

### Collection Forum

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#### PAPERS

##### APPLICATION OF AN INVENTORY OF A MUSEUM COLLECTION

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Abstract - Researchers remain largely uninformed of the nature and contents of museum collections. Curators and collections managers should take an active role in communicating the value of their collection to specialists. A relatively low-cost approach is the preparation of an inventory, itemizing unidentified taxa by geographic location. Such a system provides easy access to the collection for specialists who wish to study the material.

##### PRESERVATION OF SITKA SPRUCE FOR MUSEUM DISPLAY C. ROMERO-SIERRA and J.C. WEBB

Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6

Abstract - A preservation formula has been developed for Sitka spruce that proved effective for the retention of needles, while causing some discolouration. The treatment consisted of immersing the branches in a mixture of chemicals for a period of up to two weeks. They were subsequently rinsed in water and glycerin for another two weeks and finally air dried. These procedural steps are similar to those we previously reported, but the treatment formula differs substantially.

##### FLAT FOSSIL MOLDS WITH SILICONE W.Y. WATSON and SCOTT GRANT

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3C5

Abstract - A quick, simple method of making flat silicone molds of fossil specimens in the field is described and illustrated.

##### IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNIQUES FOR FREEZE-DRYING VERTEBRATE SPECIMENS

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Abstract - We have reported on our method for preservation of biological specimens using freeze-drying techniques. Recently we made improvements on procedural variations regarding a) vascular flushing solutions, b) vascular injection of silicone vs. latex, c) dissection of nonfixed specimens, d) glycerin treatment, e) handling of treatment specimens, 1) deep impregnation of specimens using nonthermo-plastic elastomers, g) durability of preserved specimens, and h) suitability of treated specimens for further dissection and analysis.

#### FEATURES

Memoires of a Collection Addict  
The Embryological Collection of the Hubrecht Laboratory  
Systematic Collection Curators as Historic Preservationists: Case Studies  
from the MCZ Mammal and Bird Departments

## Reviews

- Guidelines for Managing Bird Collections by P. Cato. K.L. Garret
- The Insect and Spider Collections of the World by R.H. Arnett, G.A. Samuelson, J.S. Ashe
- A World List of Mammalian Species 2nd Ed., by G.B. Corbet and J.E. Hill , J.D. Lazlell, Jr.

## Correspondence

## Miscellany