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PULSE

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News from the Linnean Society of London – A living forum for biology

A Conservation Priority or Greenwash?

On 15 October four panellists and 130 scientists, conservationists and members of the public met at the Linnean Society to debate 'Do we need pandas? Choosing which species to save'. This proved to be a fascinating evening, with complex discussions continuing into the evening at the wine reception.

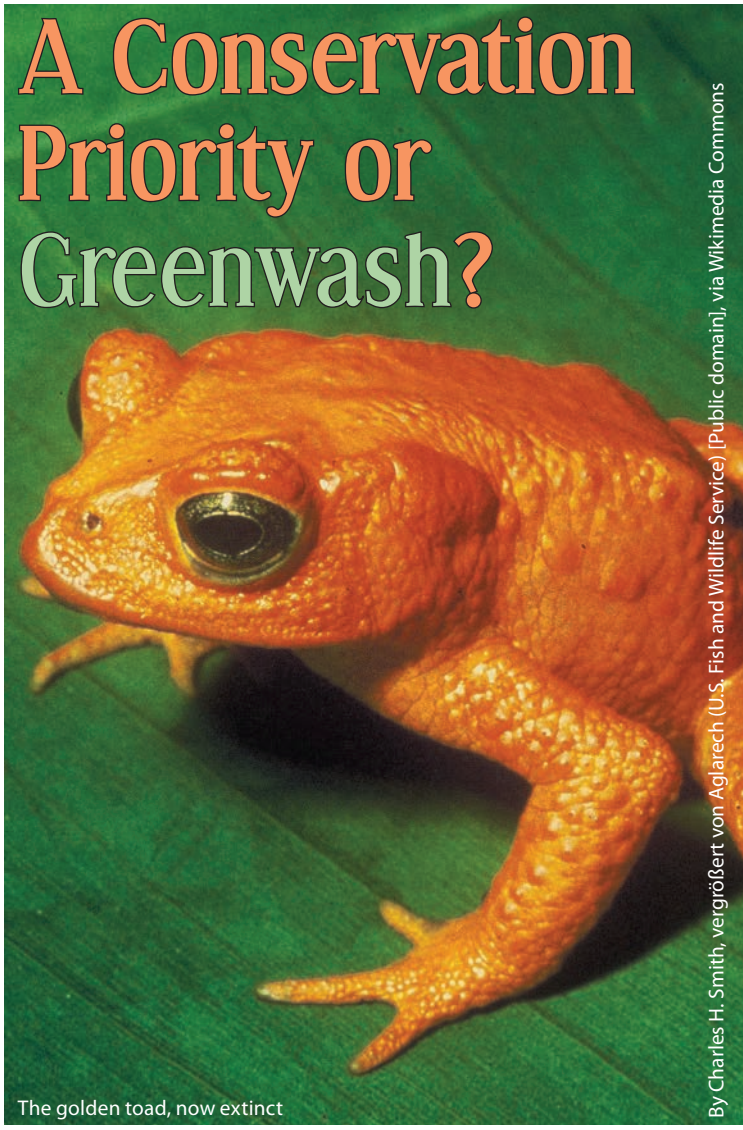
A poll on the way in to the debate revealed that 72% of attendees believed that we should save the panda, though for many the decision was a tough one. Our lack of resources for conservation inevitably means difficult choices.

Four panellists led the debate, chaired by Sue Nelson, editor of *The Biologist*: Dr Mark Avery, former Conservation Director at the RSPB, Dr Sandy Knapp, Merit Researcher and Head of the Plants Division at the Natural History Museum, London, Dr Yan Wong, evolutionary biologist and presenter of the BBC's *Bang Goes the Theory*, and Simon Watt, biologist and presenter of Channel 4's *Inside Nature's Giants*. The discussion ranged from what we should focus resources on to whether humans are spending too much conservation money on themselves.

A common argument against saving the panda is that rather than focusing on saving individual species we should design conservation schemes to protect entire habitats. This ensures that a diversity of species, right down to the smallest invertebrates, are protected as part of a functioning ecosystem. However, our situation is not as simple as a pot of money for conservation which scientists have to spend wisely; attracting donations will increase the resources we have available. Whether or not you think it is important to make large charismatic animals a conservation priority in their own right, the belief that pandas attract more conservation resources than they use is a common reason for voting that we should save them. Sadly it is surprisingly complicated to determine whether, overall, this is the case.

Even if pandas do bring in more money than their conservation costs, which seems very likely, panellist Simon Watt pointed out that using them for PR can be dangerous. Advertising the success of panda breeding programmes could be greenwash, detracting from much larger problems. A thought-provoking question from the audience was whether panda extinction would itself be PR for conservation by shocking people into action. But how many of us even noticed the extinction of the golden toad or the Pyrenean ibex?

What the debate seemed to show is that perhaps we don't 'need' pandas but still want to save them. We do, however, need much of the natural world to keep us alive. If a species or habitat is beneficial to humans, or is integral to the functioning of an ecosystem, most people would argue that it should be high up the conservation priority list. In reality, does how attractive a species is play more of a role in setting our priorities?



The golden toad, now extinct

By Charles H. Smith, vergrößert von Aglarech (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

The debate revealed the importance of economics and social science in conservation strategy. It raised many questions and the debate is still continuing online. Visit www.societyofbiology.org/panda to hear a podcast about the debate, read about the panellists' opinions and join the discussion online.

Dr Rebecca Nesbit MSB
rebeccanesbit@societyofbiology.org
Society of Biology

The LINNEAN SOCIETY of London

Recent Appleyard Fund Grantees

The Appleyard Fund was established in 1968 to provide grants towards the expenses of research projects in the fields of botany or zoology by Fellows and Associates of the Society.

BUTTERFLIES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Linnean Society was one of a number of funding bodies supporting John Tennent FLS in his project entitled 'Butterflies of the D'Entrecasteaux, Trobriand and Louisiade Islands, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea'.

Image courtesy John Tennent FLS

John Tennent FLS, PNG

Milne Bay Province (MBP) is in the easternmost province of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and comprises numerous islands ranging from large mountainous ones through isolated low-lying coral atolls and rocky islets rising steeply from the Pacific Ocean. The islands include distinct areas of butterfly endemism and for most islands, data on butterfly diversity were entirely lacking.

This ambitious project aimed to make an inventory of MBP island butterflies. Getting a research visa from the Government of PNG was the first hurdle, and took over two-and-a-half years. The first phase of fieldwork then took place in 2010, with visits to 76 islands, with a follow-up visit in 2011–12, bringing the total to 181 islands. Island names presented another challenge, as maps and charts for the region often disagree, so a comprehensive gazetteer of names and their alternatives is in preparation.

An unexpectedly high volume of new distributional information was obtained and it is planned to present these data in a comprehensive book as well as in scientific papers, discussing regional biogeography and other factors relating to butterfly distribution. While some islands proved to have relatively high numbers of butterfly species, there were some islands where very few or no butterflies were seen, for reasons that remain unclear, despite apparently ideal conditions. Several undescribed species and subspecies of butterflies were discovered on these remote islands.

A RESURVEY OF THE LICHENS AND VASCULAR PLANTS OF CISTE MHEARAD, CAIRN GORM, SCOTLAND

Image courtesy Vanessa WinchesterFLS

Dr Vagn Alstrup and grid

A fund was awarded to Dr Vanessa Winchester, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University Centre for the Environment and Dr Vagn Alstrup (Ret.), Institut for Økologisk Botanik, Denmark for the resurvey of Ciste Mhearad lichens and vascular plants. The resurvey took place during one of the wettest summers since records began. Nevertheless the team managed a 1 m wide, 176 m long transect from the melted snowpatch base to the plateau. The project's findings show that the main lichen species, *Cetraria islandica, Cladonia belidiflora,* and especially *C. uncialis,* have spread down slope: the former two at lower percentages compared with 29 years ago. Competition from vascular plants has increased possibly due to increasing temperatures and shorter, wetter winters over the last decades and/or eutrophication. Further analysis and identification of species is ongoing.

Keep Calm and Carry On:

Society Motto During Building Works

Fellows and frequent visitors to the Linnean Society will be aware that from early December 2012 the Society's rooms will be out of bounds for the duration of the upcoming building works. The major structural works will incorporate installation of a much needed lift; building work is due to begin in early December 2012 and is scheduled to finish at the end of May 2013, though the building may still be affected during the summer months. However, our evening and day meetings will be proceeding as normal using rooms at the Royal Astronomical Society, located next door to the Linnean Society on the left as you enter the Courtyard. The Library and Collections will remain closed to visitors, but our librarians will endeavour to continue their usual rapid responses to your enquiries. However, they may not always be able to access the relevant material. Please get in touch via email or letter rather than in person for the duration of the works. The Society will be continuing other project work, such as conservation, digitisation and education, in our newly-acquired offices, Toynbee House in Wimbledon, as well as moving our lesser-used journals to this location.

© The Linnean Society of London

The old lift shaft

We hope that you will bear with us during these months of noise and dust and apologise for any inconvenience caused. We are all looking forward to completion of these building works which represent the 'final step' in what has been a 10-year programme of ongoing improvements to all of the Society's rooms in Burlington House, making them accessible to all. We can then focus on our key purpose *'the cultivation of the science of natural history in all its branches'*.

For more information about the building works please contact Elizabeth Rollinson on elizabeth@linnean.org

Nominations for Council

Fellows are asked to submit their nominations for new Council members. Nominations will then be voted upon and new members appointed, with terms beginning in May 2013. There are four Council spaces open for nomination, with each term lasting three years. Please email your nominations to Elizabeth Rollinson, Executive Secretary (elizabeth@linnean.org) by 31 December, 2012.

Biological Journal: Increase in fee

The subscription fee for the Biological Journal of the Linnean Society will increase in 2013 from £55 to £70. After careful consideration the increase has been implemented due to the journal's longer page extent. Please note that both the Botanical and Zoological Journals will remain at £55.

Turtles in Tanzania

A VOICE FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

Conducting research that has an impact on the way society understands the marine environment.

This is where I see myself in 10 years time. Currently, at 15 and sitting my GCSE exams at my local state school, this future couldn't seem further away. For as long as I can remember I have aspired to become a marine biologist. Science has always been of great interest to me and I take every opportunity to learn more. At the moment this includes pestering my science teachers with endless streams of increasingly complicated questions (often irrelevant to the lesson). I've been lucky enough to have some truly inspirational teachers, who have not only put up with and encouraged my incessant ponderings, but have pushed me to embrace all the opportunities out there for young people interested in science! Being fortunate enough to live in London has opened many more doors to me.

Recording the hatchlings

My teachers have recommended me for a variety of programs. I attended enrichment lessons for gifted and talented pupils at a nearby reputable private school, which took what I was learning in the classroom to a higher level. I visited University College, London to take part in an event aimed at encouraging interest in the study of physics. This was the first time I had visited a university and started me thinking about higher education. Imperial College hosted two outreach events which I have been involved in, one promoting the Earth Sciences department and the other a summer school covering all the sciences. I have secured a work experience placement in the environmental department at BP with a view to learning more about conservation, and I have been accepted onto a course at London Zoo for the summer of 2013. Not only have these events enabled me to converse with and learn from graduate students about the different paths to university, they have substantially increased my interest in a wider range of scientific fields—but my passion has always centred around marine biology.

Turtle nesting site, Tanzania

In particular my main interest is the study of turtles (the order Chelonii); it always has been. When I was small I wanted to be a self-titled 'Turtle Hunter', travelling the world and saving turtles. However as I've grown up, this singular interest has developed further into an obsession for the marine environment. Recently, I've been increasingly fascinated by a larger range of areas of scientific study, so I've chosen to study the three sciences and maths for my final two years at school. This will provide a firm foundation to explore all sciences before I enter higher education.

Local children at a nesting site

I even pursue my love of marine biology on my holidays. I am fortunate enough to have learnt to scuba dive and have been diving all around the world. I have dived in Jordan, Egypt, Belize, Malta, Cornwall, Tanzania and have even been cavern diving in Mexico. Learning to scuba dive has been one of the most beneficial things I've ever done—I love studying the diversity of all the marine life that I encounter. But for me one of the bonuses is talking to the instructors. The people who dive the reefs everyday are the people who know them better than anybody else and the knowledge they hold is incredible. My most interesting diving experience by far was in Tanzania, where I spent hours asking many questions about the turtle egg relocation project the dive centre ran. The dive centre was small and my instructors were more than happy to indulge me with my queries. The project's impact on the community is remarkable and I saw firsthand how involved everyone is. One of the two hatching sites was next to a local village. Not only was the project relocating eggs from natural nesting sites where they would have been submerged at high tide (rotting the eggs), but it included working alongside the villagers and offering further education about how to help with turtle conservation. The dive instructors allowed me to take part in the hatching process. I sat nest-side, counting and recording the hatchlings as they emerged and moved down the beach. The whole experience underlined that I am keen to pursue a career in science, and in marine biology in particular.

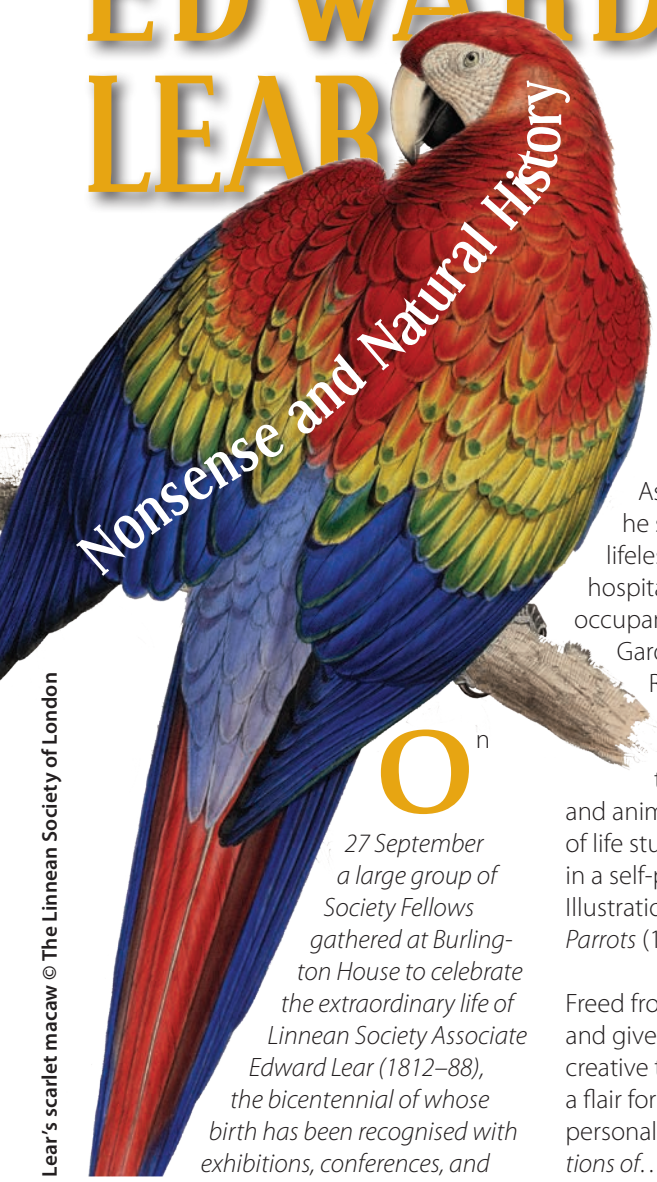
This brings me to the question that I would like to ask you, the Fellows of the Linnean Society. As accomplished as you all are in your fields, what advice and help can you give to budding young scientists? I urge you all to engage with the next generation, sharing your work and inspiring young people. Who knows, you could really make a difference to the next Carolus Linnaeus' career path. I'd be very excited to hear from you.

Nancy Cronin-Coltsmann

Any Fellows wishing to offer advice or information about enrichment programmes for Nancy or other young students can contact pulseeditor@linnean.org

EDWARD LEAR

Nonsense and Natural History



Lear's scarlet macaw © The Linnean Society of London

On 27 September a large group of Society Fellows gathered at Burlington House to celebrate the extraordinary life of Linnean Society Associate Edward Lear (1812–88), the bicentennial of whose birth has been recognised with exhibitions, conferences, and special events around the world. Robert Peck, curator of Art and Senior Fellow at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (Drexel University) and curator of a recent exhibition of Lear's natural history paintings at Harvard University's Houghton Library, spoke to the group about that under-appreciated aspect of Lear's career.

Edward Lear is best remembered today as an ingenious nonsense poet, an engaging travel writer, and a painter of luminous landscapes of Italy, Greece, India, and the Middle East. Often overshadowed by these achievements was his remarkably successful career as a scientific illustrator. Though brief in duration, it earned for Lear an admired place among the most respected scientific artists of the 19th century.

The twentieth of 21 children born to Jeremiah Lear, a London stockbroker, and his wife Ann (née Skerrett) in Upper Halloway, north of London, Lear was raised by his oldest sister, Ann, from the age of four. With her encouragement and support, Lear began his artistic career as a very young boy by drawing what he called "uncommon queer shop-sketches, ... coloring prints, screens, fans..., [and] making morbid disease drawings for hospitals and certain doctors of physic" in London.[1] This work generated a modest income and encouraged Lear to believe that he might one day gain financial independence through his brush, pen and pencil.

As a teenager, in the late 1820s, he shifted his artistic focus from the lifeless subjects of the factory and hospital ward to the far more appealing occupants of London's Zoological Gardens. At the newly built aviary in Regents Park, and at the Zoological Society's administrative headquarters on Bruton Street where the balance of the Society's birds and animals were kept, he began a series of life studies that would ultimately result in a self-published monograph entitled Illustrations of the Family of *Psittacidae, or Parrots* (1831–32).

Freed from the drudgery of piecework and given a chance to exercise his own creative talents, Lear quickly developed a flair for capturing the distinctive personalities of his avian subjects. *Illustrations of…Parrots* combined scientific accuracy with an artistic verve rarely seen in ornithological tomes and established Lear as one of the most talented wildlife artists of his day. The book set a new standard for artistic excellence in scientific publishing. Remarkably, its creator was just 19 years old.

Lear's colour study of green parrot

Lear may have been inspired to enter the field of scientific illustration by the influential naturalist Prideaux John Selby to whom he had been introduced a few years before and whose multi-volume *Illustrations of British Ornithology* (1821–34) Lear would later help to illustrate. After 1830, Lear created illustrations for a wide range of natural history books, including a guide book to the Zoological Gardens,[2] but it was his own monograph on parrots, published in parts beginning in 1831, that brought him into the limelight of natural history illustration.

Lear's 'ZigZag Zebra' nonsense sketch

The book consisted of 42 hand-coloured lithographs, each drawn directly on stone by Lear, then printed in black and white in the London lithographic studio of Charles Hullmandel. The subsequent hand-colouring of each plate was carried out by professional colourists who copied from sample pattern sheets created by Lear himself. The names of 125 people (including HRH Queen Adelaide to whom the book was dedicated) appear on the subscribers' page of Lear's monograph.

1 Edward Lear, 'By Way of Preface,' *Nonsense Songs and Stories*, 6th edition, 1888.

2 E.T. Bennett, *The Gardens and Menagerie of the Zoological Society Delineated*, 2 vols., 1830-1831.

No more than 50 additional prints of each plate were made by the artist in order to keep the edition limited and therefore desirable to collectors.

Although his book lacked a scientific text, its visual quality was so extraordinary that it earned him election as an Associate Member of the Linnean Society in 1831, and drew enthusiastic praise from the most knowledgeable and exacting of critics. William Swainson, a leading naturalist of the period, declared Lear's

plate of a Red and Yellow Macaw "equal to any figure ever painted by [Jacques] Barraband or [John James] Audubon for grace of design, perspective, or anatomical accuracy".[3] Audubon was so impressed with Lear's book that he stretched his own limited resources to buy a copy for himself.

Despite its critical acclaim, *Illustrations of … Parrots* was not a financial success. Within a few years of its publication, Lear was happy to sell his inventory of unsold plates to John Gould, then chief taxidermist at the Zoological Society. Gould, a fellow Associate of the Linnean Society, had recently begun his parallel career as an ornithological publisher. He recognised Lear's enormous talent for illustration and soon employed him to create plates for his own series of large format bird books including *The Birds of Europe* (1832–37) and *A Monograph of the Ramphastidae, or Family of Toucans* (1834). The first of these, published in five volumes with 449 colour illustrations, included 68 spectacular plates by Lear. The second, in two volumes with 34 colour plates, featured 10 of Lear's lively illustrations.

Among the many people who admired Lear's talents as a bird painter was Lord Edward Stanley (after 1834, the 13th Earl of Derby), who was President of the Linnean Society from 1828 to 1834, and of the Zoological Society from 1831 to 1851. Lord Stanley had a collection of his own exotic birds and animals which he kept in a large private menagerie at Knowsley Hall, his family's estate near Liverpool. After seeing the quality of Lear's parrot monograph (which featured a few of the rare parrot species living at Knowsley Hall), Stanley concluded that Lear was the artist he wanted to record for posterity the living specimens in his collection. He extended an invitation to Lear to make paintings of his animals and Lear accepted enthusiastically.

Beginning in 1830 and for the next seven years, Edward Lear divided his time between London, where he continued to create illustrations for John Gould and others, and Liverpool, where he made over 100 life portraits of the birds, mammals, and reptiles in Lord Stanley's remarkable menagerie. Seventeen of these

Rarely used colour study of a mouse

paintings were subsequently reproduced as lithographs for a privately printed book entitled *Gleanings From the Menagerie at*

Colour study of the South American Nocturnal Monkey from *Gleanings…* (1846)

Knowsley Hall (1846) which Lord Derby proudly presented to the library of the Linnean Society (where it still resides) and to his friends throughout the Empire.

It was during his extended visits to Knowsley Hall that Lear began to create the endearing limericks and other nonsense verse for which he is so well known today. Self-illustrated in a loose, childlike style, these flights of whimsy may have provided Lear with just the relief he needed from the pressures of his demanding scientific commissions.

Despite his enormous talent for natural history illustration and the secure livelihood it could have provided him, Lear found the close, exacting nature of that work both physically challenging and, over time, emotionally unfulfilling. His few surviving letters from this period reveal that he longed to devote more time to travel and to exploring the pleasures of landscape painting.

A generous offer by Lord Derby and his cousin Robert Hornby to send Lear to Rome in 1837 gave the young artist the chance he had been hoping for and brought to a close his short but distinguished career as a natural history illustrator. Claiming poor eyesight, Lear never returned to the professional field in which he had established his first international reputation less than a decade before. He resigned his membership in the Linnean Society in 1862.

Robert McCracken Peck
Curator of Art and Artifacts and
Senior Fellow of the
Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University,
Philadelphia

3 Letter from William Swainson to Edward Lear, Nov. 26, 1831, Houghton Library, Harvard University.

A Linnaean Thanksgiving

Welcome to the new Linnaeus Link

© Elaine Charwat

Elaine Charwat (Linnean Society) and Gunhild Bäck (Uppsala University) at the launch

Thanksgiving had special connotations for us this year. We were not celebrating the harvest of Class A apples or other autumn crops, but the harvesting of high-quality bibliographic records into the new Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue.

Linnaeus Link is an international collaboration between libraries with significant holdings of Linnaean material. A good proportion of these holdings are great treasures: first, rare or special editions of Linnaeus' own works.

A good example is the first edition of Carl Linnaeus' seminal work *Systema Naturae* (1735), which contains, in a nutshell, a complete framework for ordering the whole of the natural world. It was so concise, flexible and easy to use that it caused a sensation. Not many copies of the first edition survive. It is very special to hold a copy at all, and the Linnean Society holds two. However, one of our potential new Linnaeus Link partner institutions trumps that: the Hagströmer Library in Stockholm holds Linnaeus' own working copy, complete with annotations in the master's own hand.

This is the aim of Linnaeus Link—to ensure that such treasures can be identified, located, and compared with other copies elsewhere in the world. It acts as the official bibliography of works by and relating to Linnaeus and his legacy by using and continuing the work of Basil Soulsby, who created the definitive bibliography of Linnaean works in 1933. It is also a great promotional tool for collections and institutions.

Linnaeus Link has played a key role in enabling researchers to find and access important Linnaean source and resource material. A true "one-stop-shop", it allows users to search for material globally across many institutions, giving them the ability to do bibliographic research using not only PCs but mobile devices.

Another important aspect of the project is creating new links between institutions. Since its inaugural meeting in 1999, partners from the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Germany and the US have joined Linnaeus Link. The Partners meet every year to discuss, highlight and share updates, policies and discoveries. Many a fruitful collaboration began at one of the Partners' Meetings.

However, technology and user expectations have moved on since 2003 when the Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue was first launched. We were looking to provide a system which uses the latest technology, is flexible enough to suit diverse international partners, is more user-friendly and provides extra features to support research.

So, in 2011, the Oxford-based company 67 Bricks was tasked with building the new Linnaeus Link system. The result has much improved navigation, search and display functions. An outstanding feature is the new system's ability to cope with a wide range of international cataloguing systems and special characters, in line with the project's international outlook.

Linnaeus statue at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium

© Elaine Charwat

It is also a powerful tool for bibliographic research. Instead of amalgamating all individual partners' records for one title into one artificial, "ideal", record, the system uses a unique Tab display to unveil the full bibliographic information present in each individual record. This is especially relevant for copy-specific information and provenance research. Digital copies feature very prominently in the new system, and can often be directly accessed.

Photographed by Franck Hidvegi, NBGB

Linnaeus Link delegates

The new system was officially launched on 11 October at the 2012 Partners' Meeting at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium to great acclaim from our partners. All partners had worked very hard to help us to move on to the new system. So it was indeed a day of Thanksgiving—for the successful integration, or, aptly, "harvest" of all the high-quality bibliographic records created by our Partners. It was also an occasion for the Linnean Society to receive the thanks of the Partners for the funding (the Society has given ca. £200,000 to date), management and strong commitment to this important international project. Last but not least, thanks were due to our hosts at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium. It was an auspicious beginning for the new Linnaeus Link to be launched in such a special and awe-inspiring environment. Discover more at www.linnaeuslink.org

Elaine Charwat
elainec@linnean.org
Deputy Librarian

Maxwell Knight: Amateur Naturalist and Professional Spy

Linnean Society Meeting, 17 January 2013

Like many Fellows I have had a long interest in the history of natural history and in the lives of famous naturalists of former years. I had felt for a long time that Maxwell Knight FLS (1900–1968) had been somewhat neglected in discussions of naturalists of the mid-20th century. With this in mind, it was decided that I give a Linnean Society lecture on this reclusive, yet prolific author of more than 30 natural history books; as a youngster I was an avid reader of Knight's publications. As he lived before my time, I had never seen or heard him on any natural history broadcasts. Apart from the post nominal letters of FLS, FZS and the OBE, there was little information about Knight. I assumed he must have been a shy or secretive type of naturalist.

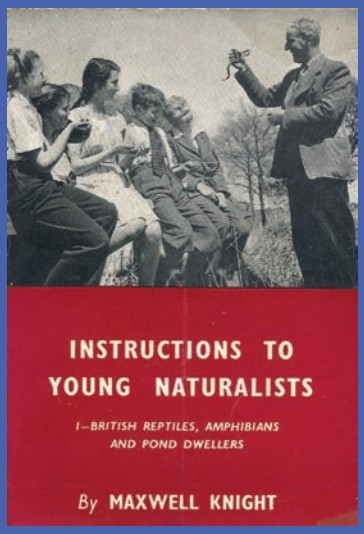


Image courtesy Stephen Moger FLS

Roughly 20 years after his death, Anthony Masters published *The Man Who Was M: The life of Maxwell Knight* (1986). This explained a lot; it transpired that Knight had been a leading agent within the Security Service—popularly known as MI5, and that several former agents believed that the figure of 'M' in Ian Fleming's James Bond stories was, to a greater or lesser extent, based on Maxwell Knight! For this reason I feel that his life is of interest to Fellows of the Society, and other naturalists, who may be surprised (as I was) at Knight's 'double-life' as famous naturalist and also as a spy!

Shortly after the date of my lecture was made public, I received an email from Sam Murphy, Communications Manager—forwarding a request originally sent to Leonie Berwick, *PuLSe* Editor—asking for my contact details. I was most surprised —was I being contacted by Special Branch or indeed, MI5, to see if I was about to disclose any State Secrets?! No is the short answer! My contactee turned out to be Professor John Cooper—who had known Maxwell Knight as a boy. Knight had helped John with his studies in the natural world, which resulted in John becoming a distinguished veterinary surgeon both here and in Africa. John's wife Margaret also knew Maxwell Knight and is a Fellow of the Linnean Society. A small world indeed! I am hoping that John and Margaret may help provide anecdotes or other information that I may incorporate in my lecture. I hope to see you there!

Stephen Moger FLS

The Linnean Editorial Board: New for 2013

As of the end of 2013, Prof Brian Gardiner and Dr Mary Morris will be retiring as Editor and Production Editor of *The Linnean*, respectively. After so many years of dedication and the impressive quality of each issue, both Brian and Mary have decided to step down from producing the publication. In their stead, it has been decided that an Editorial Board will be put in place to oversee submitted articles. If you would like to put forward any names for *The Linnean* Editorial Board, please contact the Executive Secretary, Elizabeth Rollinson (elizabeth@linnean.org) with your proposal no later than 29 March, 2013.

Toynbee House– Additional Space for the Linnean Society

Many Fellows will be familiar with how desperately the Library has been in need of additional storage space. We were therefore pleased when, in August 2012, Toynbee House, Wimbledon, was acquired.

The property is surprisingly large on the inside and provides an additional 1.5 km of shelving space for books. Our Library team have been busy boxing up items and transferring them to the new site. While the majority of the ground floor will be for storage, the first floor of the building will provide office space. This space will be utilised by some members of staff during the major building work at Burlington House.

The past few months have been taken up with refurbishing the premises and adjusting them to the Society's needs. New phone lines will enable staff to transfer calls from Burlington House, so any enquiries from Fellows can be dealt with by the most appropriate member of the team, even if they are in Wimbledon.

Victoria Smith
victoria@linnean.org
Buildings and Office Manager

Medals, Prizes and Grants 2013

A reminder to all Fellows to nominate candidates for our Medals and Prizes. Fellows are encouraged to submit nominations for any of our Medals:

The Linnean Medal: awarded to a botanist or a zoologist for service to science

The Bicentenary Medal: awarded to a biologist under the age of 40 years in recognition of excellent work

The Darwin-Wallace Medal: awarded to persons who have made major advances in evolutionary biology

The HH Bloomer Award: awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge

The Irene Manton Prize: a prize of £1,000 to a PhD student for the best botany thesis in an academic year

The Jill Smythies Award: a prize of £1,000 to a botanical artist for outstanding illustrations

The John C Marsden Medal: awarded for the best doctoral thesis in biology

The deadline for all 2013 submissions is 31 December, 2012. To nominate candidates before the deadline, visit www.linnean.org/medals and download the appropriate form.

Additionally, don't forget that deadlines for some of our grant schemes are also coming up, like the Percy Sladen Memorial Grant Fund (deadline 30 January, 2013) and the Anne Sleep Award and Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund (applications welcome from 1 March, 2013, closing 16 September, 2013). For more information on the Systematics Research Fund, see p. 8. To apply for any of our grants, visit www.linnean.org/grants.

Systematics Research Fund

The Linnean Society of London and the Systematics Association jointly administer the Systematics Research Fund (SRF), to which the Linnean Society contributes £25,000. This grant supports research in the field of systematics and taxonomy, with grants of up to £1,500.

Projects that have received backing in the past range from 'Molecular taxonomy of the cannonball jellyfish: cryptic species target of fisheries' and 'Another 'missing link' in the pterosaur tree?' to 'Exploring cryptic diversity in Cuban toads (Bufonidae: *Peltophryne*): An integrative approach'. Typical activities that are supported include contributions to fieldwork expenditure, the purchase of scientific equipment or expertise (e.g. buying time on analytical equipment) and specimen preparation (including the cost of temporary technical assistance). Projects of a more general or educational nature will also be considered, provided that they include a strong systematics component. To aid your application, typical activities not supported include attendance at scientific meetings and contributions to student maintenance or tuition fees. The fund does not provide payments for Bench Fees and projects already substantially funded by other bodies may be disadvantaged.

From among the reports submitted in 2013, one project, funded by the SRF, will be selected to receive the newly established Sir David Attenborough Prize for Field Work.

Applications from all nationalities are welcome; successful projects are selected by a panel of six systematists who represent a wide range of conceptual interests and taxonomic groups. The value of any single award will not exceed £1,500.

Please note that only electronic applications made using the form on our website are acceptable.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 31 January 2013. Successful candidates will be informed via email by 30 April 2013. Visit www.linnean.org/srf to apply!

Cannonball jellyfish in surf

Shutterstock/Allen McDavid Stoddard

Dr David Bellamy

The Linnean Society of London would like to wish one of our Fellows, Dr David Bellamy OBE HonFLS, a happy 80th birthday. Dr Bellamy is a well-known botanist and broadcaster. He came to prominence with the publication of his paper *Effects of Pollution from the Torrey Canyon on Littoral and Sublittoral Ecosystems* in *Nature* after the Torrey Canyon disaster in 1967 (during which time he was an environmental consultant). The *Torrey Canyon*, a supertanker, was grounded off the coast of Cornwall, leaking much of its cargo of 120,000 tons of crude oil. The incident sparked a worldwide interest in environmental clean-up measures. Dr Bellamy is also a co-founder of the Conservation Foundation, a charity established in in the early 1980s.

Dr Bellamy went on to write and present a plethora of programmes about botany and the natural world, many of which helped to inspire a generation of biologists. He has been a Fellow of the Society since 1960; we wish him a very happy 80th birthday.

Hazel Leeper–Education Officer

Welcome to Hazel Leeper, a new addition to the team at the Linnean Society. Hazel has joined us in the role of Education Officer, moving on from her post as Science Communicator at Dundee Science Centre. After reading Biology at Dundee University, Hazel has been helping to develop and disseminate resources for the Centre, whilst running school workshops and working with exhibits. She is passionate about science outreach, and additionally supports this by being a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassador, which has allowed her to work with students of all ages. Hazel states:

> *I'm looking forward to getting started in my new role, and having the opportunity to develop the education programme to cater to students of all ages. I'd like to see the resources of the Linnean Society used by teachers from all backgrounds, not just science specialists, and I'm excited at the prospect of creating new outreach activities to take to schools and showcase the treasures of the Society.*

We are looking forward to working with Hazel on the development of more resources, outreach activities and building links with schools, as well as furthering our role as part of the NUCLEUS group in coordination with the Society of Biology and many other biological organisations. For future communication about education, you can email Hazel on education@linnean.org

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The Linnean Society of London, Burlington House,
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7434 4479 Fax: +44 (0)20 7287 9364
Web: www.linnean.org

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