

SPNHC NEWSLETTER

Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections

February 1989
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HAVE YOU VOTED?

Four candidates for the two Member-at-large Council positions are before the membership. By now, each member should have received a voter's packet (biographies of the candidates, a ballot and an envelope to return the completed ballot). It is the responsibility of each member to vote for Council members who will lead the Society. Ballots must be post-marked no later than February 28, 1989. If you have not received a ballot, contact Fred Collier immediately (#1).

ASC-SPNHC JOINT WORKSHOP ON COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION

In collaboration with the Association of Systematic Collections (ASC), SPNHC will cosponsor a workshop to be held as part of the ASC Annual Meeting, 18-20 May 1989, University of Nebraska State Museum. The purpose of the workshop is to bring together elements of the natural history community who are responsible for the collections to explore common problems from different perspectives. Collections managers, curators/researchers, and museum directors will be given an opportunity to share views. Some innovative collection assessment and preservation programs at natural history museums will be reviewed. Representatives of funding agencies such as NSF and the Institute for Museum Services (IMS) and representatives of organizations such as the National Institute for Conservation (NIC) will discuss strategies for funding and successfully completing collection assessment and preservation projects.

Prospective workshop participants from SPNHC are Cesar Romero-Sierra, Stephen Williams, Paisley Cato, Kimball Garrett, Carolyn Rose, Julia Golden, and Janet Gomon.

The workshop is designed for open audience participation. SPNHC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. ASC has arranged for SPNHC members to take advantage of reduced rates for registration (\$85.00 before April 1) and hotel accommodations (Lincoln Hilton; before April 18, \$38.00 single/\$48.00 double; with a courtesy van to and from airport). Discount air fares are available from Goodlife Tour and Travel, Lincoln, Nebraska (800) 635-0204. For registration forms and additional information, contact ASC (#3) or Julia Golden (#4).

SPNHC DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTED

In November 1988, a new SPNHC directory was distributed to members in good standing. This directory will also be made available to new members as long as the supply lasts. If you are aware of errors that need to be corrected, please contact Stephen Williams (#2).

NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR SPNHC

The Society's name was reserved in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and an application was submitted for Non-Profit Incorporation within the Commonwealth. Official notification of incorporation is expected soon after which papers will be submitted to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for recognition as a non-profit organization. SPNHC will then be able to take full advantage of options such as reduced bulk mailing rates within the U.S. and exemption from Pennsylvania state sales tax. Also, individuals will be able to deduct their dues as business expenses.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES

The Conference Committee is responsible for soliciting sites for SPNHC Annual Meetings and assisting the Local Conference Committee in developing a program that will ensure a successful meeting. To assist in these objectives, the Conference Committee is developing a set of working guidelines for planning and conducting future meetings. The Conference Committee would like to receive input from members who have attended previous meetings. Comments or information regarding location, schedules, facilities, activities, subject matter, etc. are welcome and should be addressed to Stephen Williams (#2).

HERE TODAY. HERE TOMORROW? SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS WE ARE COLLECTIONS-CONSCIOUS.

This is the text of a poster designed to attract new members to SPNHC and displayed at several meetings in 1988. The poster, accompanied by membership applications and announcements of the Annual Meeting, is available to all SPNHC members for display at meetings. Please consider arranging for the poster to be displayed at the next meeting you attend. Contact Julia Golden (#4).

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

SPNHC Council announces an open competition for the design of a logo that reflects the purpose of the Society. The logo should be appropriate for use on the masthead of the SPNHC Newsletter and stationery, the cover of Collection Forum and on novelty items such as T-shirts. The logo may be a design using SPNHC initials, the complete name, and/or an image. Neither the submitter nor designer has to be a SPNHC member.

Submit: 1) the original camera-ready design (black on white preferred) mounted on a board 8.5 x 11 in (21 x 27.5 cm), and 2) a good quality reduction to about 1.5 in (3.5 cm). On the back of the board include the

submitter's name, address and telephone number. Send your designs or address questions to Julia Golden (#4). Entries must be received by 15 June 1989.

The procedure for selecting the winning logo design will be as follows: Each design will be assigned a number as it is received. All designs will be displayed together at the Annual Meeting in Drumheller/Calgary, 23-28 July. Members will vote their preference on ballots included in the registration packets. Council will choose the winning logo from among the three designs that receive the most votes. Council hopes to be able to decide on a logo before the end of the meeting. However, Council reserves the right to delay the decision if necessary.

IN PROGRESS

University of Toronto Culture Collection (UTCC)... The UTCC can now be reached by FAX at (416) 978-3884 and through the electronic mail network, BITNET, at UTCC@UTORONTO. Currently UTCC has 160 species in culture and welcomes deposit of new or unusual taxa. Canadian workers, in particular, are encouraged to submit strains of freshwater algae, cyanobacteria, selected bacteria, and plant cell lines essential for their research. Culture material will also be accepted for safe deposit with all the proprietary rights to the material to be retained by the depositor. Other services include research assistance, advice and assistance in culturing and providing mass cultures on special request. User fees are charged for all services. For additional information, contact Judy Acreman, Curator, UTCC, Department of Botany, Toronto, Ontario M4S 1A1; tel: (416) 978-3641.

Laser Printers for Natural History Specimen Labels... Over the past three years, I have been conducting informal tests of labels using our label paper in several different photocopiers and laser printers. The test samples have all been immersed in various fluid preservatives and I have not seen any problems. However, I have heard stories of people who have had problems with labels produced by laser printers. I have started a survey on the subject using the Conservation Information Network as well as writing letters to people who have been recommended to me. I would like to include the readers of SPNHC Newsletter in the survey. Specifically I would like to know the following:

1. Do you, or does anyone you know, use a laser printer for natural history specimen labels, especially for fluid preserved specimens? If the answer is yes:
2. What brand and model of laser printer is used or, alternatively what print engine does the printer use (e.g. Canon LBP-SX, Canon LBP-CX, etc.)?
3. What kind of paper are the labels printed on? Please be as specific as possible (manufacturer, rag content, weight, surface finish, etc.).
4. Have there been problems with the labels? If so please provide details.
5. What preservative are the specimens and labels stored in? If the preservative is a mixture of various chemicals, please provide a list of the components and proportions.
5. Additional comments.

I hope to present a preliminary report of the results of this survey and my own experiments at the SPNHC Annual Meeting. Please send information to: Peter

Frank, Zoology Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, P.O. Box 3443, Sta. D, Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4.

The Parylene Project at Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI)... Parylene, the Union Carbide Corporation trade name for poly para-xylene, is a polymer which is synthesized by direct deposition on a substrate under vacuum. It is used in conservation as a stable coating or consolidant. CCI began work with Parylene to preserve delicate fossil plant specimens from a uniquely well preserved and rich fossil forest site (Oligocene /Miocene), recently discovered on Axel Heiberg Island, Northwest Territories.

Despite the age of the fossils, mineralisation was completely absent. When the leaves and cones were separated from their surrounding matrix and allowed to dry, they became so fragile that they were unable to survive even the most gentle handling without damage. Some leaves actually crumbled under their own weight. Normal liquid impregnation/consolidation procedures were likely to be destructive. A consolidant which could be applied in the gas phase seemed to be the most hopeful means of preserving the specimens.

Under vacuum, the Parylene "dimer" is heated until it dissociates to form active molecules which polymerise to form a clear, even film when they come into contact with a surface. As a test, a group of cones was treated with a 15 micron layer of Parylene C at the Nova Tran Lab., Wisconsin, a subsidiary of Union Carbide. The results were excellent. After treatment, the cones were unchanged in appearance but had lost their fragility. They are now so strong that they can survive being dropped.

After this successful demonstration of the unique capability of Parylene, CCI and Union Carbide agreed to collaborate on a study of Parylene as a conservation technique. Since June 1988, CCI has been carrying out an evaluation of Parylene jointly with several institutions, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Canadian Museum of Civilization, National Library of Canada, National Archives of Canada, Central Forensic Laboratory of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Air Crash Investigation Unit of Transport Canada and Royal Ontario Museum. Numerous kinds of specimens have been coated, including a wide variety of fossils, books and paper, textiles, insects, birds, leaves, grasses, spiders' webs, and crustacea. We will be carrying out a long term evaluation of the stability of Parylene. Initial results are very promising. Parylene solves completely the problem of extreme delicacy and in most instances appearance is hardly affected. ... David Grattan, CCI.

Conservation Research in Paleobiology at National Museum of Natural Sciences (NMNS)... In conjunction with David Grattan at CCI and with support from Union Carbide, Kieran Shepherd and I are investigating the use of Parylene for the consolidation of fossils. Although not a universal solution to our consolidation problems, it appears to be a reasonable option for very fragile specimens that would otherwise be damaged by consolidants that are applied as solutions, emulsions or dispersions. Changes in specimen colour and surface reflectivity have been measured, and the specimens are being subjected to cycles of low and high relative

humidity. Preliminary results suggest that Parylene will be useful for some paleobotanical specimens with preserved cuticular material and for delicate subfossil fish. Both these types of specimens tend to lift off their supporting matrix.

I am experimenting with a variety of fossil types to plot Hysteresis loops for isothermal moisture sorption and desorption at 21° C. Plots for the rate of change of specimen moisture content are also being made. This information will help us to assess more critically the environmental requirements for the storage of different types of fossils.

In cooperation with Roger McNeely at the Radiocarbon Dating Lab., Geol. Surv. Canada, and Elizabeth Moffat at CCI, a project is now underway to assess the validity of dating specimens which have been moulded or consolidated. A large mammoth radiolna that is presently being dated to provide a control date will be cut into several sections. The sections will be treated with different moulding compounds and consolidants, dated, and compared to the control. The results should help to answer the recurring question of whether or not to attempt to date some of these specimens. ... Jerry Fitzgerald, NMNS

Conservation Research with Natural History Collections at Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM)... In the Conservation Services Sections (CSS) we spend most of our time on condition reports, environmental monitoring and problems, storage upgrading, and insect pest control and surveys for both natural and human history collections. But we do manage some research.

Like many other museums, we are still using vapona or dichlorvos resin strips in the steel storage cabinets of small bird and mammal skins. Sharon Hammick, Auxilary Textile Conservator, has just finished a masters degree thesis at Univ. Alberta, in which she has reviewed thoroughly the literature on the health hazards of dichlorvos. Health hazards in the work environment have yet to be defined in threshold limits, but it is obvious from the literature that we should be concerned. Her research on the effects of dichlorvos on wool is applicable to small skin collections. She found dichlorvos damage to wool resulted from an increase in acidity, selective adsorption of chlorine and phosphorous by the keratin, and residues coating the hair cuticle.

As an alternative to dichlorvos, we feel that our active insect pest project in which we are continually surveying and monitoring for insect activity will protect the collection. We have now established a zero point at which no active infestations or insect remains are present and we will undertake quarterly methodical inspections. With this program, we hope to impress upon management that dichlorvos should be discontinued.

Betty Walsh, Paper Conservator at the Provincial Archives, is presently working in the RBCM CSS. She is assessing current paper problems and trying to anticipate future problems for the herbarium and some wet collections. In the herbarium, she has tested the papers and plastics in use, and is currently surveying storage materials for type specimens. Betty will publish her methods, results and recommendations, which will be a valuable reference for other herbaria. Her work on paper used for wet-collection labels is continuing.

David Hillman, Objects Conservator, and I have been involved in the stabilization of a waterlogged 12,000 year old skull of Bison antiquus occidentalis. The skull, found in a layer of marl 1.5 meters below the surface, was waterlogged, but the bone appeared to be fairly sound. However, problems of fissure separation, cracking and exfoliation could be expected upon air drying. To prevent these distortions, treatment consisted of very slow drying under constraint. Five or six layers of wet terry cloth towels, disinfected by hospital laundry procedures, were packed into all the ventral cavities, and around the horns and cranium. Then the whole skull was tightly bound with broad medical tensor bandages. It was supported to expose the maximum surface area and at the same time prevent any weight bearing points. It was weighed each day. After 3 months, the weight stabilized and the skull was presumed to be dry or at equilibrium with the environment. The bandages and towels were removed. Only a few minor cracks were apparent in the inner ventral thin bones of the skull. These have been monitored for several weeks and have shown no change. We are pleased with the results and pleased that we have not altered the skull in any way for future research.

I am currently assessing a conformal Parylene deposition treatment for some other small, badly degraded waterlogged bones. If this method of stabilizing them and preventing friable surfaces from exfoliating is successful, it may allow such bones to be preserved for use in research. This is a joint project with the Getty Conservation Institute, Union Carbide and RBCM. Another aspect of the project is studying this procedure for enhancing insect and herbarium specimens to be used in exhibits and teaching collections. ... Mary Lou Florian, RBCM

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS . . .

The Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) held a workshop (Washington, D.C., 4-7 Oct. 1988), funded by National Science Foundation, to discuss "Collections Resources for the 1990's". It brought together 70 persons representing institutions of all sizes and types of governance for an evaluation of the progress we have made in the last 10 years, and the directions expected in the next decade. The first of several summary reports appears in the December issue of the ASC Newsletter and others will follow in subsequent issues. For copies of the written reports, contact ASC (#3).

At the Annual Meeting of National Institute for Conservation (NIC) (Oct. 1988, Washington, D.C.), the membership adopted new by-laws that enable natural history organizations to become voting members. NIC also acknowledged the fact that of major disciplines natural history has the greatest needs for programs that address public awareness, professional information, professional training, research, and preventive care and treatment.

The Collections Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union, chaired by D. Scott Wood (Carnegie Mus. Nat. Hist.) met in August 1988 (Univ. Arkansas, Fayetteville) and discussed ongoing projects: establishment of procedures and criteria for

accreditation of bird collections; updates of egg and spirit specimen inventories; summaries of North American and non-North American bird collections; and proposals concerning orphaned collections and collecting permit procedures. The first issue of a newsletter for and by bird collection managers and preparators is nearing completion. Contact Kimball Garrett (#5) to be put on the mailing list.

The American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) (Clemson University, North Carolina 19-23 June 1988) meeting included collection-oriented poster presentations: "Ancillary data management at the Museum of Southwestern Biology", F. W. Davis, T. L. Yates and W. L. Gannon, Museum of Southwestern Biology, Univ. New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131; "U.S. Copyright law and museum databases", S.B. McLaren, Carnegie Museum Annex, Pittsburgh, PA 15206; "Doing CHIN-ups at the ROM: mixing micros with mainframes", S.W. Woodward, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6. Handouts from these poster sessions may still be available from the presenters. This year, the ASM Systematic Collections Committee revised the minimal standards for accreditation to permit collections to avoid prophylactic fumigation where inspection and other pest control measures provide sufficient protection for their specimens. The committee recommended that the ASM join NIC and SPNHC. The 1989 meeting will be 11-15 June at University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Certification of archivists was the hot topic at the annual Society of American Archivists (SAA) meeting (Atlanta, Sept/Oct. 1988) during a plenary session, committee and roundtable meetings, and informal discussions. The profession is fairly evenly divided on the subject and method of certification. For information about certification by petition or examination contact SAA, 600 S. Federal St., Ste. 504, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 922-0140. Other activities included pre-conference workshops on preservation, microfilming, and automation. The Oct. 1989 Annual Meeting will be in St. Louis, Mo. Of particular interest to SPNHC members is the newly published Guide to Repositories of the Science, Technology and Health Care Round Table which contains information about services, collections, fees, hours, etc. (available from SAA).

The October symposium, New Directions and Professional Standards for Natural History Museums, attracted 55 participants to Kansas City from across the United States. Sponsored by the Natural History Professional Committee of the Mountain-Plains Museums Association, the symposium included a keynote session with five invited speakers who provided a broad range of perspectives including a discussion of the need to address preservation concerns and maintain the integrity of research specimens (C.L. Rose, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution). Submitted papers addressed a variety of topics including philosophy, administration, collection care and conservation, and exhibit and education processes. Collection-oriented papers included discussions of recent advances in conservation of natural science collections, conservation problems of fluid-preserved collections, change in vertebrate paleontology collections, care of natural history collections in a small

museum, the need to develop policies to handle the issues of destructive analysis of natural history collections, and the need for policies concerning the use and management of ancillary preparations in vertebrate systematics collections. A publication based on papers presented at this symposium is being prepared for a Fall, 1989 publication date.

Transvaal Museum, South Africa, was the site of the Natural History Collections Conservation Symposium 2-4 Nov. 1988. Sessions discussed: what is collections management; specimen preparation; computerization of collections; special collections and special problems; the value of natural history collections; and collection ethics.

NEUTRAL AND ALKALINE COPY PAPERS MANUFACTURERS AND BRAND NAMES

Finch Pruyn (not available in the West)

Finch Opaque SV (for Savin copiers)
Finch Opaque Xerographic

Fox River

Technaclear (neutral pH; 25% cotton)*

Gilbert (neutral pH)

Gilbert Neu-Tech (25% cotton)*
Lancaster Neu-Tech (100% cotton)*

Grays Harbor (All brands but Tidal MX are acid in the East, alkaline in the Mountain West & West Coast. Tidal MX is consistently alkaline.)

Hammermill Fore Xerocopy
Hammermill Xero/Lasercopy (w)*
Hammermill Copier Paper, type SV4 (u/w) - white
Hammermill Tidal MX - white

Neenah

NP Finish
Neenah Copier (25% cotton)

Ward

Reward Xerographic

Weston

Linen Record Xerographic (100% cotton)

* For laser printers, but work well in photocopiers too.
(Adapted from Alkaline Paper Advocate, Oct. 1988.)

JOURNALS and ORGANIZATIONS

Journal of the History of Collections is a new international journal dedicated to the study of collections: the contents of collections, the processes which initiated and controlled their formation and the circumstances of the collectors themselves. Two issues a year are planned; papers are now invited. Manuscripts should be submitted to: The Editors, Journal of the History of Collections, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford OX1 2PH, UK. Subscription information (#6).

The Utah Preservation Consortium (UPC, #7) is a new organization dedicated to preservation and conservation of local cultural heritage. Some goals of the organization are to coordinate disaster planning and response, disseminate information on preservation issues and techniques, and advise governmental agencies on preservation issues.

Abbey Publications (#7) is a nonprofit corporation that publishes three newsletters: The Abbey Newsletter; bookbinding and conservation; Alkaline Paper Advocate; and Utah Preservation Consortium

Newsletter. SPNHC has agreed to exchange newsletters and relevant information will be published here (see Neutral and Alkaline Copy Papers). Examples of some single-topic excerpts from past Abbey Newsletters are: Disasters, 1978-date, 14pp., \$5; Permanent Paper, 1978-date, 29pp., \$7.50; Biodeterioration (pest and mold), 1982-date, 26pp., \$7.50.

MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS GRANTS and COMPETITIONS

International Conference on Biodeterioration of Cultural Property. Feb. 20-25, Lucknow, India. Topics include: effect of microorganisms and plant growths; pest control; biodeterioration of museum and restoration materials. For details: Inter. Conf. on Biodeterioration, Nat'l Res. Lab. for Conservation of Cultural Property, Sector E/3, Aliganj Scheme, Lucknow-226020, India.

NAME Exhibits Workshop. Apr. 1, Washington, DC; Concord, NH; New York, NY; Indianapolis, IN; Memphis, TN; San Francisco, CA. Held in 6 cities, a one-day workshop on exhibit design, graphic and labeling techniques, exhibit production and materials used in fabrication. Sponsored by Smithsonian Institution and Peabody Museum, Yale Univ. For details: NAME Workshop, Yale Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Ave., P.O. Box 6666, New Haven, CT 06511.

Conservation of Earth Science Collections Course. Apr. 10-14, Suitland, MD. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL) and taught by SPNHC members Rob Waller and Jerry Fitzgerald. Application deadline: Feb. 17. For details: Eleanor McMillan, CAL/MS, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; tel: (301) 238-3727. Fee: \$300.

Leather and Parchment: History, Conservation, Restoration. May 8-12, Offenbach am Main, FDR. Sponsored by ICOM Conservation Committee Working Group on Leathercraft and Related Objects. For details: W. Schmitzer, Deutsches Ledermuseum/Deutsches Schuhmuseum, Frankfurter Strasse 86, D-6050 Offenbach am Main, Fed. Rep. Germany.

ICA Symposium on Current Records. May 15-17, Ottawa. Sponsored by International Council on Archives, the symposium is intended for a multidisciplinary audience concerned with the management of current records in all forms. For details: Winston A. Gomes, Symposium Coordinator, Government Records Branch, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3; tel: (819)953-5711.

Association of Systematic Collections, Annual Meeting. May 18-20, Lincoln, Neb. Workshops on: Collection Management and Preservation, and Education of Systematists (#3).

"Spirit" Collections-Conservation of Natural History Collections. June 1, Manchester, UK. Course topic: specimens preserved in fluids. For details: C.V. Horie, Manchester Museum, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL UK. (Fee: £35)

Crossroads-Museums in the Nineties. June 18-22, New Orleans. Amer. Assoc. Museums, 84th Annual Meeting, over 100 sessions will focus on state-of-the-art and future trends in museum practices. For details: AAM, P.O.Box 33399, Washington, DC 20033.

Collections-Our Treasured Heritage. July 23-28, Drumheller/Calgary. SPNHC Annual Meeting, technical sessions, workshops, tours, one-day conservation symposium. Abstract deadline: 15 April 1989. Pre-registration deadline: 15 May 1989. For details: SPNHC Conference Secretary, Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, P.O.Box 7500, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0; tel: (403) 823-7707.

Museum Documentation Study Tour. Sept. 12-15, York. Sponsored by Museum Documentation Association (MDA, #8) the tour will visit museums in the north of England.

National and International Museum Databases. Sept. 15-18, York. MDA (#8) 3rd annual conference will include issues associated with the development and use of cooperative databases, with illustrations of work in individual countries and on an international scale.

Splash 89. Interpreting our marine and freshwater heritage. Sept. 18-22, St. John's, Newfoundland. Sponsored by Interpretation Canada, Atlantic Section and Museum Associations of Atlantic Canada, the national workshop is for natural/cultural interpreters. For details: Splash 89, P.O. Box 9914, Postal Station 'B', St. John's, Newfoundland A14 4L4; tel: (709) 576-2418.

International Conference on the History and Evolution of Modern Zoos. Oct. 13-14, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Society for the History of Natural History and Smithsonian Institution, the meeting is part of the centennial celebration of the National Zoo. Pre-conference workshop on zoo archives and preservation of records documenting the history of menageries, zoos and animals in captivity. For details: William A. Diess, Society for History of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Lavas and Volcanic Tuffs. Oct. 1990, Easter Island. Sponsored by The Direcccion de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos of Chile, the meeting theme is conservation of the heritage of Easter Island. The call for papers includes a competition for the 5 best papers. Prizes include airfare to the meeting. Topics of interest: deterioration - causes and mechanisms; and conservation - treatments, application methods and evaluation of conservation procedures. Abstract deadline: 1 March 1989. For details: Dr. A. Elena Charola, Lavas and Volcanic Tuffs Competition, Biblioteca Nacional - Depto de Museos, Clasificador 1400 Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT REACHED US TOO LATE:

January 3 - February 3: Environmental Institution Management, 6 credits at Univ. Delaware, Ashland Nature Center. For details: EIM Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society, P.O. Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707.

February 1: Proposal deadline: Paleontological Grant Support Competition, to support 2 paleontological research projects for 2 weeks to a month after January 1990. For details: Foundation for Field Research, 787 South Grade Road, P.O. Box 2010, Alpine, CA 92001; tel: (619) 445-9264.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Books

The Preparation and Curation of Insects. A.K. Walker and T.K. Crosby, 1988. Dept. Sci. Indust. Res. (New Zealand) Information Series 163, 92 pp. Revised edition of 1979 handbook with additional sections on hazardous

properties of chemicals used, formulae for solutions, fixatives and media, procedures for sending specimens to be identified.

Conservation of Marine Archaeological Objects. C. Pearson, 1987. Butterworths, 312 pp. Examines marine and freshwater sites, the underwater environment, deterioration of objects under the sea, packing and transporting material, and storage and display conditions after conservation treatment (\$75, #9).

Register of Natural Science Collections in Yorkshire and Humberside. Yorkshire and Humberside Museums Council, 1988. 343 pp. Includes public and private museums, colleges, schools and private collectors. Useful for locating named collections (£18, #10).

A Guide to Museum Pest Control. L.A. Zycherman and J.R. Schrock, 1988. Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and Association of Systematic Collections, 200+ pp. Completely revised and expanded version of 1980 Pest Control in Museums covers policy, law and liability; pests and pest identification; pesticides; and includes an annotated bibliography (\$36, #3).

Registrars on Record. M. Case, ed., 1988. American Association of Museums. Essays on museum collection management, role of the registrar, accountability and automation (\$12, #11).

Preprints of the Modern Organic Materials Meeting. Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration, 1988. 157 pp. 16 papers from an international meeting emphasizing plastics and rubber (£8.50, #12).

In Situ: Archaeological Conservation. H.W.M. Hodges, ed., 1988. Conference proceedings cover the relationship between in situ conservation and field archaeology, cooperation between conservators and archaeologists, and procedures for protecting sites during and after conservation (\$15, #13).

The Organic Chemistry of Museum Objects. J.S. Mills and R. White, 1987. Butterworths, 165 pp. (\$55, #9).

International Index of Conservation Research. Published by ICCROM in collaboration with the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution. It is the first attempt to summarize ongoing research that has not yet been published, and will help conservators and scientists establish contacts, encourage collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts (\$6, #14).

Museum Catalogues: a foundation for computer processing. B. Abell-Seddon, 1987. Clive-Bingley Pub., 224 pp. General documentation issues.

Directory of Computer Use in Plant Record Keeping. R.E. Bowden and R. A. Brown, 1988. American Association Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. Results of a survey of 170 facilities, includes lists of hardware and software.

Museum Collections and Today's Computers. R.G. Chenhall and D. Vance, 1988. Greenwood Pub., 169 pp. For administrators, cataloguers and computer specialists (\$37.95).

Articles

The care of minerals. Section 3A: the curation of minerals. R.J. King, 1985, 1986. J. Russell Society 1(3):94-113 and 1(4): 129-149. Two articles include recognizing metastable conditions, minerals with toxic

potential, registration, indexing and storage methods.

Techniques for study of avian syringes. P.F. Cannell, 1988. Wilson Bull. 100(2):289-293. Explains how to extract the syringe from a museum specimen with a minimum of specimen damage.

Raising the dead and buried. A.J. Jefferys, 1984. Nature 312:198. Discusses the possibility of developing techniques to extract usable DNA from museum specimens of the quagga.

Museum collections as a source of DNA for studies of avian phylogeny. P. Houde and M.J. Braun, 1988. Auk 105:773-776.

The determination of arsenic and mercury in natural history specimens using radioisotope x-ray energy spectrometry and scanning electron microscopy. J. Sirois and J. Taylor, 1988. Postprint from the IIC-CG meetings, Toronto, 27-30 May 1988, available through CCI (#15). This paper investigates whether or not arsenic originally applied to the insides of specimens actually migrates to the exterior in significant amounts.

Vapor phase consolidation of books with the parylene polymers. B.J. Humphrey, 1986. JAIC 25(1986):15-29.

The application of parylene conformal coating technology to archival and artifact conservation. B.J. Humphrey, 1984. Studies in Conservation 29(1984):117-123.

Wild Animal Guidelines

A series of special reports dealing with the questions of what are acceptable field methods and uses of wild animals in research; including references to collecting and collections:

Guidelines for use of wild birds in research. Am. Ornith. Union, 1988. Auk 105(1, suppl.): 1A-41A.

Acceptable field methods in mammalogy: preliminary guidelines approved by the American Society of Mammalogists. 1987. J. Mammalogy 68(4, suppl.):1-18.

Guidelines for use of fishes in field research. Am. Soc. Ich. Herp.; Am. Fish. Soc.; Am. Inst. Fish. Res. Biol., 1987. Copeia 1987(suppl.):1-12.

Guidelines for use of live amphibians and reptiles in field research. Am. Soc. Ich. Herp.; Herp. League; Soc. Study Amphib. Rep., 1987. Copeia 1987(suppl.):1-14.

Computer Systems and Databases

ROCKFILE: a computer-based system for the curation of rock specimens. F.G.F. Gibb and P.A. Bootes, 1985. Proc. Yorkshire Geol. Soc. 45(3):173-178. Written in FORTRAN 77 for PRIME computer. Designed for a teaching collection, sample searches - number of thin sections of a particular specimen or from one locality.

Microcomputer Database Management Systems: Application to Cultural and Heritage Information Tasks. Prepared by E.M. Avedon, T.O. Stewart and D.S. Goodman, 1986. Univ. Waterloo Institute for Computer Research, 177 pp. Report concerning tests of 24 commercial software packages. (#16)

PLINY: A Collection Management System for Natural History Museums. Developed by Robert O'Hara. Written with Apple's HyperCard for Macintosh systems. For information: R. O'Hara, MCZ, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; tel: (617) 498-7866.

Expert Systems Identify Fossils and Manage Large

Paleontological Databases. M.A. Conrad and D.S. Beightol, 1988. Geobyte, February 88:42-46. EXPAL program runs on IBM XT and is used to describe and automatically identify an unknown specimen. Designed for Dasycladales (calcareous green algae), being adapted for planktonic foraminifers and calpionellids.

ANIMALS - a C language computer program for the analysis of faunal remains and its use in the study of early Iron Age fauna from Dun Ailinne. D.V. Campana and P.J. Crabtree, 1987. Archaeozoologia 1987:57-68. Runs on Digital Rainbow 100+ microcomputer using CP/M OS and version for IBM PC and compatibles running MS-DOS available for distribution. Hierarchical file structure and linked files used to record highly variable bone elements and allows sorted, tabulated and formatted output.

TAXACOM, the free electronic service of the Buffalo Museum of Science, allows the public and professionals to search collection databases online. Call: (716) 896-7581 [8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, 300/1200/2400 bps]. Contact Richard Zander for information on creating a similar service for your institution (716) 896-5200.

ICOM Computer Survey. The International Documentation Committee of ICOM (CIDOC) is undertaking a world survey of computer use for documenting museum collections. The survey is underway in U.S., England, France, Netherlands, West Germany, Switzerland and Denmark. For information contact: Mary Case, Director, Office of the Registrar, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

The Checklist Kit; for comparing automated museum collections systems. Willoughby Associates, 1988. Willoughby Press. Advice on how to choose a system and vendor with checklist of system elements. A summary of commercial museum collections management systems (\$15 #23).

MATERIALS and SUPPLIES

[Information about products and catalogues is included as a service and does not imply endorsement by SPNHC.]

Videotape and other documents produced by five U.S. federal agencies that deal with looting, vandalism and archaeological law enforcement is available free. (#17)

Acryloid B-67 and B-72 (produced by Rohm and Haas), used as a consolidant or adhesive in paleontologic conservation, is available from a U.S. source. (#18)

Ultraviolet Light Monitor less expensive directly from manufacturer than through U.S. distributor (even including U.S. Customs and postage fees). Send for current models and prices. (#19)

UV Filter Labels made of bright yellow adhesive polyester were stuck on UV filter tubes as each was placed on a fluorescent light bulb to prevent the filter tubes from being thrown out with the burned out bulbs.

Cathy Dwigans, Museum of Natural History, Univ. Kansas, suggested this solution in "Remains to be Seen". The label warns: "Do Not Throw This Tube Away; Put it on the new light bulb; Ultra-violet light filter for collection conservation". 1000 labels, \$77. (#20)

Microscopy-Off the Shelf, 1988 a new catalogue of microscopy supplies. (#21)

OPTIMAS a software package for PC Video Microscopy designed for IBM AT (or compatibles) and PS/2 computers used to collect, analyze and communicate information from electronic images. Price with telephone technical support: \$3995. (#22)

CONTACTS AND SUPPLIERS

1. Fred Collier, Paleobiology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; tel: (202) 357-2405.
2. Stephen Williams, Section of Mammals, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15206; tel: (416) .
3. Association of Systematic Collections, 730 11th St. NW, second floor, Washington, DC 20001; tel: (202) 347-2850.
4. Julia Golden, Dept. Geology, Univ. Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; tel: (319) 335-1822.
5. Kimball Garrett, Section of Ornithology, Natural History Museum of LA County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.
6. Oxford Journals, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP UK.
7. Abbey Publications, Ellen McCrady editor, 320 E. Center St., Provo, UT 84601.
8. The Museum Documentation Association, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4DH UK.
9. Butterworths, 80 Montvale Ave., Stoneham MA 02180.
10. Yorkshire & Humberside Museums Council, Farnley Hall, Hall Lane, Leeds LS12 4HA UK.
11. American Association of Museums, 1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005.
12. Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration Publications, MPG Secretarial Services, 136 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 2BG UK.
13. J. Paul Getty Book Distribution Center, P.O.Box 2112, Santa Monica, CA 90406.
14. ICCROM, Via di San Michele 13, 00153 Rome, Italy.
15. Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4 Canada.
16. Institute for Computer Research, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 Canada.
17. George Smith, Archaeological Assistance Div., National Park Service, P.O.Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013.
18. Talas, 213 W 35th St., 9th fl., New York, NY 10001.
19. ELSEC Littlemore Scientific Engineering Co., Railway Lane, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4PZ UK.
20. S&K Label Company, 905-8 Ridge Ave., Lombard, IL 60148.
21. McCrone Accessories & Components, 850 Pasquinelli Drive, Westmont, IL 60559.
22. Bioscan Inc., 170 West Dayton, Suite 204, Edmonds, WA 98020.
23. Willoughby Press, 11619 Ohio Ave., Penthouse, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

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Julia Golden
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