoos and Aquariums as Charitable Organisations
- Individual and Specialised Collections (Butterflies, Insectariums/Bugworlds, Aviaries, Vivariums/Serpentariums and Dolphinariums)
- International Zoo and Aquarium Affiliated Organisations – the importance of partnerships
- Zoos and Aquariums as Leisure Attractions
- Zoo and Aquarium Architecture and Masterplanning
- Zoo and Aquarium Enclosure and Exhibit Design – the importance of animal welfare
- Zoo Animal Welfare, Ethics & Zoo Medicine
- The Concept of the ‘Zoological Garden’ – the Importance of Plants
- Zoo Animal Acquisitions – from Wild Collections to Sustainably Managed Conservation Breeding Programmes
- Zoo Conservation Science and Research in the Field

- Conservation Education in Zoos and Outreach Programmes

- Zoo History in the Making

To register please see the flyer enclosed with this Newsletter or contact:

Claudine Gibson c.gibson@chesterzoo.org

10. (Title TBC) Anchoring Biodiversity Information: From Sherborn to the 21st century and beyond

Flett Lecture Theatre

Natural History Museum, London

Friday 28 October 2011

This is a “pencilled in” booking at the moment so watch this space and the website for confirmation.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Charles Davies Sherborn, first President of this Society, and, thanks to the Society’s Representative in North America, Leslie Overstreet who alerted us to the anniversary, we will celebrate his life with a one-day symposium.

Outline programme:

Keynote: Why are names, dates and stability important?

I. Past: Preserving the heritage

What are the archival materials that need to be conserved and shared, and why?

II. Current: The acronyms and why they are needed

III. Future: Biodiversity Bioinformatics – digitisation and improved access and new challenging in archiving taxonomic information

Wrap-up Plenary: The future of names and information standards.

For updates on this meeting please check the SHNH website or contact:

Gina Douglas

Meetings Secretary

11. Visions From The Blind Seer of Ambon A Celebration of Georg Everard Rumphius (1627–1702) and his Ambonese Herbal

12th May 2011



A joint one-day symposium between the Linnean Society of London, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (KNAW) and the Society for the History of Natural History, supported by the Annals of Botany and Yale University Press addressing the biohistorical, botanical, medicinal and anthropological significance of Rumphius' masterpiece.

Georg Everard Rumphius (1627–1702) was probably the world's most productive pre-Linnaean naturalist. In the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) he spent most of his life on Ambon, one of the spice islands in the Moluccas (Indonesia), first as a soldier and a builder, later as a successful VOC merchant. A self-taught and self-appointed naturalist, he documented and interpreted the area's terrestrial and marine life and its uses by the local population.

His *Herbarium Amboinense* or *Ambonese Herbal*, published in seven folio volumes long after his death, is a monument of early tropical plant biology and ethnobotany. For over 250 years only available in Latin and Dutch, the Rumphius *Herbal* is now finally accessible in English, thanks to an excellent translation and informative annotations by the late Professor Eric Montague (Monty) Beekman of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This English language edition is to be co-published by Yale University Press and the (US) National Tropical Botanical Garden.

For more details of the meeting or to register see www.linnean.org or email: events@linnean.org.

Other Events

12. Orra White Hitchcock (1796–1863): An Amherst Woman of Art and Science

Bassett and Daniels Galleries

Mead Art Museum

Amhurst College

Until 29 May 2011

Minuscule mushrooms, grasses, and flowers rendered with the exactness of a scientific illustration and the lyrical beauty of a decorative artwork; massive classroom wall charts presented with the geometric clarity of a modern Constructivist painting or a startling sculptural presence; picturesque lithographs of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers – this exhibition's 100 objects reveal an intriguing self-taught illustrator of remarkable gifts.

Orra White Hitchcock was one of the Connecticut River Valley's earliest female artists and the wife of the geologist and Amherst College President Edward Hitchcock.

Guest curators Robert L. Herbert, professor emeritus, Mount Holyoke College, and Daria D'Arienzo, Head of the Frost Library's Archives and Special Collections from 1984 to 2007, have identified previously unknown drawings and many new facts that enrich our understanding of a mother, wife, and teacher who considered herself not an "artist", but an ordinary woman, one who nonetheless created a truly significant body of visual art.



Lady's slipper



**13. London's Lost Museums:
Nature and medicine on show
Qvist Gallery, Hunterian Museum
Royal College of Surgeons
London
1 March–2 July**

Discover a lost world of cabinets of curiosity and grand exhibitions at the Royal College of Surgeons. The remains of collections that were forgotten, dispersed or even razed to the ground have found their way into today's museums, and the Hunterian Museum will be displaying a selection of these precious relics. See a mummy's foot, exotic specimens and rare catalogues alongside exquisite images of grand museums that are no more. From Sir Hans Sloane's cabinet to William Bullock's Egyptian Hall, the exhibition examines the contents, purpose and fate of London's early anatomical and natural history collections. It also tells the story of the devastating bomb damage inflicted upon the Hunterian during the Second World War.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of associated events, including lunchtime lectures, tours, and a "Lost Museums" study day (see below).

**14. "Lost Museums" Study Day
Hunterian Museum**

Saturday 21 May 2011, 10am–5pm

For those inspired by the exhibition London's Lost Museums (see above), this study day offers the opportunity to learn more about museums that did not survive the test of time.

Engage with the material and manuscript remnants of forgotten collections and tour the exhibition with its curators. The day will feature speakers from across the heritage sector and a keynote by Sam Alberti, Director of Museums and Archives and author of *Morbid Curiosities: Medical Museums in Nineteenth-Century Britain*.

The meeting is held in conjunction with the Museums and Galleries History Group (www.mghg.org).

£45/£35 concessions (MGHG members; College members, fellows and affiliates, full-time students). Includes refreshments and lunch.

Booking on T:020 7869 6560

**15. HOGG Conference
Geological Collectors and Collecting
Flett Theatre
Natural History Museum in London
4-5 April 2011**

This conference is timed to coincide with the Christies Sale of Travel, Science and Natural History Artefacts on 6 April 2011 and covers collecting of geological maps and books in addition to the collecting of fossils, rocks and minerals. Professor Richard Fortey of the Natural History Museum, London will open the conference with a talk highlighting Natural History Museum collectors and collecting. Tours will offer participants a rare opportunity to see behind-the-scenes at the Natural History Museum and to view rare books and maps in the Museum's library. Workshops will provide hands-on advice on organising and conserving geological collections of all types and sizes – including the sort of small private collections many of us have amassed in our own homes and garages. An evening event at Christie's will offer the opportunity to view some of the 29 interesting items included in the Geology section of the sale. To register, please go to: www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg

16. Flora's Lexicon
The Hunt Institute
for Botanical Documentation
Pittsburgh

25 March–30 June 2011

This exhibition explores the 19th-century European and American phenomenon of The Language of Flowers, the common understanding that plants and blooms were charged with sentiment and meaning to express emotion or to communicate privileged messages within the strict confines of social etiquette.

So pervasive and popular was The Language of Flowers trend that it launched the introduction of the floral dictionary or Language of Flowers book, small, beautifully bound and illustrated volumes devoted to the decoding of each flower's secret meaning.

Flora's Lexicon presents books from the Hunt Institute's Library and botanical portraits from the Art Department in an examination of the scope of The Language of Flowers phenomenon. Systems of meaning are explored through artworks of many key 18th- and 19th-century botanical artists and illustrators.

In addition, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on 26 and 27 June 2011.
<http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/>

17. The Geographical Imagination
RGS-IBG Annual International Conference
RGS-IBG London

31 August–2 September 2011

Visualisation, mapping, environmental reconstruction, landscape symbolism, terrain modelling, place picturing, virtual worlds, visionary worlds, cultural ecologies, climatic scenarios, patterned ground, sites of representation, image making, theory building, field observation... so many subjects and methods, topics and technologies, across the broad spectrum of geography, are powerfully shaped by a geographical imagination.

This conference will explore many dimensions of the geographical imagination, including its histories and futures, meanings and materials, pleasures and politics, practices and effects. We welcome sessions and papers on the place of the imagination in geography's many fields of enquiry, including multi-disciplinary fields within and beyond geography, and those which engage with a wider public.

For more information:

W: www.rgs.org/AC2011

E: AC2011@rgs.org

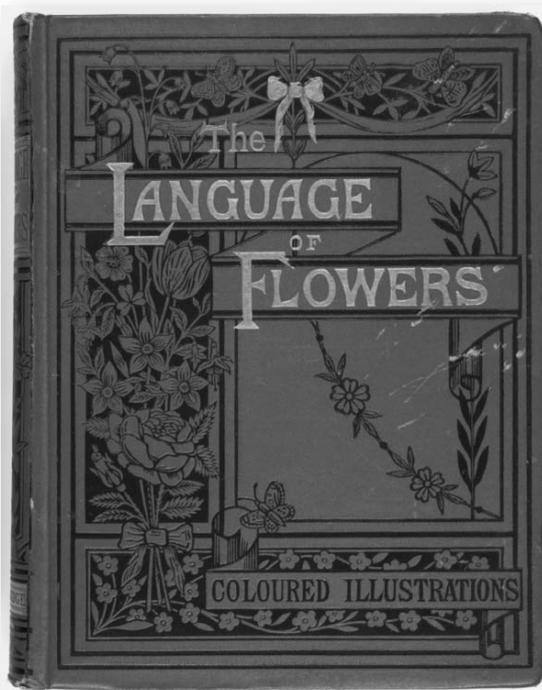
18. William Turner in the 1540s
A weekend conference in Morpeth,
Northumberland

Morpeth Chantry and Morpeth Town Hall

Sat 17th September 2011

The natural historian and physician William Turner (c. 1508–1568) was born in Morpeth. His life's work became the cornerstone for British botany as he provided over 300 first identifications of English native plants. He also wrote extensively on fish, birds, wine and medical baths. His travels in Europe, occa-

Left: Cover of Robert Tyas' *The Language of Flowers*, or, Floral Emblems or Thoughts, Feelings and Sentiments



sioned by the religious and political pressures of the Reformation, were the source of many of his insights and observations.

In 2008 Morpeth celebrated the 500th anniversary of Turner's birth with a series of events and lectures, leading to a great deal of new research which so far has not been available in the public domain. For this reason, The Friends of Carlisle Park, supported by Northumberland County Council and Greater Morpeth Development Trust, are hosting a one-day conference of walks and talks to explore and contextualise Turner's seminal work in natural history during the 1540s. Different sessions will consider:

- Turner's work on the natural history of birds and fishes.
- The Morpeth that he left behind, including some of the sites that would be recorded in his major work on plants *A New Herball* (1551).
- His experience of the religious and political conditions of the time during his travels in Northern Europe, and how they enmeshed with 16th century conditions for studying natural history.

The proposed programme is:

9.30–10.00 Dr Marie Addyman, Open University: Welcome and Introduction.

10.00–11.00 Professor Peter Davis, University of Newcastle: Turner's work on fishes.

11.00–11.15 Refreshments

11.15–12.15 Panel: Turner's work on birds.

Lunchtime – William Turner and gardens, including visit to the William Turner Garden in Carlisle Park, Morpeth.

1.30–2.45 Professor Alan Davison, University of Newcastle: A walk and talk round Turner's Morpeth, including the distribution of the former tanneries.

3.00 Refreshments and discussion of town and garden tours.

3.30–4.30 Marie Addyman: Natural history

and religious politics: Turner's travels in the Rhineland and East Friesland.

4.30 Close

Additional Event: Sunday 10.00am–12 midday by the Friends of Carlisle Park and Emma Evans: a walk to Lady Chapel woods near Morpeth, one of the sites referred to in *A New Herball*.

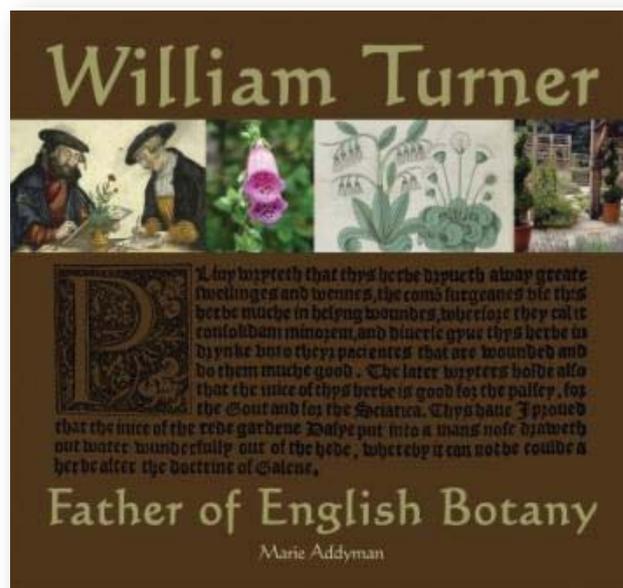
Light refreshments will be provided on Saturday morning and afternoon. Lunch will not be provided, but Morpeth has a good selection of cafés, restaurants and pubs nearby. The conference is free, but is subject to pre-booking with Emma Evans by 19th August 2011.

Marie Addyman, B.A., B.Phil, D.Phil, Academic Co-ordinator

cangrande14@btinternet.com

Emma Evans, M.Sc, Administrative Co-ordinator 01670 535203

emma.evans@northumberland.gov.uk



Marie Addyman is the author of *William Turner – Father of English Botany*. Published in 2008, the 500th anniversary of Turner's birth, this is a comprehensive introduction to his life and achievements. It covers the three main passions of Turner's life – religion, medicine and botany – in a career that spanned the tumultuous reigns of four Tudor monarchs.



SHNH

FROM SHERBORN TO ATTENBOROUGH – FIRST PRESIDENT TO FIRST PATRON – 75 YEARS OF SHNH

Seventy five years ago, a small group of librarians, bibliographers and naturalists, who mostly worked in the London, got together to form The Society for the Bibliography of Natural History. Founder members included: C. Davis Sherborn, B.B. Woodward, B.H. Soulsby, John Ramsbottom, W.N. Edwards and N.D. Riley – all on the staff of the then British Museum (Natural History), now the Natural History Museum, and the Society has maintained close links with the Museum ever since.

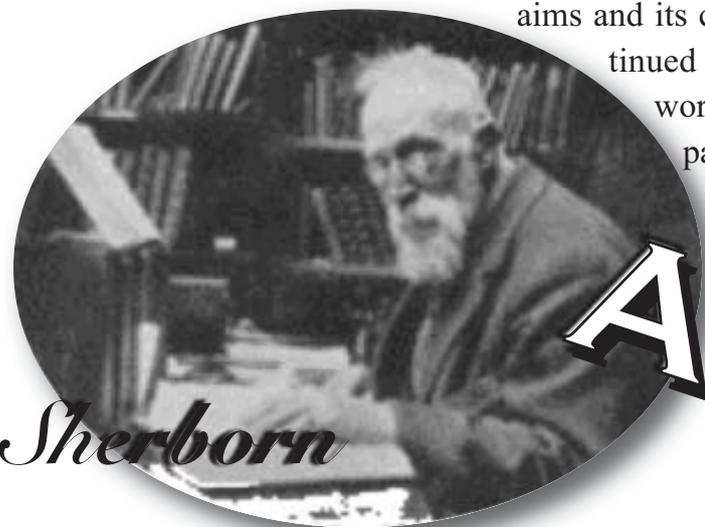


2011 is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Charles Davies Sherborn, first President of this Society and as part of our 75th commemorations we will celebrate his life with a one-day symposium provisionally entitled *Anchoring Biodiversity Information: From Sherborn to the 21st century and beyond*, on Friday 28 October 2011, fittingly at the Natural History Museum. See Item 10 for more details.

Today SHNH – The Society for the History of Natural History, as the society was renamed in 1979 – is a friendly international society for anyone 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.

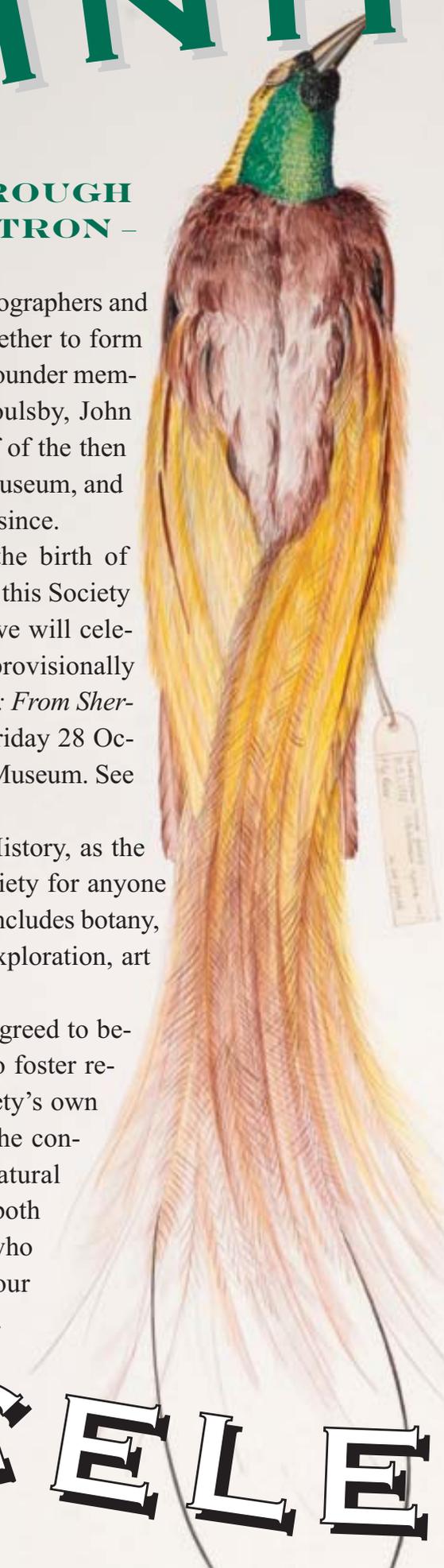
In 2010, distinguished naturalist Sir David Attenborough agreed to become the Society's first patron. Sir David's untiring efforts to foster respect and understanding of the natural world mirror the Society's own

aims and its commitment to the continued study of the natural world and of those, both past and present, who have aided our understanding.

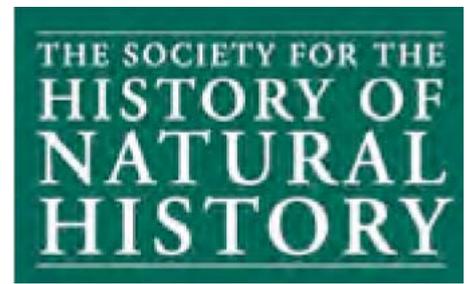


Sherborn

CELE



75 YEARS



SHNH INTO THE FUTURE

You might be forgiven for thinking that a society such as ours, by its very nature, looks to the past rather than to the future. But nothing could be further from the truth. The Society is eagerly looking ahead to the next 75 years and is celebrating its diamond jubilee by taking full advantage of digital technology to ensure that it reaches out to as many people as possible. For instance all back issues of *Archives of natural history* are now available online free to members at the Edinburgh University Press website (www.eupjournals.org). Our newly redesigned website and our Facebook page are constantly updated with news and information about the Society and its activities. We now have 117 Facebook fans and the number is steadily growing. Our website is a “window” on the Society for members and others alike and is always kept up to date, so please do visit regularly. Contributions to news, events, meetings, history, are always very welcome as are reciprocal links.



We hope to continue to recruit new members into the future and have recently issued a new information and membership leaflet. Contact Lynda Brooks (lynda@linnean.org) if you would like copies to distribute at your place of work or on your travels.



This year we are publishing the pick of the many notes and queries received by the Newsletter over the years in our commemorative volume *History and Mystery*, (see Item 3).

And finally, the Society is organising several events in this celebratory year that reflect our broad range of interests, both past and present. So from to the *Ambonese Herbal* to Zoos – there should be something to suit everyone!

Left: The beautiful watercolour of a bird of paradise by Rebecca Jewell, that illustrates the front cover of *History and Mystery*

Above: New leaflet

Right: Sir David Attenborough



BRATTON

75 YEARS OF SHNH

SOME REMINISCENCES

Meetings and Memories

When asked to write something on my memories of the SHNH, my first thought was to go to the old printed “Membership lists” produced annually by Jack Gibson for Council to remind myself of when I was first invited to join Council and then become Meetings Secretary. My membership of the Society corresponds to when I first became the temporary Librarian and Archivist of the Linnean Society in 1981, when it was made clear that membership of the SHNH was essential. A copy of the October 1981 issue of *Archives*, the first of a long run, bears witness to that. Attendance at events was initially only possible occasionally as I was more or less single-handed in the Linnean Library. By 1988, now with a permanent position and some part-time assistance in the Library, I had joined Council and was able to participate more fully, becoming Meetings Secretary in 1989 for the first time, a task that lasted until 1995 when I had a brief break, resuming that role in 1999 when Jane Pickering left for a job in the USA.

Luckily, in many cases, arranging meetings often involves working with other organisations, both nationally and internationally, and that not only helps spread the load but pro-

vides an opportunity to get to know a wide range of institutions and people. Lasting friendships are a happy outcome. A quick “trawl” through paper files from past meetings and spreadsheet listings back to 1995 brings back memories of a huge variety of events, from a Fenland visit to the Wisbech Museum to magical lanterns in the Botanical Gardens in Montreal, not forgetting a memorable visit to the replica of the *Endeavour*, where we rapidly grasped the space limitations of that voyage. Looking through the current membership list it always surprises me as to how many members I have actually met, had drinks with and shared knowledge.

The key person whom I still miss and who first really brought me into involvement in the Society was the late John Thackray and the accompanying photograph shows him in Charlottesville in 1997 and illustrates an important element in SHNH events!

I am looking for a successor as Meetings Secretary so if you want to have lots of friends worldwide and interesting places to visit, then step forward! The internet makes the task of organising an event much easier these days.

Gina Douglas
Meetings Secretary



Robert 'Bob' Ralph (1941–2007) –
four bees not in his bonnet

Bob Ralph's passing was noticed in our Newsletter (no. 91) in a small obituary adapted from a tribute communicated by his wife, Ann. Bob – a lovely man with an irrepressible and impish sense of humour – served on Council from 1991–1994 and was book reviews editor from 1994–1996. He and I were friends for over 30 years and it was at his recommendation, I'm pretty sure, that I first joined the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History (as it then was).

Bob was one who “marched to a different drum”. An inspiring teacher, he tried to provoke undergraduates to think, always a challenge! I recall some of the unexpected questions he posed, out of the blue, to his students here: Given their respective longitudes what was the time difference between Land's End and Greenwich (something few in this post-railway age had ever thought necessary to consider)? Why also were premature babies' lungs so hard to inflate? He was a consummate observer too, he once told me how he had stopped involuntarily, mid-flow, in a lecture by noticing that one of the front-row students was taking notes using a “Mont Blanc” fountain pen (something he could not afford)! He would provoke students, many of whom in the old days were twitchers and who would sit in Aberdeen lecture theatres with binoculars hung around their necks (in case something avian flitted past the window; the Wynne-Edwards ornithological legacy there being long continued), by deliberately extolling the fact that he had achieved a “right and left” at pheasants the previous Saturday.

He nurtured, guarded and valued the collections in his department's lovely zoological museum, being immensely proud of its MacGillivray (Ralph 1992, 1993a, b) and Audubon ornithological connexions (see

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/connecting_collections/Audubon.shtml). I recall him waxing lyrical to me about the egg of Ross's gull (*Rhodostethia rosea* MacGillivray, 1824) that the museum has in its collection; one which emanated (inter alia) from Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards' (1906–1989) Arctic expedition to Baffin Island (1950). The existence of a treasured great auk's egg in the museum provided him with the material for a prophetic April Fool's joke in 1988 that is still remembered and now features online (see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~nhi708/treasures/auk_egg.php). And he was proud too of the success of the Natural History Centre for school children he helped set up (initially funded by Conoco UK Ltd) in the basement.

Bob belonged to that old-fashioned school: a naturalist and a field-sportsman unbothered by political correctness: one who did not take himself, or life, too seriously. Pedagogy he took seriously, but the greasy pole to academic advancement held little appeal. After he retired he would earn a few extra shekels in the fresh air from his gratuities as a loader on local grouse moors but his foremost passion then alongside his family – grandchildren especially, upon whom he doted – was salmon fishing. I miss Bob's humour greatly. He was a great raconteur (after all, he was from Chatham!), a teller of ‘shaggy dog’ stories and the most outrageous jokes. I can hear his soft voice now and still see the twinkle in his eyes. I have been in stitches, again, reviewing those examples of his wit remaining in my in-box (sorry; most are unprintable).

The provocative banter between us was mutual. I sent the following ‘history of natural history’ enquiry to Bob in 2005: “From your vast experience of the Scottish East coast, and of sundry useless facts, can you comment on the validity of the claim I've read (Ritchie, 1955) that Edward Forbes pronounced his

name, as he signed himself in his sketches: “BBBB”, i.e. FOUR BEES. Ritchie claimed that was how the surname was pronounced in For-bes land. I have never heard it spoken thus but then I have lived a sheltered life on a wee west coast island. It’s something you might as well worry about as well as me”. Inexcusably (TWO BEES, i.e. BB, is a shot size appropriate for geese), Bob never worried sufficiently about this bee in my bonnet; so perhaps someone else out there can confirm or deny this for me? That is the question.

I am grateful to Drs Thelma Fletcher and Martyn Gorman for cross checking my statements regarding the Aberdeen Zoology Department’s museum collections.

Ralph, R., 1992 A portrait of William MacGillivray. *Archives of natural history* 19: 265–267.

Ralph, R., 1993a William MacGillivray. London.

Ralph, R., 1993b John MacGillivray – his life and work. *Archives of natural history* 20: 185–195.

Ritchie, J., 1955 A double centenary – two notable naturalists, Robert Jameson and Edward Forbes. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* 66B: 29–58.

Geoff Moore
President

News & Information

19. Zoological Bibliography

This new periodical is available free of charge as a downloadable PDF. Just go to avespress.com and look for Zoological Bibliography. You will find a download button on the “Featured Periodical” page.

Happy reading and please spread the word about this new resource.

Edward Dickinson

20. Asa Gray honoured on stamp



The United States Postal Service will issue a stamp honouring Asa Gray in June 2011.

Asa Gray, one of the first professional botanists in the United States, advanced the specialised field of plant geography and became the principal American advocate of evolutionary theory in the mid-nineteenth century.

Harvard archivist Lisa DeCesare and Harvard University Herbarium botanists worked with the design team to incorporate elements into the design that represent Gray’s life and work.

The stamp is one of a series of four honouring US scientists.

21. Dodo found in drawer

Curators at the Grant Museum, University College, London had a bit of a surprise recently when they found half a dodo in an Edwardian wooden box tucked away in a drawer. The Museum has just been refurbished and the discovery of the blackened bones was made during the move of its 70,000-item collection to a new home in an Edwardian former medical library.

Incredibly, no complete specimen of the dodo survives, so this is a particularly welcome find. It will be displayed alongside another of the Museum’s treasures, an example of the now-extinct, zebra-like quagga.

The Grant Museum has just reopened in its new premises (on March 15th) so do go and see its new exhibition space (and the dodo!).

**22. Rare geological books and maps:
an auctioneer's perspective**

Council member Julian Wilson, Christie's Books and Manuscripts Specialist and Associate Director, will give this paper at the HOGG conference in May (see Item 15). But in the meantime, here is a sneak preview.

Auctions of books have provided an open market and public forum for bibliophiles, whether collectors, institutions or dealers, for over 400 years. Conceived in continental Europe, the practice spread to London in the late 17th-century, rapidly becoming the most important method for the collecting and dispersal of books. The development in the 19th-century of the great London-based auction houses created a new commercial environment, one that would, at the beginning of the current century, lead to their multi-national status and bring globalisation to the art market.

Collections of geological books, even from the earliest days, have been dispersed through auction. The very extensive library of the physician and natural historian John Woodward contained many important geological works; his collection was sold at auction in 1728, and comprised some 4755 lots of books sold over 29 consecutive days.

In the 19th-century, Gideon Mantell's library and fossil collection was dispersed in 349 lots in a three-day sale in May 1853. In the 20th-century, the Templeman sale at Hodgson's in 1949 was a highlight, as was Haskell Norman's sale in 1998, followed into the new millennium by Joseph Freilich's sale at Sotheby's New York in 2001.

The paper I will give at the HOGG conference will consider some of these historic sales in both a macro overview, as well as through a more detailed look at how some important individual geological books and maps

have fared at auction through time. This paper will also consider the current state of the auction market in relation to the modern collecting of geological books and maps, and will assess recent trends in the light of the impact of the internet and economic recession.

Julian Wilson

**23. William Vincent Legge's
work on the birds of Ceylon**

I am doing research on Legge, a soldier and ornithologist who spent many years in Ceylon and made a large collection of birds based on which he wrote and had published his *History of the Birds of Ceylon* (London, 1880). He left Ceylon in 1877 and returned to England where, presumably, he oversaw the publication. A typescript of the work with original watercolours exists and I am particularly interested in the relationship between the illustrations in the typescript (1878) and the hand-coloured lithographs in the printed work (1880) executed by John Gerrard Keulemans. The original watercolours have been attributed to Keulemans, but I doubt it. I am looking for any information about the original watercolours. Who did them? It is possible they were painted by Legge himself or they may have been done by an artist in Ceylon or perhaps by the wife of one Legge's colleagues or fellow officers. Any information would be most helpful and appreciated.

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24. Bewick's Tale-pieces

A very late holiday in the Lake District had an unexpected bonus. Looking around for something to visit on one of the wet days – the Fells were out of the question – our eyes alighted

on an exhibition running at the Abbot Hall Gallery in Kendal – Thomas Bewick: Tale-pieces. A splendid exhibition in a lovely intimate gallery.



The majority of the exhibited vignettes, or tail-pieces, were originally engraved by Bewick to fill gaps in the text for his two best known works, the *General history of quadrupeds* and the *History of British birds* (2 vols). For images so small – the gallery thoughtfully provided magnifying glasses for their visitors – they are incredibly detailed and Bewick’s biographer, Jenny Uglow, has described them as “visual ballads”. They certainly are very evocative. Whether it is the bird life – you can almost hear the crows cawing at the gibbet – or the scenes of village life – again you can imagine the small boys laughing and shouting as they “ride” their gravestones pretending to hunt – the engravings speak to you. And like ballads the vignettes frequently have a moral message. Hence tale rather than tail-pieces.

Originally put together by the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham this exhibition has moved around. It finished in Birmingham in May 2009, and then went to the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle. 2010 saw it first in Preston, at the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, and finally at Abbot Hall where it finished its run on 18 December. I have not been able to establish if this is the final exhibition. If it is,

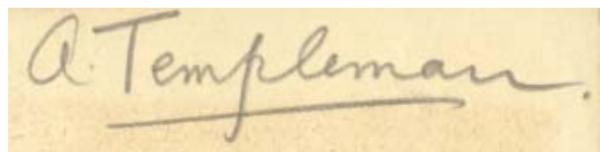
and you were not able to look in at Kendal, don’t despair for the Ikon Gallery have produced a quality catalogue of the exhibition. It includes a reproduction of all 140 exhibits and three specially commissioned essays by Nigel Tattersfield, Jenny Uglow and Tom Lubbock. It is available from the Gallery (www.ikon-gallery.co.uk) price £24.95.

Bill Noblett

25. Andrew Templeman’s signature

As we recorded in *Archives of natural history* 37 (2010), Andrew Templeman, one of our founding members, rarely inserted his name in the books he acquired, and he did not have a bookplate. An exception was found by John Collins when he was cataloguing the library of the late Mike Walpole. Templeman signed the front fly-leaf of *A handbook for Birmingham and the neighbourhood*, edited by G. A. Auden, published for the British Association for the Advancement of Science’s 1913 conference. Templeman also had placed a cross against one of the references on p. 610: Lapworth & Sopwith’s Report on the available coal resources ... (1905).

The Walpole family very kindly passed this copy to me.



E. Charles Nelson

26. A manuscript volume of bird notes by Leonard Parker Moore

Quite fortuitously the London Natural History Society was offered a manuscript bird journal by Caroline Hake, who lives in Australia. It was found among the papers of her father Terry Hake. She told me that he made a fortune in mining nickel and was known as “The Nickel King”. He had published privately sev-

eral memoirs of his early days, and gathered these together in a single volume: *An ornithological delight* – including memories of a Somerset childhood and of life between the wars, and many other stories of travel and adventure, published by Avon Books in London in 1996. He records a less than idyllic country life in a poor working class family. He also reproduces the entire bird journal in this book, and says:

The writer must have been a first class observer, his hand-written notes as neat and methodical as any I've seen. No doubt many of the place names are now altered and certainly the bird life he records may no longer be seen in the areas he describes. Indeed how wonderful it would be to find the time to retrace his old haunts, at the time of year he did, to see what changes have taken place in numbers and species. I leave the notes just as written by him, it conveys a sense of living which, alas, no longer exists

I got hold of the notes some years ago; they are hand written in a beautiful hand. My assistant and I constantly wondered over who he could have been, and what did he look like, and in passing we have formed a mind's eye picture of a far-seeing, well-educated gentleman.

The journal is written into a bound up publisher's dummy. There are 202 leaves, mostly written in ink on the recto pages. The dummy contains gathers of hot press paper for illustration and many of these have not been used. Toward the end of the book the leaves are written on both sides as the author anticipates the final available pages. There are two loose sheets of notes tucked into the book, one headed "124 Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, London, N. W. 2, Nov 1906 to April 1928, Among birds always present in their seasons" and the second "Garden Cricklewood" with lists of birds.

According to the 1911 census the inhabitant of 124 Melrose Avenue was Leonard Parker Moore, a journalist and editor. In 1906 he married Florence Robinson, and he appears to have moved into Melrose Avenue at that point. Moore appears to have written a number of diverse regimental histories under the pseudonym Wolmer Whyte, and to have published nature notes in the *Home Counties Magazine* under the same name. Under his own name he also supplied a reminiscence of Frederick Rolfe (who published under the name of Baron Corvo) in a volume of the latter's collected letters, some of which were addressed to Moore.

In 1909 he meets Richard Kearton, a prolific natural history author who began his career with the publishers Cassell, and all of whose works were published by them. It seems likely that Moore was also employed by Cassell.

July 21st 1909

Richard Kearton came to see J. W. S. on business today, and the latter called me in to introduce me to him. We had a pleasant chat, and I suggested to K. a bird-lovers' handbook – a book which would tell bird-lovers what they may expect to see in the country each month of the year. K. seemed to think it a pretty good idea, and I suspect he will write the book. We were talking about the unsatisfactoriness of all coloured plates of birds, however good, and K. said that some time ago he got a good artist to paint some pictures of birds with their most noticeable points exaggerated. He thought that by this method pictures of birds would be produced which would be real aids to identification. But the artist made a fearful hash of it.

The first field guides to birds were produced in the 1890s in America, but it was not until the 1950s that an effective illustrated field guide was produced. It is fascinating to

discover this early, although alas unsatisfactory, attempt.

Moore and his wife are assiduous and observant bird watchers, but they are confirmed eggers. In his first entry he says:

May 30th 1909

By the gravel pits, Northwood. Blackbird's nest in the lowest fork of tree. Visible from the pathway and almost within reach of the hand. One egg (stone cold) which we took. The ground colour a beautiful blue-green. Whitethroat flew out of the top of a low briar bush. Found the nest. Five eggs. Took one.

This entry is typical of many, but he is reflective about his hobby. Once again at Northwood Gravel Pits he and his wife find a wren's nest "with one egg in it, stone cold":

May 8th 1910

We took the egg for our collection and F. was very disturbed to read that Wrens are practically the only birds that desert nest and eggs if the human hand touches them. The book – an early 19th century publication – stated also that if the young were hatched the parents would not desert them in such a case. I believe the story of desertion is apocryphal, and I hope to prove it to be so by visiting the nest next Sunday.

May 15th 1910

At Northwood Gravel Pits. We visited the Wren's nest directly we arrived, and I was delighted to find that it contained 4 eggs. This completely disproves the legend about desertion. The four eggs were interesting for another reason. They seem to show that the Wren – if not other birds – lays an egg every other day.

Even so he and his wife seem to feel that egg collecting is some sort of original sin:

May 16th (Whit Monday) 1910

Playing hide-and-seek with the children, F. while hiding behind a bush flushed a small bird a little way off in the open. She searched in the tuft from which she thought it came, and found a nest, composed of hay chiefly, containing four pinkish eggs spotted with reddish

brown. It was a domed nest, and we think it must be that of the Willow Warbler. F. took one egg before calling us over, as we do not want the children to think it right to take eggs.

When the First World War breaks out they go on holiday to the Isle of Wight

August 22nd to Sept. 9th 1914.

At Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

An economical holiday owing to the war, but we both agreed that it was the most enjoyable we have ever spent. We decided to go to Shanklin not only because we are fond of the place, but also because the proximity to Portsmouth presented possibilities of seeing something of what is going on, and realizing how near we are to this conflict – the greatest probably that the world has ever seen. We were not disappointed. The first evening, and every evening, the sky, to nearly above our heads was illuminated by searchlights from Portsmouth looking for Zeppelins and Taubes [a German plane ironically named "Dove"]...

In addition to a powerful searchlight they have three amazingly brilliant stationary lights – two so close together as to look almost like one, and another further away...

The stationary ones, I have no doubt, are for casting a brilliant light all over the Harbour and the approaches thereto and thus preventing the numerous German spies in the country from doing any damage. There were said to be two spies still untraced in the Island.

One cannot help wondering whether these untraced spies are the author himself and his wife, as later on in the same entry he speaks of using field glasses to look at the ships in the Harbour.

I heard afterwards that anyone carrying a camera or field-glasses was deprived of them and did not get them back until they returned to Portsmouth at the end of their visit to the island. We saw no evidence of this, but then we saw no one carrying cameras or glasses; probably they had them in their trunks, as I had.

The use of field glasses (or opera glasses) in bird watching was again a development of

the 1890s which gradually spread. Previously the most important piece of equipment was the shotgun! By the 1920s Moore refers to his “new prismatic binoculars” so the technology of bird watching is developing.

The journal then breaks off. However in 1950 he receives a cyclostyled letter from Richard Fitter and others, requesting details of bird sightings in London between 1900 and 1950. This is presumably in preparation for the *New Naturalist Monograph 14, The Birds of the London Area*. This is the spur for him to find the manuscript and extract all the sightings. They are extracted and pencilled in to the (mostly) blank verso pages. And he makes a final entry, in blue ballpoint pen, instead of pen and ink

August 1950 (!!!)

On the parade at Bournemouth we daily see a Tree Sparrow (with his smart white collar) feeding among the House Sparrows on the crumbs thrown from the bathing boxes.

David W Allen
February 2011

27. More about the garden robins of Lawnakilla

In *Archives of natural history* 36 part 1 (April 2009), the late Jurgen Haffer and I published a paper on James Parsons Burkitt, the Irish amateur ornithologist who was included by David Lack among the most important British [sic] pioneers in ornithological research during the period 1899–1939. Jurgen prompted me to carry out the work on Burkitt and it is sad that he no longer is able to share the pursuit. I am most grateful to him for his unstinting assistance and erudition.

I have continued to “mine” Burkitt's notebook and two recently published articles may be of interest to members. Just published (in fact the reason for this note), in the *Irish naturalists' journal* 31 (1): 10–17 (“2010”), is an account of Jim Burkitt's activities as an ornithologist. Burkitt's interest in birds developed from shooting and egg-collecting, and culminated in detailed recording of breeding behaviour and song. 130 species are accounted

for in the notebooks, but only a very few notes relate to the garden robin, which was the subject of his famous field-study between 1924 and 1926. I calculated how many observations were made on each day of the week, and, perhaps not unexpectedly, most observations were made on a Saturday but he was active every day of the week: obviously Jim Burkitt used his post as County Surveyor in Fermanagh to go bird-watching.

The second article was issued in *Hortus* no. 96 (Winter 2010), and concerns the robins at Lawnakilla, Burkitts' home in Fermanagh when he made his famous observations. It tells the story of some of the individual birds, where they lived and what rings were on their legs. Those Lawnakilla robins didn't flaunt their leg rings, yet at that period they were the only robins in the world to be adorned with such simply effective ornaments. And, those rings meant that each individual robin was instantly and unmistakably recognisable. Burkitt didn't give them names, just numbers. For example, Robin 1, the pioneer of pioneers, lived at the “Tea Corner”, in front of the house, and had a single white ring on his left leg. He disappeared, and took no further part in the project!

I would be happy to supply pdfs of these article to anyone who requests them.

E. Charles Nelson
editor@shnh.org.uk

28. And finally...

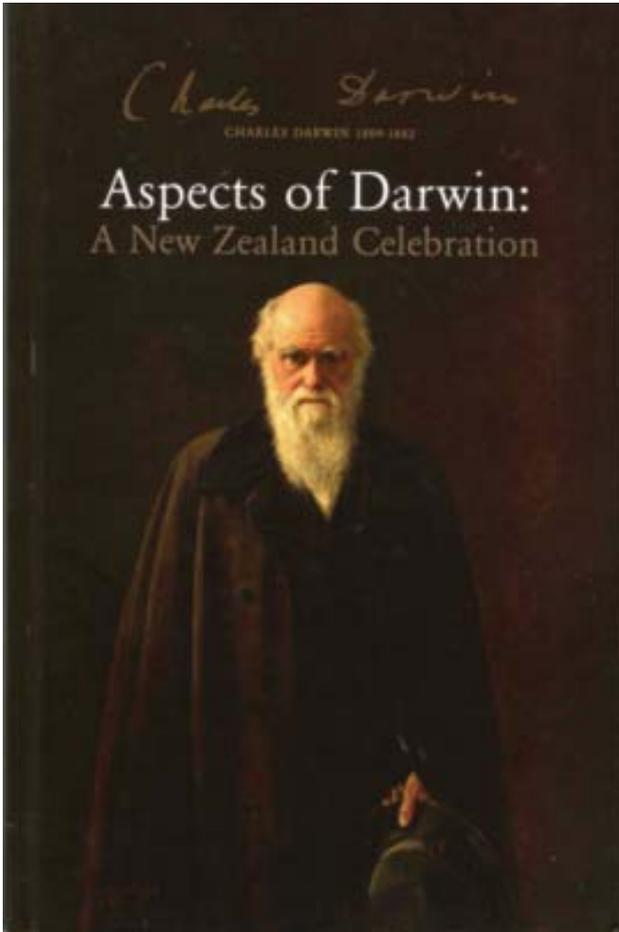
Something to amuse...and a word of warning to all naturalists!

Amanda Platell in the Daily Mail, 26 October 2010, p. 45.

“Last Christmas, when I was back in Australia, I had my annual skin cancer check-up. This involves stripping to your bra and undies and having every part of your body inspected (except the bits under your bikini line – unless you're a naturalist, in which case it's the lot!).”

Noted by Ray Williams

Publishers' Announcements



*Aspects of Darwin:
A New Zealand Celebration*

Edited by David Galloway and John Timmins
Friends of Knox College Library
ISBN: 9780473176921
\$NZ 39.95 (+ shipping)
iv + 180pp

This collection of essays celebrating aspects of the life, thought and influence of Charles Darwin from a New Zealand perspective brings together notable New Zealand scholars in the fields of Philosophy, Theology, Science, History and Medicine. It records presentations given at a Symposium hosted by the Friends of the Knox College Library, on 3 September 2009. The symposium touched on topics as diverse as lichens, Darwin's health and neo-Darwinism. This handsomely produced volume is illustrated with black and white images throughout.

A full review will appear in a future issue of *Archives*.

Nature tales:

Encounters with Britain's wildlife

Compiled by Michael Allen and Sonya Patel Ellis.

Elliott & Thompson Ltd., 2010

ISBN: 9781904027942

Anybody looking for a present for a literary friend who is also interested in natural history, could do a lot worse than buy *Nature tales; encounters with Britain's wildlife*. This volume, edited by Michael Allen and Sonya Patel Ellis, is beautifully produced and a lovely compilation of prose extracts from British natural history writing of the last three hundred years. Chronologically the pieces range from 1774, with a description of Gordale Scar from Thomas Gray's *Journal of a tour through the English Lakes* to the writings of some of our best contemporary commentators, including Simon Barnes, Mark Cocker, Richard Mabey and Stephen Moss.

Some of the selections are fairly predictable. An anthology of this type is almost required to include a passage or two from *The natural history of Selborne* and something from John Clare, Dorothy Wordsworth and William Cobbett. And one or two from Henry Williamson's *Tarka the otter* might also be expected. Other choices are less predictable, but no less interesting for that. Darwin is represented by a section of *The formation of vegetable mould through the actions of worms*, and the rarely heard from Edmund Selous by a few pages from his *Realities of bird life*. John Aubrey is not usually remembered as a nature writer but still finds a place here with passages from his *The natural history of Wiltshire*. Most unusual however is an extract from Sir Joseph Banks's 'Journal' (privately printed by pupils of the historical printing class at Cambridge University Library), which describes his visit to various Black Country gardens.

It is this range, the mixture of the expected and the unexpected, that makes this anthology so absorbing. It can be dipped into at any time and that dipping is likely to catch something

very tasty and enjoyable. And this enjoyment is helped by Carry Ackroyd's specially commissioned illustrations and by knowing that all proceeds from the sale go to the Wildlife Trusts. Sir David Attenborough contributes a foreword.

Bill Noblett

New & Recent Publications

- Anderson, L. I. and Lowe, M.** (2010) Charles W. Peach and Darwin's barnacles. *Journal of the history of collections* **22**: 257–270.
- Anon.** (2009) 1859 bis 2009 – 150 Jahre Botanischer Verein von Berlin und Brandenburg. 556pp, illus. ISSN: 09454292 (pb). [Centenary history of this regional botanical society focused on N.E. Germany. Part 2 comprises 70 short biographies of the key figures + a 289-page biobibliography, both by G. Wagenitz.]
- Armitage, K. C.** (2009) *The nature stud movement: the forgotten popularizer of America's conservation ethic*. Univ. Press of Kansas. 291pp, illus. ISBN: 9780700616732 (hb). \$34.95.
- Bachmann, L. & Sundberg, P.** (2009) In Linnaeus's wake: 300 years of marine discovery. *Zoologica Scripta* **38** (suppl. 1)1–47.
- Bellon, R.** (2009) Charles Darwin solves the "Riddle of the Flower"; or, why don't historians of biology know about the birds and the bees? *History of Science* **47**: 575–406.
- Brinkman, Paul D.** (2010) *The Second Jurassic Dinosaur Rush: Museums & Paleontology in America at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226074726 (cloth: alk. paper).
- Brookman, P.** (2010) Eadweard Muybridge (London: Tate Publishing)
- Cain, Joe & Ruse, Michael** (Eds) (2009) Descended from Darwin: insights into the history of evolutionary studies, 1900–1970. *American Philosophical Society*. xxv+360pp. ISBN: 9781606189917.
- Clark, J. F. M.** (2009) *Bugs and the Victorians*. Yale University Press. 322pp. \$55.00, £25.00.
- Cook, Alexandra** (2010) Linnaeus and Chinese plants: a test of the linguistic imperialism thesis. *Notes & Records Roy. Soc.* **64**: 121–138.
- D'Arienzo, Daria** (2010) "The 'Union of the Beautiful with the Useful': Through the Eyes of Orra White Hitchcock," *The Massachusetts Rev.* 51(2): 294–336; "Portfolio of Works" [337]–344.
- Dunbar, D.** (2010) *British butterflies. A history in books* (London : British Library) ISBN: 9780712350969
- Duyker, E.** (2010) An eighteenth-century French garden in Van Diemen's Land? *Bibliofile* **12**:4, pp 9–16.
- Erlingsson, S. J.** (2009) The Plymouth Laboratory and the institutionalization of experimental zoology in Britain in the 1920s. *J. History of Biology* **42**: 151–183.
- Fisher, C. & Calaby, J.** (2009) The top of the top end: John Gilbert's manuscript notes for John Gould on vertebrates from Port Essington and Cobourg Peninsula... *The Beagle (Records of the Museums & Art Galleries of the Northern Territory)*, suppl.4 (239pp.)
- Guerrini, A.** (2010) The king's animals and the king's books: the illustrations for the Paris Academy's Histoire des animaux. *Annals of Science* **67**: 383–404.
- Hartley, Beryl** (2010) Exploring and communicating knowledge of trees in the early Royal Society. *Notes & Records Roy. Soc.* **64**: 229–250.
- Hordacs, H.** (2010) In the field: exploring nature with Carolus Linnaeus. *Endeavour* **34**(2) 45–49.
- Johns, J. R.** (2010) *Doctor by nature: Jonathan Couch, surgeon of Polperro*, Clifton upon Teme. Polperro Heritage Press. 158pp. ISBN: 9780955954122.
- Johnson, K.** (2009) The return of the phoenix: the 1965 International Congress of Zoology and American zoologists in the twentieth century. *J. History of Biology* **42**: 417–456.
- Kohlstedt, Sally G.** (2010) *Teaching children science: hands-on nature study in North America 1890–1930*. Chicago UP. pp xv+363. ISBN: 9780226449906. £29.00 (hb)
- Kusukavn, S.** (2010) The sources of Gessner's pictures for the *Historia animalium*. *Annals of Science* **67**: 303–328.
- Lenteren, J. C. van & H. C. J. Godfray** (2005) European science in the Enlightenment and the discovery of the insect parasitoid life cycle in The Netherlands and Great Britain *Biological Control* **32**(1)
- Leu, U. B., Keller, R. & Weidmann, S.** (2008) *Conrad Gessner's Private Library*. Brill. 310pp. \$127 (cloth).
- Lightman, Bernard** (2010) Darwin and the popularization of evolution. *Notes & Records Roy. Soc.* **64**: 5–24

- Lightman, Bernard V.** (2007) *Victorian popularizers of science: designing nature for new audiences*, University of Chicago Press.
- Lightman, Bernard V.** (2009) *Evolutionary naturalism in Victorian Britain: the 'Darwinians' and their critics*, Ashgate/Variorum.
- Lyal, A.** (2010) David Lyall (1817–1895): botanical explorer of Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America. *The Linnean* **26**(2): 25–48.
- Mabberley, D. J.** (2010) Peter Placito, naturalist. *Wadham College Gaz.* 2010: 162–163.
- Mabberley, D. J.** (2010) The international significance of Sydney's kauri collection. *Int. Dendr. Soc. Yrbk* 2009: 103–108.
- McCarthy, L.** (2010) Publications from the Investigator scientific team and the Flinders Investigator garden. *Bibliofile* **12**:4, pp 17–26.
- Meli, D. B.** (2010) The representation of insects in the seventeenth century: a comparative approach. *Annals of Science* **67**:405–429.
- Morris, P. A.** (2010) *A History of Taxidermy: art, science and bad taste*. MPM Publishing. ISBN: 9780956487315 £25.00.
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[Account of Penzance's Morrab Library and of many Cornwall naturalists whose work is reflected in its holdings.]
- Norris, P. & Yalden, D.** (2010) John Hooper – pioneer British batman. *The Linnean* **26**(2): 13–22.
[A history of bat-ringing in Britain and the early development of receivers to detect bat ultrasonic sounds.]
- Örstan, A.** (2009) An eighteenth century description of the mating of *Limax maximus*. *Mollusc World* **19**:10–11.
- Örstan, A.** (2010) John Ray's hermaphrodite snails on their 350th anniversary. *Mollusc World* **23**: 3–4.
- Örstan, A. & Dillon, R. T.** (2009) Charles Darwin the Malacologist. *Mollusc World* **20**: 4–6.
- Probert, K., Jillett, J. and Carson, S.** (2005) *Southern seas: discovering marine life at 46° South*. University of Otago Press (64pp)
- Rookmaaker, K.** (2010) *Calendar of the scientific correspondence of Hugh Edwin Strickland in the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge*. Cambridge University Museum of Zoology. 379pp.
- Sainte-Marie, B.** (2010) The first 30 years of the Journal of Crustacean Biology – a bibliometric study. *J. Crust. Biol.* **30**: 541–549.
- Sherwood, B. R.** (2010) James Drummond of the Swan River Colony. *The Linnean* **26**(3): 19–26.
[Mini-biography of Scottish-trained creator of Cork's university botanic garden 1808–28, forced by financial retrenchment to transfer his expertise to Western Australia, becoming a valued collector for Kew and latterly a correspondent of Darwin.]
- Strehlow, H.** (2010) Die Führer des Berliner Aquariums. *Bongo* **40**: 99–110. [Analytical and bibliographical history of the guidebooks to the old Berlin Aquarium, 1869–1910.]
[Contrary to some modern critics, Linnaeus and his son tried to avoid Eurocentrism in coining generic names for Chinese plants. Botanists of distinction (most of those inevitably European at that period) were honoured with those only as a last resort. Linnaeus in any case knew so little about China that he was clearly vague even about its location.]
- Thomson, K. S.** (2009) *The young Charles Darwin*. Yale Univ. Press. 276pp, ill. ISBN: 7780300136081 (hb) \$28.00.
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In: Kölbl-Ebert, M. (Ed) *Geology and religion: a history of harmony and hostility*. Geological Society of London special publications, 310, pp 245–258. \$15.00.
[Biography of a Cotswold naturalist, significant figure in botany and geology.]
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Paperback, £30.00, ISBN: 9780007300174.
- Wolff, T.** (2010) *The birth and first years of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOP)*. SCOR History Report, No.1, 96pp.
- Yegorova, L. V. and Lugaskova, Y.** (Eds) (2009) *Moscow Zoological Park – pages of history*. Vodoley Publishers, Moscow. pp 304; ill. ISBN: 9785979600505 (cloth). [English translation of *Moskovskii Zoologicheskii Park, k 140-letyu so dnya osnovaniya - stranitzi istorii*. Issued in commemoration of Moscow Zoo's 150th anniversary.]

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William Thomas Stearn

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