Editorial

In this issue the Zoological Secretary, Dr Doris Kermack, traces the history of the *Synopses of the British Fauna*. Doris has been involved in the planning and publication of this Series for more than 15 years and its continuing success is a result of her enthusiasm and expertise. The production of synopses with their contained keys is one of the more onerous tasks of taxonomists; nevertheless, the accurate identification of species is a fundamental part of most forms of biological fieldwork. Moreover, the information provided by detailed faunal surveys allows us not only to monitor the effects on the environment of such major industrial projects as off-shore oil production but also helps us to develop and manage sites of special scientific interest (S.S.S.I.) as well as our nature reserves.

The other historical article is part of A. S. Woodward’s (1864–1944) autobiography dealing with his early years at the British Museum (Natural History). It was probably written late in his life when blindness had overtaken him and his wife was acting as his amanuensis. He recollects that in 1886 the Keeper of Geology suggested to him that he should prepare a Catalogue of Fossil Fishes in the British Museum. This he agreed to do and his immortal Catalogue consisting of some 2400 pages was subsequently published in 4 parts between 1889 and 1901. As work on this catalogue proceeded he visited, largely at his own expense, museums and localities throughout Britain and then eventually all the notable museums and private collections of fossil vertebrates in Europe and America. These latter visits will be described in a subsequent issue.

SOCIETY NEWS

Reminder

“\nIn Spring a young man’s fancy turns to love”—or so the old saying goes. In the office, however, I am afraid we have to be concerned with the mundane matter of Annual Contributions due on or before 24 May.

Most Fellows are extremely punctilious about ensuring their Contributions are paid on time, but those who are not cost the Society money as well as causing extra work. Please ensure that your transaction is made on time, or let us know immediately if you have no intention of paying because you intend to withdraw.

For those who live in the United Kingdom and can do so, we strongly advise paying by Direct Debit Mandate—it is easy, safe, and the Bank does the work. Those who do not have a U.K. bank account can send their contributions through the Post Office National Giro with whom we have an account: the number is 504 6254. Those with U.S. dollar accounts can send us U.S. dollars, using the current exchange rate for the conversion from sterling to dollars. As reported in the last issue our current account is with Lloyds Bank plc, St James’s Street, London SW1 and is No. 0381863. We would, however, prefer that drafts were sent to us here as all too frequently the banks omit to tell us the name of the donor.
**Invoices**

Anyone who needs an invoice and has not already advised us is requested to inform the office as soon as possible, and also to say if this is to be an annual requirement.

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**Notes**

**Increasing the Fellowship**

We are certain you will agree that ensuring that the Fellowship grows steadily can only be to the good of the Society. It was to this end that the last President, Professor Sam Berry, wrote to Fellows at the close of 1984.

Every year we get up to 50 requests for details of the Society, including enquiries from biologists unknown to us as to how they can apply to join. Naturally we tell them ‘the rules’ and that, like many similar organizations, their applications need to be supported. The problem we have is that many genuine enquiries then founder through a lack of personal acquaintanceship. We are thus left with the dilemma that although we believe many of our correspondents to be very well qualified to apply for election, we cannot easily bring them ‘into the fold’. We would therefore like to hear from any Fellow who is prepared to act as a ‘go between’ to screen prospective applicants in his/her area. This would not be a very onerous task and any unwelcome pleas could be redirected to us marked “cannot help”.

**International News**

We hope that this Newsletter with its news and details of the programme now regularly reaches Fellows all over the world (we have not yet had time to get into Space). We therefore hope that you would now both be able to, and like to reciprocate by passing to us programme information which you think might be of interest to other Fellows (and of course to other biologists who have not yet joined the Society). This can be details of forthcoming projects, meetings and symposia, or reports of those held recently, as well as advertisements for social events, as below.

If possible we suggest that it might be sensible to focus this information through local, regional or national correspondents and we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on this task.

**Social Events—Home and Abroad**

1. As already announced, the IV Latin American Botanical Conference is being held in Medellin, Colombia this summer and its President is hoping to arrange a gathering of Fellows who will be attending. He offers the following:
   
   **Place:** Intercontinental Hotel, Medellin.
   
   **Date:** To be decided by a ‘mail vote’ among participants, possibly either Monday 30 June, Tuesday 1 July, or Thursday 3 July. It could be arranged to follow an all-Congress lecture by one of the Fellows present.
   
   **Arrangements:** Drinks and then dinner at one of the hotel’s restaurants, for convenience, but dinner could be elsewhere if preferred.
   
   **Cost:** Each participant to pay for his own food and drinks.
   
   **Contact:** Anyone interested should write to Dr E. Forero FLS, giving preferences and making positive proposals.
(2) You will, we trust, realize that the major social event in the Society's calendar, the Conversazione, is open to all Fellows, Associates and Members and we very much hope that anyone who might be passing through London at the time will think of applying for tickets. We also welcome both members of the Society and their guests to the informal evenings and ask you to note the dates in your diaries. Please try to give us advance warning.

Report on the Regional Meeting at Malham Tarn—held 18–20 October 1985

We assembled on a cold misty evening at 400 m altitude to consider the natural history and conservation of the Malham Tarn area. Following a welcome by Kingsley Iball, Warden of the Field Centre, Edward Jackson introduced the geology, geomorphology and present-day habitat diversity of the area with a set of superb slides. Dr Jonathan Adams then focused on the freshwater habitats and Dr Margaret Bradshaw reviewed the rare plants of the Craven Uplands.

The next morning Dr Michael Procter introduced the peatlands to the west of Malham Tarn highlighting the role of phosphate in the understanding of habitat preferences of individual species. Dr Robert Cameron demonstrated the richness of the Craven District for terrestrial molluscs and Thomas Lord reported on Pleistocene mammals from the area and especially on recently dated accumulations from caves.

By afternoon the landscape was bathed in sunlight as we divided into three groups to consider the peatlands, higher plants or bird communities in the field. Invigorated by fresh air and tea we enjoyed a feast of slides presented by Dr Stephen Ward, who placed the Craven Limestone Pavements in a national context. His lyrical commentary culminated in a persuasive case for the conservation of these intriguing habitats.

In the evening I reviewed the data from the attempt at an inventory survey of the Diptera of the area and questioned the practicality of such surveys for the purposes of conservation evaluation. Dr Allan Pentecost then reported on his work on growth of algae and mosses under conditions of tufa formation and on the fascinating cyanobacterial oncolites and their possible use as palaeoclimatic indicators.

On the Sunday morning we again divided into three groups to examine under expert guidance either limestone pavement plants, snails or tufa in the field. After an excellent lunch we were stimulated by Dr Michael Usher who considered data on fragmented habitats, species/area relationships, island biogeographic theories and conservation evaluation. The meeting was concluded with Dr Stephen Ward and Sarah Priest discussing management for conservation with particular reference to the Malham–Arncliffe S.S.S.I. and the work of the N.C.C.

The meeting admirably demonstrated the value of using a particular landscape as a way of bringing together diverse disciplines and thus facilitated the perception of each contribution in a richer context. In addition a common feature was the experience that attention to some aspect of the Malham Tarn area had repeatedly turned out to have lessons applicable away beyond the particularities of this superb and rightly-designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.
The only disappointment of the meeting was the small attendance. Those who did attend, however, were unanimous there should be more such meetings.

**Henry Disney**

*Eds Note. See p. 8 for details of the next Regional Meeting.*

*Picture quiz*

Who, where and approximately when? Solution by August to the ‘Editor’. A small prize will be awarded.

*Rooms Closure*

The Rooms will be closed over holiday periods: 3–6 May, 24–27 May and 23–26 August 1986.

*Deadlines*

The closing dates for material for *The Linnean* are 25 August 1986 for the December issue and 11 December 1986 for the March 1987 issue.

Last year two little remarked diamond jubilees passed into history:

In his address on 27 May 1926 referring to the 1925 session, the President reported that the publishing of abstracts in advance had been introduced so that, “Fellows have no excuse for coming unprepared to discuss the subjects raised by the readers of papers”.

He also remarked that, “The handsome chair which it is my privilege to occupy was the subject of much careful thought by the donor. It forms a suitable centrepiece for the Officers’ table, the gift of our former Treasurer, Sir Frank Crisp”. These were clearly very carefully chosen words and those of you who have read the 1985 Proceedings, The Linnean 2(1): 25 must admire the fortitude of the then President, Dr A. B. Rendle, and his successors for the next 59 years, in sitting uncomplainingly on a very uncomfortable crocodile skin seat!

Sixth-Form Teachers Workshops

We have now been running these workshops for 2 years and clearly they fill a need as we find they are always over-subscribed. We have therefore decided to rerun some which were particularly popular and feel it only right to advertise them to the Fellowship as a whole. Please telephone the office if you would like to attend, but we hope you will realize that naturally we must give priority to teachers.

Obituary Editors

In the very first issue of this Newsletter we commented on the need to keep the Society records complete by the inclusion of obituaries of former Fellows. Whilst we very much welcome the receipt of obituaries compiled for use elsewhere, and we thank you for your co-operation, we also need the services of editors prepared actually to research and compile the lives and times of other members of the Society. This would essentially be a task—perhaps more an interest—for older Fellows who can spare some time. Is anyone interested?

Archibald Menzies

In our last issue we gave notice of an exhibition featuring our founder’s activities in Europe and we have now been asked to help with an exhibition about the Pacific at the same sort of time.

This year the city of Vancouver will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its incorporation and will be hosting the World Exposition. To coincide with these events the Museum there will be holding an exhibition, from June to December 1986, on Captain George Vancouver, map-maker, surveyor, geographer and explorer, after whom their city was named. He had trained under Captain Cook during his second and third voyages and subsequently carried out his own voyage of discovery from 1791 to 1795. He took Archibald Menzies with him as his botanist, and Menzies’ portrait, normally in our Meeting Room, will be on show along with many other original exhibits never before seen in Canada. There will also be a scaled-down replica of a late 18th century glasshouse for the live display of local plants associated with Menzies’ work.

Details of the exhibition can be obtained from Mrs Lynn Maranda, The Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9.
Congratulations
On your behalf the President has recently written to two of our most eminent Fellows:
—Lady Nora Barlow, the last surviving granddaughter of Charles Darwin, was elected a Fellow 60 years ago and celebrated her 100th birthday on 22 December 1985.
—Professor E. J. Corner, C.B.E., F.R.S., elected in 1931, a mere 54 years ago, Vice President 1955–1956 and 1960–1961 and recipient of the Gold Medal for Botany in 1970 has been awarded the first International Prize for Biology. This prize was established last year by a consortium in Japan to mark His Majesty the Emperors’ longtime devotion to research in biology and in celebration of the 60th anniversary of his accession, and the 1985 award was designated for contributions in the field of taxonomy. The presentation was made personally by the Emperor at the inaugural ceremony last November. This award to Professor Corner on the basis of his numerous and diverse contributions to plant taxonomy, ranging from fungi to figs, recognizes his widely acknowledged status as one of the leading plant systematists of our time and brings great pleasure to his many colleagues in the Society.

We welcome the following who were elected on:

14 November 1985

Fellows
Sir David Frederick Attenborough, C.B.E., F.R.S.
Jose Marcio C. Ayres, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Nicholas Hamilton Barron, M.A., Ph.D.
Per-Göran Bentz, Fil.kand.(Lund)
David George Campbell, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Michael John Corbel, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Gerald Malcolm Durrell, O.B.E., LHD
Geoffrey Howard Edwards, B.Ed.
Prof. Em. Alan Eglin Heathcote Emery, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.
Prof. Em. Ramon Ferreyra, Dr.Biol.Sc.
Prof. Peter M. Galton, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Ibrahem S. Gbaja, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Garland Elizabeth Gibbs Russell, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Prof. Dana Gove Griffin, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Michael Douglas Gwynne, B.Sc., M.A., D.Phil.
James Kinninmonth Jarvis, M.Sc.

Robert Ian Johnson, M.Sc.
Paramjii Singh Kaushal, M.Sc.
Tahreiz Ahmad Khan, M.Sc., M.Phil.
George Varick Lauder, A.B., M.A., Ph.D.
Geoffrey Burrell Miller, B.Sc.
John Daniel Mitchell, B.Sc.
Govinda Achuthan Nair, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Jonathan Ott, B.Sc.
Lynne R. Parenti, B.Sc., Ph.D.
John Adrian Naicker Parnell, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.A.
Prof. Satya Narayan Patnaik, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Philip Stephen Rainbow, B.A., Ph.D., M.A.
Jagat Ram Sandhu
Carel Francis Sartory
Brian David Schrire, M.Sc.
David Ronald Tostevin
Lilian L. P. Vrijmoed, B.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Terence Paul Clark, B.Sc.

Associate

William Michael Brown

Student Associate

13 February 1986

Fellows
Prof. Henry C. Aldrich, B.A., Ph.D.
Prof. Roy Clayton Anderson, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.
William Robert Barker, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Nicholas Richard Buckley, B.Sc.
Sylvester Mudenda Chisumpa

Margaret Elizabeth Collinson, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Joel Cracraft, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Robert Dyne, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Henry Ford, M.Sc., Ph.D.
David Winchester Fountain, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Meetings


This will follow the usual form of an Evening Reception with the President and Mrs Chaloner receiving Fellows, members, their guests and the Society’s guests at the entrance to the Library. At the time of going to press there is still space for Fellows and invited exhibitors to display posters, material and working equipment. Anyone interested should contact the office as soon as possible.

Dress: Informal but elegant.
Cost: £5.00 per head.
Entrance: This will be by ticket only. Applications, from members of the Society only, should be made in writing by not later than Friday 18 April using the enclosed slip.

Afternoon Visit: Mr Hugh Thompson, General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, has very kindly agreed to entertain a party of up to 20 from 14.30–16.30. The programme will include tea and a tour of the premises which, although built at the same time and to the same grand design of Banks and Barry as our own Rooms, are markedly different in scale and layout. Anyone interested in Burlington House and its history should not miss this opportunity to hear a final talk by Mr John Hopkins who is retiring after 53 years as the Society’s Librarian. Apply on the enclosed slip.

22 May 1986 at 16.00. Tea will be served at 15.30. Anniversary Meeting

1. Admission of Fellows.
2. Minutes of the Scientific Meeting held on 17 April 1986.
3. Reading of the Bye-Laws governing the election of new Members of Council and of Officers, and appointment by the President of the Scrutineers of the Ballots for new Members of Council and for the Officers.
5. Presentation of Medals and Awards.
   Linnean Medals to: Dr A. Cronquist and Professor P. C. C. Garnham.
   The H. H. Bloomer Award to: Dr W. J. LeQuesue.
   The Bicentenary Medal to: Dr D. W. Minter.
8. Ballot for Officers.
10. Presidential Address: **Fire, Life and Time.**
11. Result of the Ballot for Officers.

**23 May 1986** at 14.00. **Freshwater Group Meeting** at Bewl Bridge reservoir. This will be a general freshwater biology meeting and will include talks on dragonflies, chironomids, aquatic fungi and reservoir management. Bewl Bridge is about 8 miles southeast of Tunbridge Wells.

The local organizer is Ms Teresa Flynn, Mid-Kent Water Company Laboratories, High Street, Snodland, Kent ME6 5AH; or contact Dr K. T. O’Grady F.L.S., WRC Environment, Henley Road, Medmenham, P.O. Box 16, Marlow Bucks SL7 2HD.

**20–22 June 1986.** Regional Meeting: **The Natural History and Conservation of the North Shropshire Meres.** To be held at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire. This is the second meeting arranged in conjunction with the Field Studies Council and on our behalf of the staff of their Field Centres.

**Background**

The Shropshire/Cheshire Plain extends from the Mersey Estuary to the South Shropshire hills and lies between the Pennines to the east and the Welsh foothills in the west. It contains well over 60 post-glacial, land-locked, ground-water-fed, eutrophic water bodies, the Meres. They vary in size from a little less than 1.0 to 72.5 ha, and have maximum depths varying from 0.9 to 27.5 m. As a series they are recognized as being amongst the most important natural freshwaters in Britain. Many are S.S.S.I.s acclaimed for the flora and fauna they support or for aspects of their freshwater ecology.

**Programme**

**Friday 20 June**

18.00 Arrival and registration.
18.30 Sherry; Dinner.
20.15

**Saturday 21 June**

08.30 Breakfast.
09.30–12.45 Four lecture sessions covering
  * The Algae
  * Ciliate protozoa
  * Leeches
  * Other Invertebrates.

13.30 Field Excursion—options:
  * The higher plants—Brown Moss
  * Freshwater Invertebrates
  * Bird Communities.
17.00   Tea.
17.45   *Fisheries and their Management.*
18.15   Sherry; Supper.
20.00   Two lecture sessions—Post-glacial history of the Meres.
         *Post-glacial to Iron Age*
         *Iron Age to recent.*

**Sunday 22 June**

08.30   Breakfast.
09.30   Field Excursions—options:
         *Molluscs*
         *Bryophytes*
         *Plant Succession.*
13.00   Lunch.
13.45   Lecture session and discussion.
         *The Meres—their wildlife conservation, evaluation and management.*
15.00   Tea and dispersal.

*Administration*

Enquiries, registration and reservations should be made direct to the Warden, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, nr Shrewsbury SY4 1DX. Tel: Shrewsbury (0743) 850380.

**1–3 July 1987.** Prospects in Systematics. This is the subject chosen for the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Systematics Association. It will be held in the Rooms of the Royal Society.

**24 July–1 August 1987.** XIV International Botanical Congress. This is being held in Berlin and will be preceded by meetings of the Nomenclature Section (Chairman: Professor Dr F. A. Stafleu, F.M.L.S.) on 20–24 July 1987. Scientific field trips are being organized both before and after the Congress. Enquiries should be made to the Congress Secretariat, Königen-Luise-Strasse 6–8, D-1000 Berlin (West) 33.

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**The History of Synopses of the British Fauna**

The idea that the Linnean Society should produce and publish lists of the different components of the British fauna along with supporting ecological data first appears in Minute Books of 1941–2. During that period although the Council, and its Finance and General Purposes Committee met often, the meetings are only haphazardly reported. Nevertheless, the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 29 January 1942, record under "**Item 4—Future activities of the Society**" that "Mr D. M. Reid be asked to organize a section of the Society to hold discussions on Crustacea and that Dr E. M. Delf be invited to organize a similar section for Marine Algae".
Douglas Miller Reid (Biology Master, Harrow School) proved to be an apt choice for he quickly organized a Crustacea Section of some 12 members with himself as secretary and Dr Isabella Gordon (British Museum (Natural History)) as chairman. They met for the first time on 14 May 1942. The Minute Book of the Crustacea Section, written in Reid’s hand and recording the six meetings held by the Section, is in the Society’s archives. There is a notice of a seventh meeting to be held on 22 February 1944, but there are no Minutes. Because the Section had been set up to produce fauna lists, a great deal of its time was necessarily spent discussing how this should be done. However, other matters were also considered; for example Dr Isabella Gordon gave a short report “On possible economic importance of shore-crabs and other Crustacea in War-time” to the second meeting.

The first fauna list was produced at the Section’s third meeting and it is worth reproducing the Minutes of that Meeting in their entirety as they indicate that the Society already had clear ideas as to the form these lists should take if they were to be useful to future generations of biologists. One can only admire the enthusiasm and far-sightedness of both the Council and the Crustacea Section during those grim wartime years.

3rd meeting of the Crustacea Committee was held on July 23 [1942] Mr D. J. Scourfield produced a list of British Ostracods as a basis for discussion of types of future Fauna Lists. The Committee having been reminded that the Society would not be willing to publish a mere list of names unless supported by considerable ecological data, a discussion arose as to the means of filling the numerous blanks in the records.

Mr T. H. Savory pointed out, for instance, that there were but 6 records of Opiliones from Scotland and but one from Middlesex. Mr Scourfield deplored the number of blanks throughout the U.K. for most of the Crustacea.

Dr H. E. Bargmann suggested that if it were worth while trying to get out the lists at all it would be worth while having them done well, though final completeness need not be aimed at. To achieve this she suggested that the Board of Education be approached officially by the Linnean Society to find if some sort of Nature Study could be introduced into Schools in the hope their records would help towards the compilation of a British Fauna. If the Board was agreeable a “Handbook for Collectors” could be got out to give instruction in methods to teachers and pupils.

It was debated as to whether it would be safe to accept determinations made by people without much experience and it was decided that such determinations would have to be checked by those compiling the lists. It was suggested also that workers in Universities and Colleges might be induced to take an interest in the project in as far as it affected their immediate neighbourhood at least.

In order that the working-out of a British Fauna might be made easier it was hoped that other Committees would soon be started. The Hon. Secretary promised to bring the matter to the notice of the President and get his views.

Owing to the unexpectedly long time taken over this discussion Mr. Savory’s paper on the Opiliones had to be postponed.

At the Fourth Meeting of the Crustacea Section held on 5 November 1942 “Mr T. H. Savory produced his Key to the British Opiliones for inspection” and after “some minor additions had been suggested, it was unanimously agreed that the Society be asked to publish the Key in the Proceedings as the first step towards a “British Fauna”. Mr. Savory then gave an account of the habits and distribution of the Opiliones as far as they are known.” The Opiliones or harvestmen are usually classified with the spiders in the Arachnida. Nowhere is this commented upon, so we conclude that the Opiliones must have been made Honorary Crustacea for the sake of convenience.

At the same meeting “Dr I. Gordon produced and exhibited a Fauna List
published by the Association for the Study of Systematics but since this contained only a list of names it was of little interest.” Mr Savory eventually presented his *Synopsis of the Opiliones* at the General Meeting of 11 March 1943 and, after discussion the President announced “that the Society intended to publish it as the first of a series of ecological fauna lists.” So the first *Synopsis* was born. Thus, in effect the Opiliones was published twice, once in the Proceedings and then as *Synopsis No. 1* which appeared on 21 January 1944. By October of that year *Synopses Nos 2 and 3* devoted to the *Caprellidae* (by R. J. Harrison) and the *Gammaridae* (by D. M. Reid), respectively, had been published; then followed *Freshwater Bivalves* (Mollusca) *Corbicula, Sphaerium, Dreissena* by A. E. Ellis in 1946. In the interim one discerns a certain amount of impatience by Council and the Finance and General Purposes Committee that more synopses had not been produced and querying the informality of the Sectional Committees.

Douglas Reid became the first Editor of the *Synopses* and produced eight titles between 1944–1949, although in his correspondence there are letters commissioning further titles (see appended list of titles). When Reid retired from Harrow School he was made an Associate *hons causa* for his work upon the *Synopses*. This honour has since lapsed, but at the time he was very proud of it. Reid died in 1959 having been a Member of Council 1941–1945 and Vice-President of the Society 1942–1943.

The editorship eventually passed informally to Professor H. R. Hewer who was Zoological Secretary of the Society 1954–1960 and the range of titles was extended to 14 with further new editions and reprintings (see appended list 1).

H. R. Hewer was succeeded as Zoological Secretary by Dr Gwn Vevers (1960–1967). Towards the end of Gwn Vevers term of office it was decided that the *Synopses* needed updating and extending. Accordingly the zoological members of Council (which included myself) met under Vevers Chairmanship to consider possible changes. At this time detailed descriptions of animals were fast disappearing from text-books, so it was decided that for the systematics of a group of animals to be meaningful the anatomy of a representative animal
would have to be fully described in each *Synopsis*. This accounts for the early pages of every number being devoted to the general biology, including structure of the animals covered by that particular synopsis; and also why each contains a glossary.

The Committee considered changing the series title but decided that although rather old-fashioned it was an accurate title and there is a lot to be said for honesty. The *Synopses* are not popular field guides, their individual coverage is too limited, neither are they taxonomic treatises or monographs, they are more superficial. The Committee agreed that the *Synopses* should try to bridge the gap between these two types of work. The *Synopses* were to be practical field and laboratory hand-books for amateur and professional biologists written by specialists in the particular group of animals covered. Their format was to allow for the great variation amongst and between animal groups, which gives Zoology its subject appeal. “Animal group” was to be used to describe the coverage of each number, thus in some cases the group of animals has proved to be a sub-order, e.g. *No. 19 British Turbellarians*, and in another a phylum, e.g. *No. 24 British Nemertean*s, and in yet another covers three small orders of crustaceans, *No. 30*, and so on. The aim was to cover as many of the invertebrate of the groups in the Animal Kingdom as possible and eventually to produce a *Fauna Britannica*. By this stage I had been appointed Zoological Editor (1966) and later in 1967, Editorial Secretary. It was therefore a natural progression for me to become the editor of the *New Series*.

A number of authors were asked to produce suitably illustrated manuscripts and with the help of the Society’s publishers, Academic Press, the format was redesigned and so the *New Series* began. I record with gratitude the personal interest and help I received from the Managing Director of Academic Press, Mr C. M. Hutt (the Society’s present Treasurer).

Thanks to the authors of the early numbers, the *New Series* had an encouraging start, with *No. 1 British Ascidians* appearing in 1970, and subsequently between one to three numbers have appeared every year.

In 1976, Dr Richard S. K. Barnes, Secretary of the Estuarine and Brackish-water Sciences Association (E.B.S.A.) approached the Society saying that the E.B.S.A. wished to produce its own hand-books but that it did not want these to clash with possible future titles in the *New Series*. Rather than encourage the beginning of yet another series of hand-books, E.B.S.A. were asked if they would be interested in joining with the Linnean Society to produce the *Synopses* under the joint editorship of myself (then Editorial Secretary of the Linnean Society) and Richard S. K. Barnes (Secretary of E.B.S.A.). This suggestion was quickly adopted and it was agreed that all future titles were to be published jointly, even though some may have been originally commissioned by the Linnean Society. Thus, from *No. 13* published in 1979 onwards the *Synopses* have been under joint editorship and associated with the two societies.

In 1981 the publishing of the *Series* was taken over by Cambridge University Press from the Society’s publisher, Academic Press, as the latter, which is largely concerned with research scientific publishing, did not have the necessary school-based sales outlets for *Synopses*. *Nos 19–28* were published by Cambridge University Press between 1981 and 1983, during which time it was decided to publish them in both hard and soft covers and then finally in hard-covers only, with an associated rise in price. Since the *Series* has always been called the
Synopses of the British Fauna, it was agreed to omit the word British from the title of each number from No. 25 onwards. This was done at the advice of the Press who hoped it would boost overseas sales. However, the sales of the Synopses did not meet the hopes and expectations of Cambridge University Press and so the contract was ended in 1983.

In 1984, E. J. Brill took over the publishing of the Synopses with Bath Press, (previously the Pitman Press) who had printed many of the previous numbers, as the printers. Our agreement with E. J. Brill stipulates that the Synopses shall be published in soft covers only and that the price will be kept as low as possible, so as to be within the means of those for whom the Series is and has always been designed. The appended list (2) shows that by the beginning of 1986 No. 35 Millipedes should have appeared in book-shops. Many authors are working on other titles and also upon second editions. The Series is very much alive and Fellows should watch The Linnean for the publication dates of new titles.

Fellows and Members of E.B.S.A. can obtain copies of the Synopses at special discount rates from the Rooms of the Society at Burlington House. A price list and order form for the latest books was included in the previous edition of The Linnean, 2 (1). Prices of previous books can be obtained from Burlington House. Booksellers and non-Fellows/Members should contact the Publishers for No. 19 onwards; whilst Nos 1–18 are available from the Society’s Rooms. Both Fellows and booksellers are warned, however, that some early numbers of the New Series (i.e. pre-No. 18) are out of print. Revisions or new editions are in preparation.

The Natural Environment Research Council (N.E.R.C.) has aided the New Series by providing grants to cover professional artists’ fees and by awarding research fellowships to support authors undertaking the necessary research to write a title. Acknowledgement and thanks of both authors and editors is
recorded in the titles concerned. The Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) have also given the New Series support by allowing the staff to undertake individual titles and by encouraging all authors to consult its collections and use the associated resources.

Finally I acknowledge with pleasure the real support and encouragement I have received from Richard Barnes, my co-editor; the Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series) would not be what it is today by my efforts alone. I appreciate the interest of my professional colleagues and in particular that of the Fellows of the Linnean Society, its Officers and Council since I started the New Series over 16 years ago.

Doris M. Kermack

Appended List 1

The Linnean Society of London Synopses of the British Fauna

Publication dates:
No. 3. Gammaridae (Amphipoda); with a Key to the families of British Gammaridea by D. M. Reid, F.L.S., 18 October 1944 (out of print 1964).
No. 9. British Woodlice, with a Key to the Species by E. B. Edney, 1954.
No. 10. Pseudoscorpiones, with a Key to the Species by G. Owen Evans & E. Browning, 1954.
No. 12. British Echiurids (Echiuroidea), Sipunculids (Sipunculoidea) and Priapulids (Priapuloidea) by A. C. Stephan, 1960.
THE LINNEAN

Appended List 2

Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series)

No. 1. British Ascidians R. H. Millar
No. 2. British Prosobranchs Alastair Graham
No. 3. British Marine Isopods E. Naylor
No. 4. British Harvestmen J. H. P. Sankey and T. H. Savory
No. 5. British Sea Spiders P. E. King
No. 6. British Land Snails R. A. D. Cameron and Margaret Redfern
No. 7. British Cumaceans N. S. Jones
No. 9. British Tardigrades C. I. Morgan and P. E. King
No. 10. British Anascan Bryozoans J. S. Ryland and P. J. Hayward
No. 11. British Freshwater Bivalve Mollusca A. E. Ellis
No. 12. British Sipunculans P. E. Gibbs
No. 13. British and Other Phoronids C. C. Emig
No. 15. British Coastal Shrimps and Prawns G. Smaldon
No. 16. British Nearshore Foraminiferids John W. Murray
No. 17. British Brachipods C. H. C. Brunton and G. B. Curry
No. 18. British Anthozoa R. L. Manuel
No. 20. British Pelagic Tunicates J. H. Fraser
No. 21. British and Other Marine and Estuarine Oligochae R. O. Brinkhurst
No. 22. British and Other Freshwater Ciliated Protozoa: Part I C. R. Curds
No. 23. British and Other Freshwater Ciliated Protozoa: Part II C. R. Curds, M. A. Gates and D. McL. Roberts
No. 24. British Nemerteans R. Gibson
No. 25. Shallow-water Crabs R. W. Ingle
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No. 27. Tanaids D. M. Holdich and J. A. Jones
No. 29. Siphonophores and Velellids P. A. Kirkpatrick and P. R. Pugh
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No. 31. Earthworms R. W. Sims and B. M. Gerard
No. 32. Polychaetes: British Amphiprionida, Spintherida and Eunicida J. D. George and G. Hartmann-Schröder
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A. S. Woodward’s autobiography

By 1882 the whole of the collection of fossils had already been removed from Bloomsbury to the new museum (Natural History) but a large proportion of the packing cases were still stored unopened. Some of the exhibition galleries were empty, but the Keeper, Dr Henry Woodward, was planning the display for the
public. The fossil mammals and birds had been provisionally arranged in the large front gallery, and the so-called pavilion beyond, in accordance with the original scheme. The fossil reptiles and amphibians had also been arranged in the parallel, long narrow gallery which had been designed for them behind. The three large galleries extending at right-angles further back which had been intended for the rest of the collection were now considered to be inadequate. According to the original plan they alternated with three narrow galleries and one large gallery which were enclosed by mahogany doors. There was also a corridor still further behind intended to facilitate the access of the public from the far end of one public back gallery to that of another. The galleries enclosed by the handsome doors were designed for the unexhibited collections of invertebrate fossils, which were to be used only by special students and the scientific staff who were to have work tables adjacent to the cabinets. It was even thought at first that the wall-cases in the public exhibition galleries should.

Fossil mammal gallery, British Museum (Natural History), 1892. Showing Megatherium and a London policeman.

be enclosed like shop windows, and arranged from behind through doors in the wall of these alternating private galleries. Fortunately this proposal was abandoned before the walls were built, but a modification of it still survived during my time in the wall-cases of the Botanical Department. The capacious storerooms intended for the unexhibited vertebrate fossils were in the front
basement underneath the public gallery of fossil mammals. The garden in front of the Museum had not yet been laid out, and it was intended to mask these and all the other basement store-rooms by building a wall which would form what the Londoners call an area in front of them. The garden lawns would then slope upwards to the top of this wall on the level of the first floor of the Museum, and the ornamented stories above would then be seen from the road. To avoid the darkness of the basement rooms which this arrangement would have caused, the architect was induced to abandon this plan, and consequently the Keeper of Geology was able to use the basement premises not only as stores but also as work-rooms and studies. The original design for the external appearance of the Museum was in this way completely altered.

The addition of basement work-rooms solved some of the difficulties of the Keeper of Geology, and he decided to add two of the private narrow back galleries to the public exhibition galleries. He was also troubled by lack of provision for a Departmental Library, and the Superintendant’s plans for the room behind the Central Hall had equally done away with the provision of accommodation for the General Library. The darkest of the private narrow back galleries in the Department of Geology which was adjacent to the Central Hall was therefore fitted on one side for the books of the General Library, and on the other side for those of the Geological Library. The back communication corridor, with its stained glass windows, was taken from the public, and used as a row of work-rooms among storage cabinets of invertebrate fossils. Eventually the two communication corridors, again with stained glass windows, between the gallery of fossil mammals and that of fossil reptiles were fitted with exhibition cases, and that nearest the Central Hall was provided with sky-lights in the roof to replace the obliterated side windows. These various rearrangements made possible a much larger public exhibition of fossils than had been originally planned.

I was assigned the task of helping the Senior Assistant, Mr William Davies, in arranging the fossil vertebrates, and began by mounting and labelling the smaller specimens of fossil reptiles which Mr Davies had selected for exhibition in the table-cases. Only a small proportion of these specimens were really of value for exhibition and as larger exhibits of fossil reptiles were gradually acquired the number of table-cases was reduced, and the less important specimens were placed in drawers. I also helped in mounting and labelling many remains of mammals and birds. My chief attention however was soon directed to the great collection of fossil fishes which Mr Davies was just beginning to arrange in the newly fitted gallery No. 6. The collections of the late Sir Philip Egerton and of the Earl of Enniskillen had just been received, and Mr Davies was registering them for incorporation with the fossil fishes already in the Museum. I helped him in the preparation of the specimens both for exhibition and for arrangement in the drawers of the cabinets. I mounted and labelled all the fossil fishes which were in the table-cases, and also wrote tablets for most of those in the wall-cases. While thus occupied I became specially interested in fossil fishes, and after attending Dr R. H. Traquair’s Swiney lectures on the subject in the autumn of 1883, I soon acquired a good knowledge of them. I still had to continue work on the exhibition of the other fossil vertebrates, but there were so many novelties in the unique collection of fossil fishes that I decided to make that my speciality.
At the time I was devoting my leisure, especially in the evenings, not only to studying the literature of fossil vertebrates, but also to preparing for the London University degree of B.Sc. In 1885 I passed the London Matriculation Examination and after a practical course in Comparative Anatomy and General Biology in evening classes at King's College, Strand, I passed the Intermediate Science Examination in 1886. However, my studies of fossil fishes had not been neglected, and I was gratified a little later when the Keeper of Geology suggested to me that I might prepare an exhaustive Catalogue of Fossil Fishes to be published by the Museum. I accepted this proposal and decided that instead of proceeding to the University Degree, I would spend all my spare time in the original research needed for such a catalogue. My own private library was still comparatively small, but I found most of the scientific books I wanted in the Science Library of the old South Kensington Museum which was open on two or three evenings of the week.

In the course of my reading and my casual study of the fossils exhibited in the museum, I accumulated a large collection of notes which I used in the writing of some general articles. Between 1884 and 1886 I contributed short discourses on British fossil birds and on fossil sharks and rays to *Hardwicke's Science Gossip*, and had my first paper published in the *Geological Magazine* (1885) on “The Literature and nomenclature of British fossil crocodiles”. Henceforth my short papers were numerous and recorded chiefly the results of original research. In 1890 my paper on “A new Theory of Pterichthys” in the *Annals and Magazine of*
Natural History attracted the notice of Prof. E. Ray Lankester, who became a life-long friend. (By 1892 Woodwards bibliography had reached 100 titles; at the end of his life the number was over 700—Ed.)

After the retirement of Mr William Davies in 1887 I was for a few years the sole assistant in charge of the fossil vertebrata until the appointment of Dr Charles William Andrews who shared the duties with me. It was at this time that I learned by experience to deal tactfully with the general public.

When I began to prepare the Catalogue of Fossil Fishes (1887), one of my kind friends was Mr George H. Piper, F.G.S. of Ledbury who had made a large collection of Silurian and Downtonian fossils from his neighbourhood. I enjoyed frequent visits to him, and coveted specially the new fossil cephalaspidian fishes which he had obtained from the cutting at Ledbury railway station. He was a great admirer of Queen Victoria, and on each visit I used to pick out one or two choice specimens with the remark that Queen Victoria would much like to have them. He always replied "So she shall, God bless her!" and I accordingly returned to London with them in my bag as a gift for the Museum. The fossil cephalaspidians which he thus gave to the Museum are still unique. Sometimes a donor was overwhelming in his desire to enrich the collection of the Museum. When Mr George Clifton retired from the Governorship of Portland Prison in 1889, he brought the whole of his collection of fossils as a gift to the Museum. He regretted however that his finest fossil fish, a nearly complete specimen of Thrisops portlandicus had been stolen, and he could offer only a photograph of it. We thanked him for his good intention, and were able to assure him that this fine fossil was already in the Museum having been received from another generous donor in the previous year!

Our talks to parties of scientific societies when they visited the public galleries also occasionally resulted in valuable gifts. Shortly before my retirement (in 1924) I was demonstrating the fossil remains of elephants to a party of the Geological Association, when I remarked that I could not show them the newly discovered skeleton of Elephas antiquus from Chatham, because the bones were stored in the dark basement, and could not be exhibited until funds allowed the necessary iron framework to be made. After the demonstration, Dr W. Rushton Parkes asked me whether a gift of £100 would provide this important mount, and when I replied that it certainly would do so, he produced a cheque for the purpose. The chatham elephant was therefore soon available for study and inspection, a worthy memorial of his generosity.

Obituary

John Bartholomew Hall (1932–1984)

Mr John Bartholomew Hall, F.L.S., died suddenly of a stroke at his home in Ripon, North Yorkshire, on 23 May 1984. He was buried at the Quaker Cemetery, Ripon.

John Hall was born on 8 July 1932 and from 1955 to 1964 was a biology
teacher at Mfantsipim School, Ghana. In 1964 he moved to the Department of Botany at Cape Coast College and in 1966 became a lecturer at the University of Ghana, Legon, until his return to Britain in the late 1970s, when he took over the family haberdashery business at Ripon.

West African botany has lost a first-class taxonomist and ecologist who combined field and herbarium studies. He was fully conversant with the entire Ghanaian flora of savanna and forest zones and there is hardly a folder in the Ghana Herbarium in which his excellent collections are not present, with duplicates at Kew and elsewhere.

He had a special ability to write scientific papers on taxonomy and ecology, many of which were published in various international journals. Before he finally left Ghana for England, he and his colleague, Dr M. D. Swaine, completed, after 10 years of strenuous forest research, the crowning work *The forest vegetation of Ghana* (Geobotany I. Distribution and ecology of vascular plants in a tropical rain-forest. The Hague: W. Junk 1981). It is a fitting memorial to a dedicated botanist who is sadly missed.

He leaves his Ghanaian wife, Theresa, three daughters and a son.

A. A. Enti

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**LIBRARY**

The portrait of Sir James Edward Smith, loaned to the Norwich Museum as reported in the last issue, is now back and 'supervising' the work in the Library. For those of you either unable to visit the exhibition or wishing to know more about it, we have the very well-produced illustrated catalogue and the three volume account of Sir James's travels on the Continent.

The 'Bring and Buy' book sale was again successful, both in that we were able to add a number of items to our holdings and also financially; the proceeds were £196. We would like to thank all involved: donors of books, those involved in pricing and sales and, of course, those who made the purchases.

Domestically, the recent important acquisition has been the folding screen at the entrance to the Library, made by Gina Douglas. It is covered with the reproduction of the wallpaper from Linnaeus's study at Hammarby produced by the Swedish Linnean Society to commemorate the 1978 Linnaeus bicentenary. The 24 plates illustrating 40 plants are from Plumier's *Plantarum Americanum Fasc. I*, 1755, edited by J. Burman who sent proofs of the illustrations to Linnaeus.

**Donations**

With this copy being required so soon after the book sale we have yet to catalogue all our recent receipts. Nevertheless, of especial mention are the 22 books from Gavin Bridson which we have retained, these being in addition to the many duplicates he let us pass on in the sale; eight works on Crustacea from Dr Isabella Gordon; two books on wildflowers from Nigel Hepper; three books
on the plants of Turkey from Mark Nesbitt; and four books on natural history from David Taylor-Pescod. These will be itemized in the accessions in the next issue. Mr Jack Gardiner has continued to keep us up to date with U.K. natural history publications. We are most grateful for the above and the following which have been catalogued in the last three months:

**Akihito, HRH Crown Prince**

**Dr F. Bisby**

**Prof. O. Boelke & Prof. D. M. Moore**

**F. Brightman**


**The author**

**The author**

**The author**

**The author**

**Mrs M. Milne Smith**


**P. J. Wanstall**

**Accessions**

Other recent accessions include: