

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

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THE LINNEAN

Newsletter and Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London

Edited by B. G. Gardiner

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Editorial

The Bicentenary celebrations are gathering pace and in February the Post Office announced their decision to honour us with a special issue of stamps. Moreover in this issue we are advertising some 26 joint meetings with other societies and organizations, reiterating our intention of retracing Linnaeus's Lapland journey (in July 1988) and giving advance publicity to a bicentenary Swedish holiday for our more staid Fellows. We are also publishing a letter reminding us that the bicentenary is an appropriate time for us to take stock of our 'evolution' (or history) and, perhaps more importantly, to look at our future rôle within the scientific community.

STOP PRESS

Conversazione

This is being held in June: see p. 13 for details; also p. 43

SOCIETY NEWS

Important Notices

The Society

Last December I received the following letter from a Fellow currently in Israel. His proposal of a review of changes which have occurred in the rôle and status of our Society, and the direction that such changes should take in future is one of potential interest to us all. Reactions to his ideas would be gratefully received by your Council. Alternatively, you might care to write to David Starr-Glass directly, if you are interested in joining him in the work of a committee such as he proposes.

W. G. CHALONER

Empire State College,
P.O. Box 459,
Emanuel,
Israel, 44854

25.11.86

Dear President,

Firstly let me extend to you and the Society congratulations on the bicentenary. Two hundred years of promoting biological interest and discovery is most certainly a magnificent and exciting accomplishment.

Of course, one of the opportunities which such an anniversary affords is a backwards look at the historical record. There is, however, also the opportunity to search forwards into the future. It is in regard to this second area of opportunity about which I have decided to write to you.

My interest in, and involvement with, the Society began when I was an undergraduate in the Botany Department, Glasgow University. There I used to not infrequently spend a summer's afternoon browsing through leather bound volumes of the Society's Journals. These were literary journeys which took me back to a different time, a different botanical emphasis, and to a different social and cultural outlook. From the outset my view of the Society was tinged with a rich nostalgia and a pervasive respect.

Since then (the late 1960s) I have ceased to be professionally involved in botany, although I have retained a keen interest in it. However, other things also seem to have changed. I suppose it was the Address List of Members which re-emphasized the varied interests, and far-flung locations of those who constitute the Society. Obviously some of these changes have been reflected in the Society... the advent of "The Linnean", being a welcome example. Nevertheless I am not at all certain that the implications of a changing membership, a changing society, and a changing scientific environment have been sufficiently identified and reflected upon by the Society.

As someone who studies and teaches organizational behaviour, I am particularly interested in the growth and evolutionary development of the Society. It seems to me that in this bicentennial period, we have a wonderful chance to seriously take stock of our historical evolution, our present potentials and our future rôle.

I would strongly urge the Society to consider the formation of an active committee specifically charged with exploring the dimension of change, as it has

affected and may, in future affect the Society. At a casual glance it would seem that significant areas for determination would include:

- (a) the image and rôle of the Society within the scientific community,
- (b) the image and rôle of the Society's publications,
- (c) the function which the Membership expect the Society to fulfil, and
- (d) organizational structure of the Society and response to change.

It would again seem obvious that, for all significant areas, a historical review, a current data-orientated survey and a comprehensive, integrated policy statement for the future is required.

I would appreciate your comments. Naturally if I can be of any specific help in such an undertaking I would be delighted to participate. I do hope that it is quite obvious that I have the greatest regards for the Society and desire only to see its continued success and spreading influence.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID STARR-GLASS

In the Footsteps of Linnaeus

Dr John Packham writes that the Lapland journey he is organizing for 27 July to 7 August 1988 is going ahead as announced in *The Linnean* 2(3): 2-3. Newly elected Fellows to whom this may be news and who are interested, and others who have yet to ask to take part, should write to Dr Packham to reserve their places. He and Dr Roland Moberg, who hope this to be at least a bi-national excursion, will be making a reconnaissance this coming summer when they hope to finalize the arrangements.

Bicentenary Swedish Holiday

A Two-week Holiday in Uppsala, Stockholm and on the Island of Gotland: Wednesday 29 June to Tuesday 12 July 1988.

The holiday will start from London (Heathrow) and thence to Uppsala for three nights at the Hotel Linné which, as its name suggests, is near Linnaeus's house and garden. A day will be spent in leisurely visits to such places as the Castle, the great twin-towered Cathedral where Linnaeus is buried, the Carolina Rediviva Library with its famous Silver Bible (written in silver ink on navy blue vellum) and maps, the Anatomical Theatre designed by Olof Rudbeck so that all students could see the dissections as they took place and, of course, Linnaeus's house and garden. On the second day there will be a picnic at Hammarby.

We then travel in our own coach from Uppsala to Stockholm and spend four nights at the Hotel Domus. The programme will include a visit to Frescati on the outskirts of the city, to be shown round the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, (Linnaeus was the first President) and the Bergius Botanic Garden by its Director, Professor Bengt Jonsell, F.L.S. An afternoon will be spent at Drottningholm, seeing both the Palace (a mini-Versailles) and, hopefully, the Royal Library where Queen Louisa Ulrika's personal collections of shells, insects and other biological objects are housed and which were curated for her by Linnaeus. These are not open to the public and Bengt Jonsell is asking permission for the party to see them as a special honour to the Society.

Trips in and around Stockholm will not be 'organized', but members of the Swedish Linnaeus Society have kindly offered to meet us and help with suggestions.

On leaving Stockholm our own coach will drive to the port of Nynäshamn for the five-hour crossing to the Island of Gotland: lunch will be served on board. Three nights will be spent at the Hotel Donnersplats in the mediaeval, walled town of Visby, followed by two nights, with full board, at the Borgvik Pensionat at Katthammarsvik. The Island has a varied and dramatic coastline with rocks and sand-dunes—warm enough to sunbathe in early July. Many of the carvings and treasures from the numerous mediaeval churches on the Island have been brought together under one roof, in the museum at Visby. We will have our own coach to travel the length and breadth of Gotland, with Bengt Jonsell as our guide to the scenery, the geology and the botanical extravaganza of this largely limestone island.

Sweden is an expensive country and the overall cost is likely to be in the region of £950. Single-room supplements, where available, will be quoted later. As appetites and palates are as variable as the restaurants, bars and picnic sites, lunches and dinners are not included in the package.

The party is limited to 24. I shall be glad to hear soon from those Fellows, accompanied or not by spouses or friends, who think they might like to join the holiday.

MISS ELIZABETH YOUNG
19 Elm Park Lane,
London SW3 6DD

Notes

Correspondence about Annual Contributions

Although we get many charming and most apologetic letters—and even poems!—on the subject of overdue payments, we also get 'heavy flak', to use a military expression, from some Fellows who are incensed that we write in rather brusque terms. It is therefore perhaps apposite to outline the situation as seen from the office.

The Fellowship of this Society is privileged in that it continues to receive journals for some months after the annual payments should have been made. Very many societies (and clubs of course) of which we are aware cancel the membership, or at least stop the despatch of publications, at the moment the annual subscription becomes overdue. Our Bye-Laws allow a period of grace which is extremely long by modern-day credit standards and it infers a negative cash flow of several thousand pounds over several months. For example, 1986/87 outstanding contributions at 1 September 1986 were £10,000 and by 1 December, when the 'pay or else' notices were sent, the Society was still owed £4483. The mailing of the overdue notices alone came to some £80.58.

We hope you can see, therefore, that by paying promptly you help reduce the Society's administrative time and costs. Incidentally, the wording may be sharp but, as far as we can discover, it has been used traditionally for many many years—and it is the Society's interest we are trying to protect. Please read on.

Annual contributions

These are due on or before 24 May for the year May 1987 to May 1988, and we assume you will remember this date unless you specifically ask to be billed. We do not automatically send invoices as you are informed of this date on election, and the cost of a single mailing of a one-page letter to all Fellows is currently approximately £370. However, should you require an invoice as a reminder or for exchange control or other accountancy reasons and have not already asked for one, please write as soon as possible so that you receive it in good time. Please also say if this is to be a continuing requirement.

The rates of Annual Contribution remain at

Fellow (no journal)	£25	Associate (no journal)	£12.50
Fellow (one journal)	£30	Associate (one journal)	£15
Fellow (two journals)	£35	Associate (two journals)	£20
Student Associate		£2.50	

Intention to Withdraw

This issue of the newsletter is not intentionally being used for your staff to 'bleat', but the matter of *when* Fellows inform us they no longer wish to remain a Fellow also affects the Society's finances.

With the Society's year running from May to May, the proper time to announce an intention to withdraw is *prior* to the next Anniversary date. This then allows your journals to be stopped, the accounts, the List of the Society and other records all to be amended on the due date, and it avoids your going into debt to the Society.

Clearly this cannot be mandatory, but if you can comply it does materially benefit the Society.

Prize for Botanical Illustrations

This note brings to the attention of the Fellowship the generous creation of a fund for the award of prizes for botanical illustrations. The following wording will be printed in future issues of The List:

The Jill Smythies Award

This has been established by Mr B. E. Smythies, F.L.S. in honour of his wife Florence Mary Smythies ('Jill' Smythies) whose career as a botanical artist was cut short by an accident to her right hand.

The award, to consist of a silver medal and a purse, will be made at Council's discretion, usually annually, as advised by the Awards Committee. The award is for published illustrations, such as drawings or paintings, in aid of plant identification, with the emphasis on botanical accuracy and the accurate portrayal of diagnostic characteristics. Illustrations of cultivars of garden origin are not eligible.

The award may be made to anyone not at the time a member of Council, and may be for work published at any date. Preference will be given to recently completed items and to those by the younger worker.

Nominations will be considered annually as for the other medals and awards,

the winner being announced at the February scientific meeting. The first award will be presented at the Bicentenary Meeting, 24 May 1988.

The Bicentenary Scientific Meetings

With the programme now well underway* and all but a few details confirmed, the following table, correct to 10 December 1986, shows how the overall plan has developed. Clearly we have been unable to arrange meetings with all the other Societies and Associations in which some of you may also have an interest. Nevertheless, the intention has been to meet all the major organizations and especially those which are multi-disciplinary or with whom the Society has or has had close relationships over the years.

It is perhaps worth reporting, as we go to press, that the meeting with the Association of Applied Biologists resulted in a full Meeting Room, a successful meeting and a stated intention to arrange another joint meeting in the future. One outcome of plans is therefore leading us well into our third century as we are already having to look for dates in 1989 and beyond.

Calendar of Bicentenary Joint Meetings

1986

April

4-6	<i>Chemistry, Taxonomy and Economic Botany of Euphorbiales</i>	Phyto-Chemical Society of Europe
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November

20	<i>Man Directed Evolution of Crop Plants</i>	Association of Applied Biologists
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December

18	<i>Dynamic Responses to the Environment</i>	Society for Experimental Biology
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1987

January

22	<i>Nature, Natural History and Ecology</i>	Field Studies Council
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February

19	<i>Horizons in Lichenology</i>	The Lichen Society
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March

19	<i>Changing Attitudes to Nature Conservation</i>	Royal Society for Nature Conservation
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April

30	<i>The Social and Intellectual Climate for Natural History in 18th century England</i>	Society for the History of Natural History
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May

7	<i>Bryology: Modern Research and the Ways Forward</i>	British Bryological Society
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*Editors note: in *The Linnean* 3(1):4 I see that we/they called the emblem *Linnean borealis*! maybe this is the Bicentenary Omen?

October		
15	<i>The Management of Fertility in Domestic, Feral, and Zoo Populations of Mammals</i>	Zoological Society of London
November		
13	<i>Novel Approaches to the Systematics and Identification of Fungi</i>	British Mycological Society
26	Joint Meeting	London Natural History Society
December		
17	<i>Biota and Palaeoatmospheres</i>	Geological Society and The Palaeontological Association
1988		
January		
14	<i>An inordinate fondness for beetles. Problems arising from the profusion of insects.</i>	Royal Entomological Society
February		
25	<i>Natural Products as Pharmacological Probes and in New Pharmaceuticals</i>	Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
April		
20	<i>The Ecology of Dungeness</i>	British Ecological Society (Royal Holloway and Bedford New College)
June		
12–15	<i>Evolution, Ecology and Environmental stress</i>	International Symposium
July		
6–9	<i>European Floristic Studies</i>	Systematics Association and Flora Europaea Committee (Reading University)
September		
5–9	Joint Event	Biological Section of the British Association (Oxford University)
October		
20	<i>Heathers in Heathland</i>	Botanical Society of the British Isles
November		
9–10	<i>Evolution and Extinction</i>	Royal Society (Carlton House Terrace)
December		
15	<i>The World's Burden of Parasites</i>	British Society for Parasitology

1989**January**

- 21 *British Mammalian Fauna, Past, Present, and Future* Mammal Society

March

- 16 *The Impact of New Methods on the Old Patterns of Taxonomy* Systematics Association

April

- Joint Meeting British Herpetological Society
The Severn Estuary Estuarine and Brackish Water Sciences Association

May

- International Symposium
(Leningrad)

Bicentenary Stamp Issue

In February the Post Office announced their decision to honour us with a special issue of stamps to mark our bicentenary. Three artists have been commissioned to work on three of the five schemes suggested to the Post Office in our preliminary discussions. These were:

- (a) Modern tools for biological identification.
- (b) Economic plants and animals.
- (c) Association of organisms and famous Fellows,
 - (i) Organisms and their original descriptions,
 - (ii) Organisms and people.
- (d) Themes illustrating evolutionary biology.

Gina Douglas has been asked to provide all the necessary background, books, specimens, manuscripts and thought-provoking ideas. We now await the outcome. Which would be your choice?

Although it is too early to be sure, we are now investigating ideas for an appropriate first day cover and the possibility of a special franking from Burlington House.*

Reviews

We believe that reviews of books have not been as widely read as they might have been because they have been included in the *Biological Journal* which not everyone takes; and on occasions publication has been very delayed for various reasons. It has therefore been agreed that reviews should be carried either in *The Linnean* or in whichever of the journals seems most appropriate. Additionally, the procedure for passing books to reviewers and for their work subsequently to be edited by Dr M. J. Crawley, the Review Editor, and then published has been streamlined. Correspondence about reviews should be sent to the office in the first instance. It can then be dealt with by Dr Crawley or the Editorial Secretary, or by the Editorial Committee.

*Editor's Note: The Executive Secretary's office used to be the Post Office for Burlington House. Note the original wooden post box on our outside wall which is still in current use.

Social Events

(1) *Bicentenary joint meetings*: To date we have not had an overwhelming response from participants wishing to stay on for the evening meal after these one-day meetings. Please write and tell us if you think we can improve the arrangements the better to meet your needs.

(2) *The Conversazione*: This is being held later this year to spread out the administrative load which has previously occurred annually in the Easter period. We have chosen a mid-week day in June both to see if this summer date is more popular and because the Bicentenary Summer Party has been planned for June next year. Please see the Meetings section for details.

(3) *Berlin*: Dr H. W. Lack, F.L.S. has very kindly arranged for a party of Fellows attending the International Botanical Congress to visit the house of the Humboldts on 28 July 1987. Although bookings have already been made some places may become available from cancellations. Apply direct to Dr Lack at the Congress secretariat.

Deadlines

The closing dates for material for *The Linnean* are 29 April 1987 for the August issue and 28 August for the December 1987 issue.

Room Closure

The Rooms will be closed as follows: 17–21 April, 2–5 May, 23–26 May and 29 August to 1 September.

From the Archives

We are not sure whether some of the items we unearth are still 'privileged', but by publishing samples from time to time we can at least allude to life in and outside the Society in its earlier, formative years.

Some of you will have been aware that the Royal Horticultural Society and Sotheby's, the auctioneers, combined in January this year to mount a major exhibition on "The Glory of the Garden". We loaned our portraits of Linnaeus, Ehret, W. J. Hooker, Loudon, Masson, and an original drawing of David Douglas, the subject of that rather sad little tale referred to in *The Linnean* 1(2):4 (and see also p. 18 this issue). The following correspondence between our President James Edward Smith and the Secretary Alexander Mc'Leay is, we hope, very far from being relevant today. Mark you, there are times when we would like to be protected in the same manner as Mr Brown and his staff. . . !

J. E. Smith to A. Mc'Leay

Norwich February 13 1817

My dear Sir

your letter came free from Holkham.—I enclose a letter for Mr Bradbury, if you think it proper to frank it to him.—

I enclose also a little paper for Linn. Soc. to be read when wanted. My *Tafieldia* I presume has been read. I must make an addition before it is printed.

I do not at all like the idea of having a house occupied *every* day! It will make it so publick! & perhaps endanger our property, for who can say that some one person or other may not often stray into our Lib^y. etc—& who can always tell FLS's from FHS's?

It will also be extremely burthensome to Mr Brown, & our serv^{ts}.—He must often be out of the way—& cannot ans^r. for what may happen.—If it were agreed to, the Hort^l. Soc^y. ought to pay 100£ a year at least. But I am totally adverse to the scheme—not on acc^t. of that Soc^y. most of whose members are our friends, but because there will unavoidably be strangers, gardeners etc, up & down.—WE shall certainly neither be masters of our own house, nor feel so.—This is between ourselves—you will communicate what is proper of my opinion, so as to express my *decided* idea that *no* pay could compensate the trouble,—& that I am totally against the proposal.

I return Mr Sabine's letter.—To say the truth I have always felt that we should be more dignified if we had our house to ourselves.—

Picture quiz



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

The solution to the previous quiz was the arrival in the American Museum of Natural History in 1951 of Lady Smith Woodward's tablecloth (on which are embroidered the signatures of many famous scientists). Among those present were the Director Albert Parr and Drs Brooks Ellis, Edwin Colbert, G. G. Simpson, W. K. Gregory, J. H. McGregor and Bobb Schaeffer. An account of this tablecloth will feature in our next issue together with the quiz winners.

An extended solution to the Errol White picture on p. 11, 2(3) appears in this issue under correspondence.

Membership

We welcome the following who were elected on 22 January 1987:

Fellows

Colin Bowlit, B.Sc., Ph.D.
 Prof. Joseph William Bradbeer, Ph.D., D.Sc.
 Jennifer A. Clack, B.Sc., Ph.D.
 Michael John Crawley, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C.
 John Frame, M.Agr.Sc., Ph.D.
 Peter Sherlock Wyse Jackson, M.A., Ph.D.
 Ibrahim Abd El-Rahim Ibrahim Mashaly, M.Sc.
 Russell Alan Mittermeier, A.B., M.A., Ph.D.
 Matt Murphy
 Luis Eduardo Mora Osejo, Dr. rer.nat.
 Michael Brian Pearson, M.Sc., M.Phil.
 Donald H. Pfister, A.B., M.A., Ph.D.

Walter John Rainboth, M.S., Ph.D.
 Moh Rejdali
 Mark Ridley, B.A., D.Phil. (from Associate)
 Shirley Juliana Ryder
 Olav M. Skulberg
 Marvyn John Southam
 Lionel Edward Tyler, M.D., F.R.C.E.P.
 Mark Francis Watson, B.Sc.

Prof. Sawney David Webb, M.A., Ph.D.
 Prof. Edward Osborne Wilson, M.S., Ph.D.
 David Keith Yeates, B.Sc.

Associates

Henry Ernest Gee, B.Sc.
 Robert Fraser Leggate

Neil Parker Schultes (from Student Associate)
 Angus Andrew Walker

Student Associate

Andrew Robert Hirst, B.Sc.
 Elizabeth Mary Perkins

Gone Away

We would like to hear from anyone with information about the following Fellows whose correspondence has been returned marked 'Gone Away':

F. G. Bell—Kingston, Surrey; E. D. Brain—Reading, Berkshire; J. L. Cooper—Sausalito, California; E. R. Fitzsimmons—Oakland, California; P. Ford—Vancouver, B.C.; D. P. Gibson—Taunton, Somerset; J. R. S. Gilchrist—Fairlie, Ayrshire; J. N. Wilson—Animal Virus Research Institute, Woking.

Meetings

14 March 1987. *Aspects of Developmental Biology.* Sixth form Symposium at Eton College, Windsor. The speakers are: Dr M. Asburner, Prof. B. C. Godwin, Prof. C. F. Graham, F.R.S., Dr Mae Wan-Ho and Prof. Lewis Wolpert, F.R.S. This is the Second Saturday Regional Symposium. Members of the Society who are interested in attending should contact the organizer Dr D. A. S. Smith, Willowbrook, Eton College, Windsor, Berks SL4 6DX, Tel. (0753) 869359.

19 March 1987 at 09.55. *Changing Attitudes to Nature Conservation.* Bicentenary meeting with the Royal Society for Nature Conservation.

Agenda for Society business

1. Admission of Fellows.
2. Minutes of the Scientific Meeting held on 19 February 1987.
3. First reading of Certificates of Recommendation for election of Foreign Members and Fellows *honoris causa*.

4. Election of Auditors for the Treasurer's Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1986.
5. Ballot for the election of Fellows, Associates and Student Associates.

Programme

- 09.55 Welcome by Prof. W. G. Chaloner, P.L.S.
 10.00–10.30 *The National Trust*. Dr J. Harvey, Chief Adviser, Conservation and Woodlands.
 10.30–11.00 *The Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves*. Dr Miriam Rothschild, F.R.S.
 11.00–11.30 Coffee.
 11.30–12.00 *From preservation to conservation: wild life and the environment, 1900–1950*. Dr J. Sheail, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monkswood.
 12.00–12.30 *The Nature Conservancy and Nature Conservancy Council*. Prof. M. E. D. Poore, Stonesfield, Oxfordshire.
 12.30–13.00 *The Nature Conservation Trust Movement*. Mr A. E. Smith, O.B.E., Lincolnshire & South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.
 13.00–14.30 Lunch.
 14.15 Linnean Society business (see above)
 14.30–15.00 *The ornithological perspective*. Mr I. Prestt, C.B.E., Director General, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy.
 15.00–15.30 *The botanical perspective*, Mr D. E. Allen, F.L.S. President, The Botanical Society of the British Isles.
 15.30–16.00 Tea.
 16.30–17.00 *The entomological perspective*. Dr M. G. Morris, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Furzebrook.
 17.00–17.30 *The mammal perspective*. Dr P. A. Morris, Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, Egham.
 17.30–18.00 Discussion and closing remarks.
 18.30–21.00 Buffer Supper.

26–27 March 1987 at 11.10. ***Phylogeny and Classification of the Tetrapods***. This international symposium is being held in our Rooms jointly with the Systematics Association and the Palaeontological Association. Requests for details and last-minute applications to attend may be made to Dr M. J. Benton, F.L.S., Department of Geology, The Queen's University of Belfast BT7 1NN Northern Ireland, Tel. (0232) 245133 ext. 3414.

Programme

Thursday 26 March

- 10.00–11.10 Registration, Coffee.
 11.10 Welcome and introduction.
 11.15 *The relationships of the earliest tetrapods*. A. L. Panchen, T. R. Smithson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
 11.50 *The relationships and origin of living amphibians*. A. R. Milner, Birkbeck College, London.
 12.25 *The relationships of Amniota*. J. A. Gauthier, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
 13.00 Lunch.
 14.00 *The Anapsida relationships of captorhinomorphs, turtles, and the major groups of amniotes*. E. S. Gaffney, AMNH, New York.
 14.35 *The early history and relationships of Diapsida*. S. E. Evans, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London.
 15.10 *The relationships of lepidosaurs*. O. Rieppel, Zurich.
 15.45 Tea.
 16.15 *Archosaur phylogeny and the relationships of the Crocodylia*. M. J. Benton, Queen's, Belfast and J. Clark, Chicago.
 16.50 *The Dinosauria and the origin of birds*. J. A. Gauthier, Ann Arbor and J. Cracraft, Chicago.
 17.25 *The major clades of birds*. J. Cracraft, Chicago.
 18.15 Reception in the Library, Burlington House.
 20.00 Symposium Dinner, Imperial College.

Friday 27 March

- 09.00 *The phylogeny of mammal-like reptiles, and origin of mammals.* T. S. Kemp, Oxford.
 09.35 *The major groups of eutherian mammals.* M. J. Novacek, M. C. McKenna and A. R. Wyss, AMNH, New York.
 10.10 *Primitive mammals/marsupials.* M. Archer, Kensington, New South Wales.
 10.45 Coffee.
 11.15 *Phylogeny of the Carnivora.* J. J. Flynn, Rutgers, New Brunswick, N. A. Neff, Connecticut and R. Tedford, New York.
 11.50 *Rodents/rabbits and relatives.* J.-J. Jaeger, Université VI, Paris.
 12.25 *Phylogeny of the primates.* P. Andrews, BMNH, London.
 13.00 Lunch.
 14.00 *Phylogeny of the insectivores.* P. M. Butler, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London.
 14.35 *Overview of the Ungulata: Perissodactyla.* D. R. Prothero, Occidental College, California, E. Manning, Louisiana State University and M. Fischer, Tübingen.
 15.10 *The Phylogeny of the Artiodactyla.* A. W. Gentry and J. J. Hooker, BMNH, London.
 15.45 Tea.
 16.15 *The Tethytheria: elephants and their relatives.* P. Tassy, Université VI, Paris and J. Shoshani, Detroit.
 16.50 *Estimating the interrelationships of tetrapod groups on the basis of molecular sequence data.* M. J. Bishop and A. E. Friday, Cambridge.
 17.25 *Tetrapod phylogeny based on nucleotide and amino acid sequences.* J. Czelusniak, J. Shoshani and M. Goodman, Detroit.
 18.00 Closing remarks.

6–8 April 1987. *Pteridophyte Diversity.* Notice of this meeting was given in *The Linnean* 2(3):17. Please note the correct date. Last minute applications may be made to Dr D. Edwards, Department of Plant Science, University College, P.O. Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL, or by telephone to Dr B. A. Thomas, F.L.S. Cardiff (0223) 397951.

Programme

- 6 April p.m. Field meeting at Cattybrook Brick Pit (Westphalian compression flora).
 7 April Paper sessions at University College, Cardiff.
 8 April Field excursion to South Wales Coalfield and classic Old Red Sandstone localities.
 9 April a.m. Papers session at University College, Cardiff.

30 April 1987 at 18.15 *The Social and Intellectual Climate for Natural History in Eighteenth Century England.* Bicentenary General Interest Lecture. Dr Roy Porter of the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine will set the scene as it was at the time the Linnean Society was founded. Members of the Society for the History of Natural History will be joining us for this lecture and the subsequent informal gathering in the library. Wine and sandwiches will be served. The green notice and booking form, which contains the abstract, must be completed by all who wish to attend. Application, which will not be acknowledged unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, must be returned by Friday 24 April.

7 May 1987 at 10.25. *Bryology: modern research and the ways forward.* This, the last in the series of bicentenary meetings arranged for the 1986–87 session, is being held jointly with the British Bryological Society. Details are on the booking form loose in this issue and may also be obtained from Burlington House.

Agenda for Society Business

1. Admission of Fellows.
2. Minutes of the Scientific Meeting held on 19 March 1987.
3. Second reading of Certificates of Recommendation for the election of Foreign Members and Fellows *honoris causa*.

Provisional Programme

- 9.30 Reception and Coffee.
 10.25 Welcome by Prof. W. G. Chaloner, P.L.S.
- Session I* Biochemistry and cytology, chaired by Mr G. Bloom.
 10.30–11.15 *Biochemical inter-relationships*. Prof. D. H. Lewis, University of Sheffield.
 11.15–12.00 *Growth regulation and development*. Prof. D. J. Cove, University of Leeds.
 12.00–12.45 *Chromosomes as indicators of reproductive performance*. Dr M. E. Newton, University of Manchester.
 12.45 Discussion.
 13.00–14.15 Lunch.
 14.00 Linnean Society business (see above).
- Session II* Geographical distribution of bryophytes, chaired by Prof. R. M. Schuster, University of Massachusetts.
 14.15–15.00 *Bryogeography*. Prof. W. B. Schofield, University of British Columbia.
 15.00–15.45 *Australian bryogeography*. Dr G. A. B. Scott, University of Melbourne.
 15.45–16.30 *Adaptations and strategies in polar bryophytes*. Dr R. E. Longton, University of Reading.
 16.30–17.15 Tea.
- Session III* Bryophyte inter-relations, chaired by Prof. W. G. Chaloner.
 17.15–18.00 *Aims and achievements of bryophyte taxonomists*. Prof. R. M. Schuster.
 18.00–18.45 *The cell and molecular biology of bryophytes: ultimate limits to the resolution of phylogenetic problems*. Prof. J. G. Duckett, Queen Mary College, London.

21 May 1987 at 16.00. Tea will be served at 15.30. ***Anniversary Meeting.***

Agenda

1. Admission of Fellows.
2. Minutes of the Scientific Meeting held on 7 May 1987.
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.
4. Ballot for new Members of Council and for the election of Foreign Members, Fellows and Associates.
5. Presentation of Medals and Awards.
 Linnean Medals to: Dr G. Fryer, F.R.S. and Professor V. H. Heywood
 The Trail-Crisp Award to: Dr S. Blackmore
 The H. H. Bloomer Award to: Mr M. C. Clark
 The Bicentenary Medal to: Dr A. J. J. Jeffreys, F.R.S.
6. Treasurer's Financial Report and Accounts for 1986.
7. Results of the Ballots for new Members of Council, Foreign Members, Fellows and Associates.
8. Ballot for Officers.
9. Executive Secretary's Report and review of the Session 1986-87.
10. Presidential Address: The Silent Invasion
11. Result of the Ballot for Officers.
12. Appointment of Vice-Presidents for 1987-88.

17 June 1987, 19.30–22.30 *Conversazione.*

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. Fellows are invited to display posters, exhibits and working equipment, and to make proposals for exhibitors or suitable displays of which they are aware from other organizations and establishments.

Dress: Dinner Jacket or lounge suit.

Cost: £6 per head.

Entrance: This will be by ticket only. Applications, from members of the Society only, should be made in writing on the enclosed slip by not later than Friday 4 June.

Other Meetings

1987

April

6-10

Air Pollution and Plant Metabolism. 2nd International Symposium. Munich, West Germany. Details from: Dr S. Schulte-Hostede, GSF (PBWU) Munchen, Ingolstadter Landstrasse I, D-8042 Neuherberg, West Germany.

8-10

New Perspectives in Plant Science. Symposium to celebrate the centenary of the Annals of Botany. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Details from: Prof. J. D. Dodge, Botany Department, Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.

16-22

Is Desert Ecology Unique? International Workshop at Ben Gurion University, Israel. Details from: Prof. U. Safriel, The Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Sede Boker Campus, Israel.

24

Insect Pollination. Cardiff University. Sponsored by Royal Entomological Society. Details from: Prof. R. S. Pickard, Dept. of Zoology, University College, Cardiff CF1 1XL.

27

Tropical Agricultural Applications of Remote Sensing. Seminar. Details from: Mr L. N. Foster, TAA (UK), Maydene, Old Litten Lane, Froxfield, Petersfield, Hants GU32 1BG.

May

12-14

De Vis Symposium Vertebrate Palaeontology and Allied Sciences. Details from: Dr S. Turner, Queensland Museum, Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006, Australia.

19

'Project Wallace', The Royal Entomological Society Expedition to N Sulawesi, Indonesia, 1985. Dr J. S. Noyes, BM(NH), L.N.H.S. at Burlington House.

June

8-11

Reproductive Ecology of Tropical Forest Plants. Bangi, Malaysia. UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. Details from: MAB Secretariat, Division of Ecological Sciences, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75700, Paris.

17

Kew's Bicentenary of Plant Introduction. R.B.G. Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Details from: Mr L. N. Foster, Tropical Agriculture Association, as above.

- 24–25 *Frequency Dependent Selection*. Royal Society Discussion Meeting. 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW17 5AG.
- 29 June–
2 July *International Symposium on Biosystematics of Haematophagous Insects*. Closing date for registration: 30 May 87 after which fees increased by 20%. Details from: Dr M. W. Service, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA.
- July
Fringing Habitats. 17th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Estuarine and Brackish-Water Sciences Association. University of Hull. Details from: Dr P. Doody, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough
- 1–3 *Prospects in Systematics*. Marks the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Systematics Association. Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.
- 6–10 *Biology for Teachers*. Three one-day courses on Ecology, Cell Biology and Genetics. Leeds University. Details from: Dr P. F. Knowles, Astbury Department of Biophysics, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT.
- 6–10 *International Conference on Measurement of Soil and Plant Water Status*. Logan, Utah, U.S.A. Details from: R. J. Hanks, Department of Soil Science Biometeorology, Utah State University, Logan UT, 84322–4840, U.S.A.
- 14–18 *International Symposium on Vegetational Structure*. Utrecht, Netherlands. Details from: Symposium Secretariat, Department of Plant Ecology, Lange Nieuwstraat 106, 3512 PN Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- August
24–29 *International Symposium on Maize Arthropods*. Godollo, Hungary. Details from: F. Szentkirayli, Department of Zoology, Plant Protection Institute, P.O. Box 102, H-1525 Budapest, Hungary.
- International Peat Society Symposium*. Fenlands and fen peat soils, their genesis, transformation and utilization. Poland. Details from: Mr R. A. Robertson, Department of Peat and Forest Soils, Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen.
- August 30–
4 September *Acid Rain*—an International Conference. Chemistry Department, University of Essex. Details from: Dr R. M. Harrison, Institute of Aerosol Science, Department of Chemistry, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ.
- September
2–4 *S.E.M. in Taxonomy and Functional Morphology*. Systematics Association at Nottingham.
- 23–25 *The Ecology of Insect Introductions*. Reading University. Details from: Dr P. Whalley, Department of Entomology, BM(NH), London SW7 5BD.

November

- 14 *The Use of Computers in the Classification and Mapping of Fungi*. British Mycological Society Autumn Taxonomy Meeting. Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey.

December

- 14–15 *Hazards of Biotechnology: real or imaginary*. Biological Council Symposium at the Middlesex Hospital. Details from: Prof. P. N. Campbell, Department of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London W1P 6DB.

1988

March

- 21–23 *Hamamelidae: Systematics, Fossil History and Evolution*. Reading. Systematics Association.

April

- 6–8 *The Chromophyte Algae: Problems and Perspectives*. Plymouth, England. Systematics Association.

May

- 25–27 *The Development of Systematic Botany in Australasia*. Melbourne, Australia. Symposium being held by A.S.B.S. in the Bicentennial year. Details from: Dr P. S. Short, Bloomsbury Conference Services, P.O. Box 2368, Richmond South, 3121, Victoria, Australia.

July

- 18–23 *The Second International Succulent Plant Congress—Aloe 88*. Harare, Zimbabwe. Details from: Mr M. J. Kimberley F.L.S., The Convenor of Aloe 88, P.O. Box 8514, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

- 25–29 *Fifth International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria including Archaeocyatha and Spangiomorphs*. Brisbane, Australia. Details from: Conference Secretariat, Uniquist University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Qld, 4067, Australia.

Correspondence

Sektionen för Paleozoologi,
Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet,
Box 50007,
Stockholm

22.9.86

Dear Brian,

The picture quiz in the recent *Linnean* (vol. 3, no. 2) is of particular interest to us in this department. The rugged-looking fellow standing in front of his tent is, of course, Errol I. White, former president of the Linnean Society. The occasion is the joint English–Norwegian–Swedish expedition to Spitzbergen in 1939. The

expedition was headed by E. A. Stensiö of this department, and Errol White was head of the British party, the other members of which were Moy-Thomas, Brough and Croft. The exact 'where' of the photograph we believe is Mount Lykta, where the expedition began its work (during work at subsequent localities, the expedition lived mainly on the M/S Heimen, the expedition vessel, rather than in tents), and if the site is correctly identified, the photograph was taken between July 5 and 13, shortly after White's 38th birthday. The photograph may have been taken by G. Wängsjö. It was not proven possible to identify the owner of the elbow to be seen sticking into the photograph on the right.

An outline of the expedition's work is to be found in Føyn and Heintz (1943; *Skrifter om Svalbard no. 85*), which also includes a photograph of the expedition members. One of us (no prizes for guessing who) has a collection of additional photographs, including one in colour of White wearing a red and black shirt which looks like someone's racing colours: very effective indeed. The photograph which we enclose as a rounding off to this quiz shows White (on the right) looking somewhat dejected on contemplating his trousers after having



been stuck in a mudflow. On the left is Stensiö, having his trousers refastened after losing them while rescuing White. Doing the refastening is K. Andreassen of the Norwegian team. The photograph was taken by E. Jarvik.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

ERIK JARVIK
(*historicus*)

LARS WERDELIN
(*scriptor*)

*Editors note: We have awarded Erik a small prize in the form of a tea cup decorated with *Linnaea borealis* L.

Division of Entomology,
CSIRO,
109,
Canberra City

10.9.86

Dear Sir,

In *The Linnean* 1(2):4, I have noted with interest the item regarding the botanist David Douglas whose name first came to my attention more than 50 years ago (I went to Hawaii in 1934 and served as an entomologist there for many years). Although Douglas was supposed to have been killed by a bull, there appears to be reason to believe that he was murdered and his body thrown into the cattle trap. What would lead a skilled field naturalist to enter such a trap?

If the East Kilbride History Museum would like more information, perhaps a note could be sent to Prof. Harold St John, F.L.S., Bishop Museum, P.O. Box 19000-A, Honolulu 96817, Hawaii. St John is now about 95 years old and continuing to describe new plants.

ELWOOD C. ZIMMERMAN

20.11.86

Biology Department,
King's College,
Kensington W8

Dear Brian,

Concerning your article on Linnaeus's Floral Clock. Did you know that in 1953 Jean Françaix (b. 1912) composed *L'horloge de Flore* (for oboe and orchestra) in which the pieces represent each floral time?

MIKE BLACK

The Spalding Gentlemen's Society

In the reign of Elizabeth the First a few learned men endeavoured to collect and preserve the important records dispersed throughout the land following the demise of the monastic institutions under Henry the Eighth. Foremost among them was Sir Robert Cotton who held meetings for interested gentlemen to discuss the preservation of such documents. They even appealed to Elizabeth for a charter, pointing out the importance of ancient records in determining proof of Royal Title against usurpations of the Pope. Interest thrived for 30 years or more, supported by Sir Walter Raleigh, Lord Burleigh, William Camden and others, but the policies of James the First held the investigations of these men under suspicion—which sent them to ground and saw the end of the first

'Antiquarians'. However, during the Civil War some scholars, notably Ashmole, Dugdale and Usher, pursued their researches in private and formed the basis of a revived interest. The thirst for knowledge of all aspects of science through experiment and observation in the second half of the seventeenth century culminated in the formation of the Royal Society in 1663. Primarily the pursuit of professionals, the interest grew and spread to the provinces through landed gentry and craftsmen. It may be said that a turning point was the appointment of Sir Isaac Newton as President of the Royal Society in 1703. He encouraged a strictly scientific path which forced some members to seek fresh places for the exchange of general ideas.

It was during this period that a few gentlemen of law began to hold weekly meetings at coffee-houses near The Temple. Among them were two Lincolnshire men, Maurice Johnson and William Stukeley. The meetings eventually established a firmer plan, and by 1717 the Society of Antiquaries had been formed with the election of officers, and Maurice Johnson as librarian.

Johnson was a barrister and a land and property owner, with a devotion to all aspects of science and antiquarian topics. He lived at Ayscoughfee Hall near Spalding, a town which by the end of the seventeenth century had become an important port and the major market town of the South Holland fen district in Lincolnshire. In 1710 Johnson had established a Gentlemen's Club in a coffee-house at Abbey Yard in Spalding where members met to read aloud editions of *The Tatler*, and discuss literary topics, local antiquities and natural history curiosities. The meetings were informal 'upon tryal how such an designe might succeed'. By 1712 officers had been elected with Johnson as secretary, and minutes were carefully kept on separate sheets of paper which were later bound up into a book. Statutes of the Society stated that a President would be chosen monthly, meetings would be every Monday at 2 p.m. in the winter months and at 4 p.m. at other times. Non attendance incurred a fine of 2d for the book fund and absence for four consecutive meetings without excuse meant that a curio had to be produced for discussion. The meetings were later changed to Thursdays, and have continued to the present day. In 1714 a detailed list of regulations for meetings was drawn up as follows:—

The Society must assemble at four

When the season requires there must be a table, two candles, a pair of snuffers and a good fire

There must be a pot of coffee of an ounce to eight dishes, or in proportion

There must be a pot of Bohea tea of half an ounce to twelve dishes

There must be twelve clean pipes and an ounce of best tobacco

There must be a chamber pot

There must be a Latin Dictionary and a Greek Lexicon

The coffee and tea must be ready at exactly five and taken away at six, which done the papers must be read by some member, then a tankard of ale holding one quart and no more must be set upon the table.

The President must always sit on the right side of the chimney and take care of the fire

From 1714 to about 1725 Johnson had difficulty in maintaining and encouraging interest in this new society and was the sole driving force for its continuation. He commented that 'young men are lured away by parties of

pleasure and amusement of dancing, cards, bowls and billiards' The surviving record of these early years of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society is mainly his memories and correspondence written down at a later date. His wish was to establish a network of similar societies throughout the country but this was not to be, even with commendations and encouragement from Sir Isaac Newton who became a member in 1724. In 1724/5 the minute book became a more serious and formal record of the proceedings of the Society, with fascinating accounts of the wide range of subjects discussed. Their preservation has left us with early descriptions of a variety of plants and animals, from peculiar fish from Boston Deepes to the Large Copper butterfly, all annotated with detailed drawings (see Owen, 1981, and Heath, 1985, for examples). Two years later, two rooms, a garden and offices were obtained in the Abbey Yard of Mr Sparke, and described as 'commodious, being one for a museum wainscotted and pressed around, the other a withdrawing room fitt for our servants to attend in'.



Book plate of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society.

By September 1727 the museum room had been filled with 'usefull instrumentes and curiosities' making it, next to the Ashmolean, the second oldest museum in Britain. About this time regular concerts were held on Thursdays after dinner, a Grimaldi harpsichord was purchased and music by Corelli, Valentini and Vivaldi was obtained for the library. Ladies were allowed

to attend but were confined to the staircase and parlours! In 1738 Thomas Topham, the strong man of Islington, performed feats of strength, 'having thrust in under his garter the bowl of a strong tobacco pipe his legs being bent he broke to pieces the bowl by the tendons of his hams without altering the bending of his legs.' In the next few years membership increased and the Society attracted such men as Sir Hans Sloane, George Vertue, Dr William Stukeley, John Gay, Samuel Wesley and Alexander Pope. The custom of new members presenting a book to the library or a specimen to the museum ensured ever growing collections. In 1743 Vertue executed a mezzotint plate of the Birth of Venus for use as a bookplate, symbolizing fenland reclamation. Throughout these years discussion of antiquarian topics continued, ranging from the ancient charters of Spalding Priory, the miss-use of stone coffins as hog troughs, volumes of Caxton (Johnson had 19 in his private library), and archaeological finds, to discussion of natural history specimens.

In 1755 Johnson died, aged 67, suffering from a vertiginous disorder. The Society soon lapsed into a state of hibernation, the minute book ceased to be used, the physic garden established in 1728 was given up and little was added to the collections. The account books, however, preserve the continuity of records of the Society, covering the period 1718–1822. Although interested, not one of Johnson's children (of 26 it is recorded that 16 sat down at table together but only eight were alive in 1755) could find the time to devote the necessary attention the Society required. In 1768 Sir Joseph Banks was elected an honorary member and it is suprising that he did not act as a new driving force for revival. He certainly had the necessary interests and influence and spent some time each year at his Revesby estate in Lincolnshire. In 1828 Dr Moore was elected President and use of the minute book was resumed, but no meetings are recorded from April 1875 to 1889. In 1851 a short history of the Society was published by Moore which shows that on the first of January of that year there were five honorary members and 15 regular members, including three of Johnson's descendants.

On 15 July 1889 surviving members held a meeting and decided to make an earnest effort to revive the Society and clean up the library and museum which were 'in a filthy state'. In September of the same year, the Society was reborn with the appointment of Dr Perry as President and H. Stanley Maples as Treasurer, who both encouraged considerable interest in and donations to the collections. Subsequent Presidents and members continued the trend and new donations flowed in, especially from Ashley K. Maples, a Spalding solicitor who was a most generous benefactor. In 1911, thanks to the generosity of some members and a bi-centenary fund, a new building was erected to house the Society in Broad Street, Spalding. Purpose-built with a library, museum, lecture hall and a caretaker's flat, it was provided with a strong room and additional library space in 1925. The large collection of British birds (800 specimens) presented by Ashley K. Maples is now housed at Ayscoughfee Hall.

Today the Spalding Gentlemen's Society is one which Maurice Johnson would be proud of. It thrives with weekly meetings and a regular programme of lectures, the library and museum continues to expand and contains items of national and provincial importance, representing a haven to any 'modern antiquarian' researching in the agricultural wastes of the South Holland Lincolnshire Fens.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Mr Leveritt (Hon. Curator) for reading the manuscript and his useful comments.

References

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JAMES P. DEAR,
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Boston PE22 8AY

Royal Commissions and Latin Essays: the Glasgow Tradition, 1720–1885

When F. O. Bower read his Latin essay “De Somno Plantarum” to the Senate of the University of Glasgow on 12 May 1885 he was bringing to a close a sequence of events common to Professorial appointments of that time. The assembled members of the Senate having ‘sustained’ the essay he was duly admitted to the Chair of Botany after making certain declarations (Boney, 1985). Since his was a Regius (Crown) Chair, all the events immediately preceding the appointment had been officially set in train at the University by the reading to the Senate of his Commission of Appointment on 1 May 1885. Bower was in fact thirteenth in a succession of Chair holders, all of whose appointments had been prefaced by the reading of a Royal Commission, and for some of whom the exercise of a Latin essay was considered necessary. The first in this succession was Thomas Brisbane M.D., son of Matthew Brisbane, Dean of Faculties at the University from 1675–76 and Rector from 1677–81. Brisbane’s Commission, issued by command of George I and dated 23 February 1720, refers to the office of Professor of Botany in the University being vacant due to the death of John Marshall “late Botanist there”. It then states that the supplying “of the same would much lend to the benefit and Improvement of the students in the said University and most especially such as are willing to apply themselves to the study of Medicine and Withall considering how necessary and useful it may be and a fuller encouragement to them that the subject of Anatomy be taught and profest within the said University”. After describing the suitability of Brisbane for the appointment and stating that his tenure would be for life, the Commission next requested that he was “to have and enjoy all the privileges of a professor of Medicine or which may be competent to any other

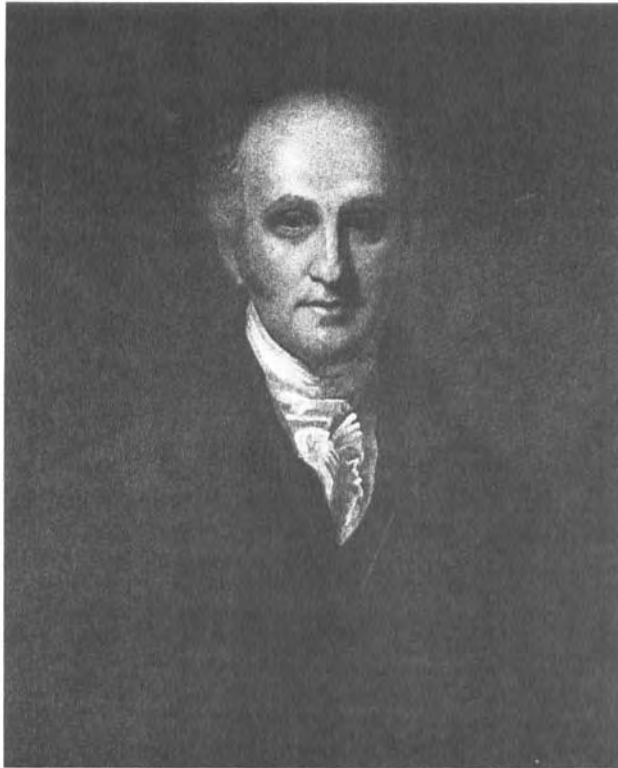
professor or Teacher within the said University. With all the Revenues profits and Emoluments belonging to the said professions of Botany and Anatomy. And particularly the sum of Thirty Pounds sterling yearly". This last referred to the Crown's contribution, the additional sources of income being the fees charged to the students for lectures and examinations. In addition Brisbane was able to continue in private practice if he so wished to do. Finally, the Commission required the "Rector, Principal, Dean and all professors and masters of the said University to Admit and Receive the said Doctor Thomas Brisbane to the peaceable Exercise and profession of the said Office and professions in the usual form". Brisbane was installed on 7 March 1720 after the formal reading of his Commission to the Faculty, then the Governing body of the University.

Brisbane's appointment was part of the University's commitment to the establishment of a medical school. James Johnstoun had been installed as Professor of the Practice of Medicine in 1714. An earlier appointment in 1637 had lapsed after the death of the Chair holder Robert Mayne in 1646. The initial stages of re-establishing the teaching of medicine had been initiated in 1704 when part of the University grounds was set aside as a Physic Garden. At the same time John Marshall was installed as Teacher of Botany and Overseer of the University Gardens with particular responsibility for the physic (or botanic) garden. For these duties he was paid £240 scots (=£20 sterling) yearly, and he continued in this employment until his death in 1719. A grant by Queen Anne to the University in 1708 included £30 sterling as salary for "a professor of botany". On this basis it has been assumed that Marshall then took the title of Professor and the annual salary (Bower, 1903; Coutts, 1909). However, the University records for that time give no indications that Marshall ever assumed the title or that he actually received the annual sum of money in Queen Anne's grant. Brisbane thus remains the first appointed Professor of Botany although in the form of a dual post. It was singularly unfortunate for the University that neither Johnstoun nor Brisbane made any real contributions to the teaching of their subjects after installation in their Chairs. From their overall contributions to the University they come down to us as 'inert professors' (Coutts, 1909). Brisbane had a marked aversion to anatomy and was sickened at having to dissect cadavers. Whilst he seems to have taught botany in the early years, in time he ceased to do this as well. Despite repeated attempts by the University to enforce the duties laid down by the Royal Commission and the protestations of the students, the only features of the Commission to which Brisbane in the main adhered was receipt of the annual salary of £30 and to keep the title of Professor for life. Meanwhile the teaching of his subjects became the function of substitutes, physicians or surgeons in the town, who would have received the various fees paid by the students. Brisbane spent his time building up an extensive medical practice in the town. He died on 27 March 1742. Brisbane's successor was Robert Hamilton M.D., who had already been teaching in the University as one of the substitutes for the 'inert' professors. Hamilton's Commission of Appointment, dated 29 April 1742 in the reign of George II, was similar in all respects to that of Brisbane, lacking only the verbose preamble. However, Hamilton did now pay some attention to his duties of teaching botany and anatomy as required. He had the additional advantage of the co-operation of William Cullen, an energetic and progressive teacher in the University both as a substitute and after his appointment to the Chair of

Medical Practice in 1751. With Hamilton's resignation in 1756, Joseph Black M.D., more renowned for his contributions to chemistry than to botany and anatomy, succeeded him for 12 months, and was in turn followed by Thomas Hamilton M.D., brother of Robert. Nothing was changed in the Royal Commission for these successors, including the annual salary of £30.

One sentence in each Commission immediately following the preamble was the same as that for Brisbane, i.e. "... And being informed of the abilities and good Qualifications of Doctor Thomas Brisbane Doctor of Medicine for discharging the said trust." With the substitution of the name of the appointee. Whilst it may be suspected that those who recommended Brisbane's appointment came from the University circle, and probably for the other appointments which followed, we have clear evidence that this was so in one case. Thomas Hamilton was a popular member of the Faculty and well known in the town, but seems to have preferred teaching anatomy to botany. In August 1777 he was taken ill, and at the Faculty meeting of 31 October 1780 a letter from him was read pointing out that his precarious state of health prevented him from properly carrying out his duties, and asking that his son William be appointed as his substitute, to which arrangement the Faculty agreed. Then, at the 13 February 1781 meeting another letter from Hamilton was read, in which he again drew attention to his continuing ill health preventing him from carrying out his dissecting duties, and that he now proposed his son as his successor in office, citing his qualifications (including training under William Hunter in London) and asking that his colleagues on Faculty "... write in a proper representation to the Crown to Procure my office for my son, which I hereby promise to resign. And it would greatly enhance the obligation and favour if you would do this with all convenient speed, as you are all aware of the very precarious situation of my health". The one condition stipulated by Hamilton was that he should retain the use of his College house, his son accordingly demitting his right to a College house during his father's lifetime. The Faculty meeting of 20 February 1781, having considered Hamilton's letter, "... judged the desire of the same highly reasonable and unanimously resolved to recommend Mr William Hamilton to the Secretary of State as a person most fit and well-qualified to succeed his father in the Office of Professor of Botany and Anatomy". A Committee was then appointed to make a recommendation and petition to the Secretary of State with the result that William Hamilton's Commission (similar to those preceding) was read to the Faculty on 6 April 1781. William Hamilton was the one incumbent of the combined Chair who seems to have made balanced contributions to the two subjects he was required to teach. His tenure of office was short, however, and he died on 13 March 1790 aged 32 years. Despite the obvious patronage preceding his appointment, William Hamilton fully justified the recommendations made on his behalf to the Secretary of State. His successor was James Jeffray M.D., for whose appointment on 18 May 1790 the wording of the Commission remained virtually unchanged from that of Brisbane 70 years beforehand—including the Crown salary of £30. Jeffray did much to improve the accommodation and facilities for teaching anatomy but was less interested in botany. In 1808 he proposed to the Faculty that the teaching of the two subjects should be separated. The Faculty agreed to this on condition that no extra charges should be made on their funds, and Thomas Brown, surgeon at the Royal Infirmary,

was duly appointed teacher of botany and continued so for a number of years. This positive move to separate the teaching of the two subjects would seem to have underlain the subsequent creation of the separate Chair of Botany with Robert Graham (previously having succeeded Thomas Brown as teacher of botany) being appointed first incumbent on 17 March 1818 after having presented his Commission of Appointment to the Senate on 3 March. Graham's Commission, issued by George III, follows for the most part the same lines as those preceding, although specific mention is made of a Regius Professorship of Botany. The annual salary was raised to £50. However, in addition to laying

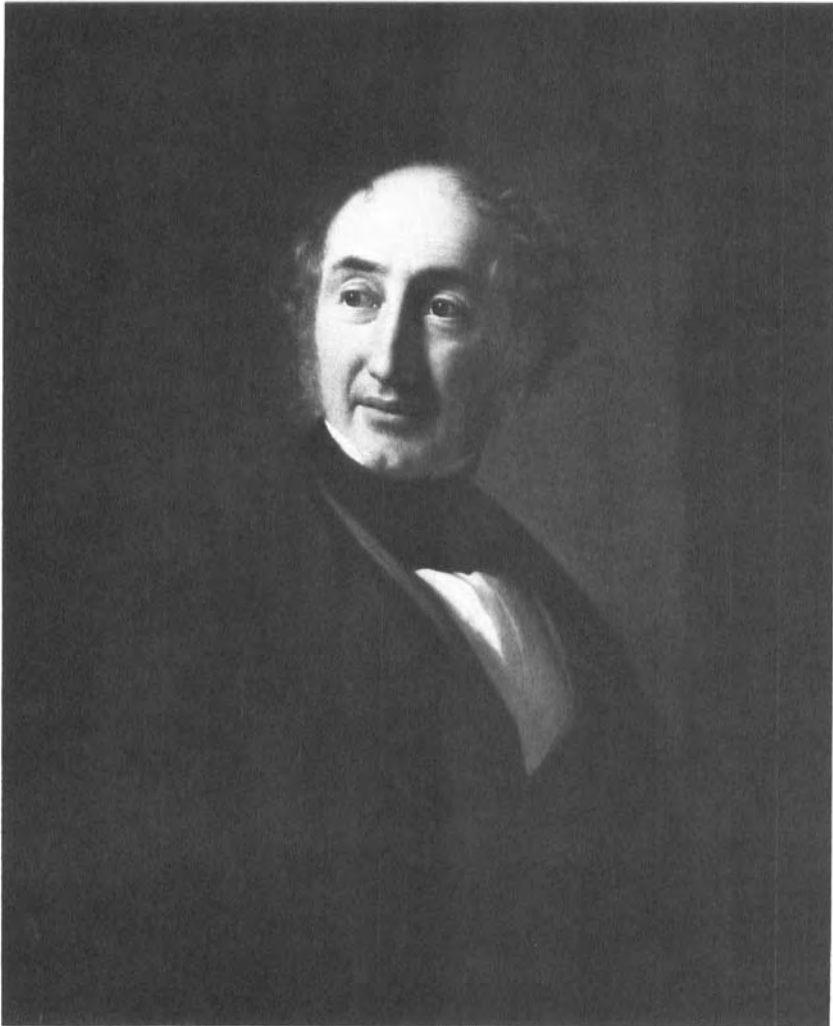


Robert Graham

down his entitlement to all the powers and privileges of a professor in the University, a number of exceptions to these were included, viz., he was excluded from the right and power of taking any share of the examinations of candidates for degrees in medicine, or participating in any emoluments arising therefrom; he was excepted from any right to a share of or participation in any of the funds or emoluments belonging to the University; he was not entitled to interfere with the patrimonial rights of other professors already established in the University; he was not to act or interfere in the management of funds vested in the University for literary or other purposes; and, he would have no right to vote or act in the appointment of professors. These inclusions in the Commission point directly to the coterie of 'established professors' deciding with the Secretary of

State certain of the conditions of appointment to the new Chair—and similar exceptions were listed in the Chair of Chemistry created at the same time. This inner circle, which made up the Faculty of the University, consisted of the Principal and 13 Professors occupying Chairs established up to 1760. Jeffray, now occupying the Chair of Anatomy, was one of this group. The Faculty had the management of all the revenues and property of the University, whilst the Senate of that time included all the professors, and was concerned with the conferring of degrees and the management of the library. This distinction remained until the recommendations of a Royal Commission charged with the reform of the Scottish Universities were adopted in 1858. On the day that Graham's Commission was read to the Senate, a minute drew attention to the right by its members of "appointing such of their number, as they shall think proper, to examine the candidates for Medical Degrees". This was 'intimated' to Graham on his admission so that, despite the wording of the first exception listed in his Commission, Graham (as a holder of the degree of M.D.) was being excepted from this one exception. William Jackson Hooker, however, who succeeded Graham in 1820, was to suffer some embarrassment in later years as a result of these exceptions (Allen, 1967). Hooker's commission, dated 10 February 1820, issued by command of George IV, included all the general statements as with Graham's including the salary of £50. The exceptions (or exclusions) listed in Graham's Commission were not stated but were covered by the sentence "... with all rights, immunities and privileges which belong to any other Professor within the said University or that which he or his predecessor in office hitherto enjoyed"—this last part of the statement being new. Hooker's influence on botany during his 21 years at Glasgow needs no further comment here. His relationships with his professorial colleagues were often far from happy, and he was subject to some petty restrictions and manoeuvrings on occasions, not least on behalf of the inner circle of the Faculty (Allen, 1967). Even his last links with Glasgow were soured. On the day that the Commission of his successor, J. Hutton Balfour, was presented to the Senate (11 October 1841), one member asked that it be marked in the minutes that "... the Senate should, previous to receiving the Commission, have received a formal resignation from Sir William Jackson Hooker," Hooker, having informed the Secretary of State of his resignation, had refrained from officially notifying the University. Hooker's Commission also contained a new statement, "... giving and granting to the said William Jackson Hooker the oversight, care and direction of the Royal Botanic Garden established at Glasgow and to be our Botanist within that part of the aforesaid United Kingdom ...". The inclusion of the reference to the Royal Botanic Garden echoes the formation of the Royal Botanic Institution of Glasgow in 1817, largely through the initiative of Thomas Hopkirk with the assistance of James Jeffray and some leading citizens. The University Physic (or Botanic) Garden had been subject to varying degrees of interest by those in charge since its inception in 1704. In its first 15 years under John Marshall there was a steady development and regular annual expenditure on its upkeep. Thomas Brisbane had no interest in the garden, whilst Robert Hamilton with the assistance of William Cullen brought about some enlargement of its area. Thomas Hamilton took a passing interest in it, but the most energetic and involved management was undoubtedly that of William Hamilton, who exerted a careful control over the work of the gardener, added

to the greenhouses at his own expense, and increased the numbers of exotic plants. His successor, James Jeffray, maintained a fair degree of interest in the garden, regularly extracting money from the Faculty—usually every two years—for plants, manure and soil for its upkeep. Throughout its existence 10 gardeners were appointed in succession with specific responsibilities for work in the botanic garden. By 1803 there were complaints that the fumes from the nearby University type-foundry were damaging the plants—seemingly a belated recognition of its effects since the foundry had been operational since 1762. Throughout the succeeding years various attempts were made to establish the botanic garden elsewhere in the town, two sites being purchased with this development in mind. The site of the botanic garden in the University grounds was finally sold in 1814. However, the moves by Thomas Hopkirk and his



William Jackson Hooker

associates exactly suited the University, and by contributing £2000 towards the foundation of the new Botanic Garden the University obtained the right of three Directorships, one of which was to be the Professor of Botany. With the establishment of the new garden with attendant teaching facilities, the University's teaching requirements were met at least until 1841 when the garden was moved to its present site. The reference to the Directorship in Hooker's Commission gives the impression that he would have been in sole charge rather than the member of a Board. The reference to "our Botanist within that part of the aforesaid United Kingdom" gives (for the first time) a Crown stamp to the wider implications of the appointment. Hutton Balfour's Commission, signed by Queen Victoria, was of similar wording to Hooker's, with one exception over which there was a hitch in the arrangements. A letter dated 17 May 1841 from Balfour to a George Webster of the Old Palace, London, refers to the fact that his Commission could not properly pass the Privy Seal of Scotland "until the error in the salary is corrected". The Commission as first written had incorrectly stated the annual salary as £50, as for Hooker. Balfour pointed out that in 1840 Parliament had granted the University £800 annually, of which £50 was to be added to the existing salary of the Professor of Botany, so making the Crown contribution £100. He further asked that a Treasury Warrant be obtained for the modified sum as soon as possible "... in order that my induction may take place". His induction did not take place until the following October. His salary, however, as stated in the Commission, commenced on 15 May 1841.



John Hutton Balfour

After 4 years in office Balfour resigned in December 1845 on succeeding Robert Graham in the Chair at Edinburgh. A letter from Balfour informing the Senate of his resignation was read by the Principal at the meeting on 10 December 1845, and the Commission of George Arnott Walker Arnott as his successor was read "with all due respect" the next day. Arnott was the third in the succession of professors responsible for teaching botany whose appointment literally was for "all the days of his lifetime". The Senate Meeting on 21 May 1868 considered and agreed to a proposal by Arnott that, because of his poor health, a Dr Hugh Cleghorn be appointed his substitute to teach the botany class in the immediate summer session. On 25 June the Principal announced to the Senate that Arnott had died 8 days earlier.



George A. W. Arnott

The time scale between the Chair becoming vacant and the ensuing official warrant of appointment of a successor as expressed in a Commission is often difficult to determine. In the case of William Hamilton, a Faculty Committee was appointed on 20 February 1781 to negotiate with the Secretary of State, and his Commission was dated 8 March 1781. Since the Commission had to be written and issued from the Court of St James in London and then passed under the Privy Seal of Scotland in Edinburgh before it was valid, Hamilton's affairs were settled with commendable speed. Arnott's successor was Alexander Dickson. A letter in the Scottish Record Office dated 15 July 1868 from the Sub-Keeper of the Privy Seal in Edinburgh, and addressed to the Home Office, referred to the Commission being prepared for Dickson and asked the officials concerned to ensure that a certain clause be inserted, as with Arnott's warrant, "... for passing under the Seal". In a preceding Crown Chair appointment at Glasgow this clause had been excluded with the result that neither the Office of the Privy Seal nor the Writer received their fees. A letter in the Scottish Record Office dated 28 July 1863 and written by Gathorne-Hardy, 1st Earl of

Cranbrook and Home Secretary, and addressed to Queen Victoria, referred to the enclosed Commission for Dickson and respectfully asked for her signature. In this case there was a 41-day interval following Arnott's death. The Royal Warrant for Dickson, more verbose than any of those preceding but including the same essential features as with Arnott, included definition of the sources and amounts of the Crown salary, namely £100 from the Crown's Woods, Forests and Land Revenues, £100 from a Parliamentary Grant and, in addition, the value of the annual rents from the Island of Shuna—an Island north of Jura, lying between Luing and the mainland. This Commission, read before the Senate on 18 September 1868, was similar in all general respects to that of Isaac Bayley Balfour who followed Dickson after the latter's appointment to the Edinburgh Chair. Balfour's Commission was read on 15 May 1879, Dickson's resignation having been announced to the Glasgow Senate on 17 April. A similar time interval lapsed between Bower being told of his forthcoming move to Glasgow in early April 1885 and the reading of his Commission on 1 May. It is clear from his correspondence that Bower was irritated by the delay, not at the time fully appreciating the time scale involved over the necessary statutory procedures. Bower's warrant remained identical in its wording to the preceding one for Balfour.

Bower was also irritated on first coming to Glasgow by the seeming delay in the official assumption of his Professorial status. This was due to the requirement by the Senate that he had to prepare and read his Latin essay and deal with other formalities. These Latin essays were a feature of most professorial appointments and date from the early years of the 18th century. The first recorded essay for the Chair of Botany and Anatomy is that given by William Hamilton in 1781 (Table 1). It is evident from the title of Hamilton's essay and that of Jeffray that the Chair was regarded as a medical one, despite the fact that Botany was always given precedence in the title. There was usually a lapse of several days between the reading of the Commission and the presentation of the Latin Essay (or Exercise or Trial Discourse) to the Faculty or Senate. In the early years it seems that the standards of latinity were expected to be high, as evidenced by Hooker's great concern about his exercise, for which he asked the help of his father-in-law Dawson Turner (Allen, 1977). In Hooker's case the unique event took place of his Royal Commission being read, his Essay read and 'sustained' and his formal Declarations being all made on the same day, 27 April 1870. As stated in the Senate Minutes, "From the speciality of the circumstances in which Mr Hooker is placed, being just on the eve of beginning his Lectures, the Senate agreed to proceed to his admission immediately, at the same time resolving that this departure from the usual forms shall not be drawn into a precedent". One can sense the concern of more reactionary members of the Senate at the mode of Hooker's installation—this possibly due to pressures exerted by his sponsor Sir Joseph Banks. This initial hiatus may have been one small contributory factor to the rough ride that Hooker on occasions was to experience during the course of his professorship. In the case of Andrew Dickson, the only trace of his Latin essay in all the University records of the time is the one word "De . . .". In the draft notes of any Faculty or Senate meeting taken at the time by a scribe to be written up later in the Sederunt (Minute) Book, there is sometimes evidence that the title of a Latin essay was incompletely noted down at the time, as if the scribe found the spelling difficult

when given at dictation speed. For a few there is a marginal note "take in later", with the title of the essay then entered in different handwriting. Dickson's trial discourse title never was 'taken in'—even later.

These Latin essays seem not to have been kept once read. In one case only do we have some idea of the contents of an essay. The Faculty of Medicine, as distinct from the Faculty which was the governing body of the University, had its beginnings in the early years of the 18th century. All appointments to Botany chairs were regarded as part of the Medical Faculty. It was a tradition in the last century that a professor from the Medical Faculty gave an address to the medical students at the start of the winter academic session in October. When Isaac Bayley Balfour was asked to give the address at the commencement of the 1879 academic session he used his Latin essay of 15 May 1879 as the basis of his address on 28 October 1879, with the title *Some resemblances betwixt plants and animals in respect of their nutrition, with some remarks on the position of the natural history sciences in medical education*" (Balfour, 1879). The gist of his discourse was that whilst "... plants are the manufacturers, animals are the consumers, in the world's economy", the processes of breakdown of foodstuffs by 'ferments' which are "amylotic, emulsifying and albuminosic" in their effects in animal digestive processes had their counterparts in the plant kingdom, and that respiration was basically similar in plants and animals. The second half of his address was devoted to a justification of the inclusion of botany in a preliminary science course for a medical degree. This would seem to have been a response to pressures being applied from various sources to exclude some subjects from a general science training in medical courses and to replace them with more practical hospital experience. Balfour's spirited defence pointed to the value of the study of plants as the foundation of a practically orientated course of study, involving as it does a sound mental training allied with direct observational contact with physiological and morphological facts—a study of the manifestations of life in their most simple expressions.

The sequence of Royal Commissions and their contents give a potted history of the teaching of Botany in the University and of the changing viewpoints on the roles of both the professor in charge and of the subject. Not least of interest is the overt action of the 'inner circle' of the Faculty in 1818 to make sure that a new professor was excluded from some emoluments, even though his was a Regius Chair. The statement in Hooker's Commission "to be our Botanist in that part of the United Kingdom" was later used to advantage by Bower. Since the rights of a newly appointed professor were defined and interpreted in terms of his predecessors in office, on one occasion when Bower felt it to be necessary that he should serve on an important committee he pointed out to the Chairman that as the only Crown-appointed botanist in the West of Scotland he should by right be a member. He was duly co-opted. Whilst with the passage of time the Latin essays became something of a formality, they remained a facet of University life which the traditionalists on the Senate held on to until near the end of the last century. They represented a link with the medieval University in which Latin was the medium of teaching. William Cullen, who started giving lectures on Botany and Materia Medica in 1748, lectured in Latin for Botany, but this is the last recorded example. The essays were originally designed to test the person's ability to teach his subject. With the passage of time they seem to have become more a test of a person's determination to assume the title.

Table 1. Titles and their translations of Latin essays read by those appointed to Professorships of Botany in the University of Glasgow, 1781–1885

1781 William Hamilton	"De vasorum absorbentium natura et usu" "On the nature and use of absorbent vessels"
1790 James Jeffray	"De hernia crurali" "On hernia of the leg"
1818 Robert Graham	"De vita plantarum et de analogia sua ad vitam animantium" "On the life of plants and its resemblance to the life of living things"
1820 William Jackson Hooker	"De laudibus botanices" "On the praises of Botany"
1842 John Hutton Balfour	"De plantis quae Strychnum praebeant" "On the plants which produce strychnine"
1845 George Arnott Walker Arnott	"De sexibus plantarum" "On the sexes of plants"
1868 Andrew Dickson	"De"
1879 Isaac Bayley Balfour	"De uniformitate processus nutritionis in omnibus quae vivant" "On the uniformity of the process of nutrition in all living things"
1885 Frederick Orpen Bower	"De somno plantarum" "On the sleep of plants"

Acknowledgements

The assistance of Mr M. Moss and his colleagues of the University Archives at Glasgow and the help given by the staff of the Scottish Record office in Edinburgh, are gratefully acknowledged.

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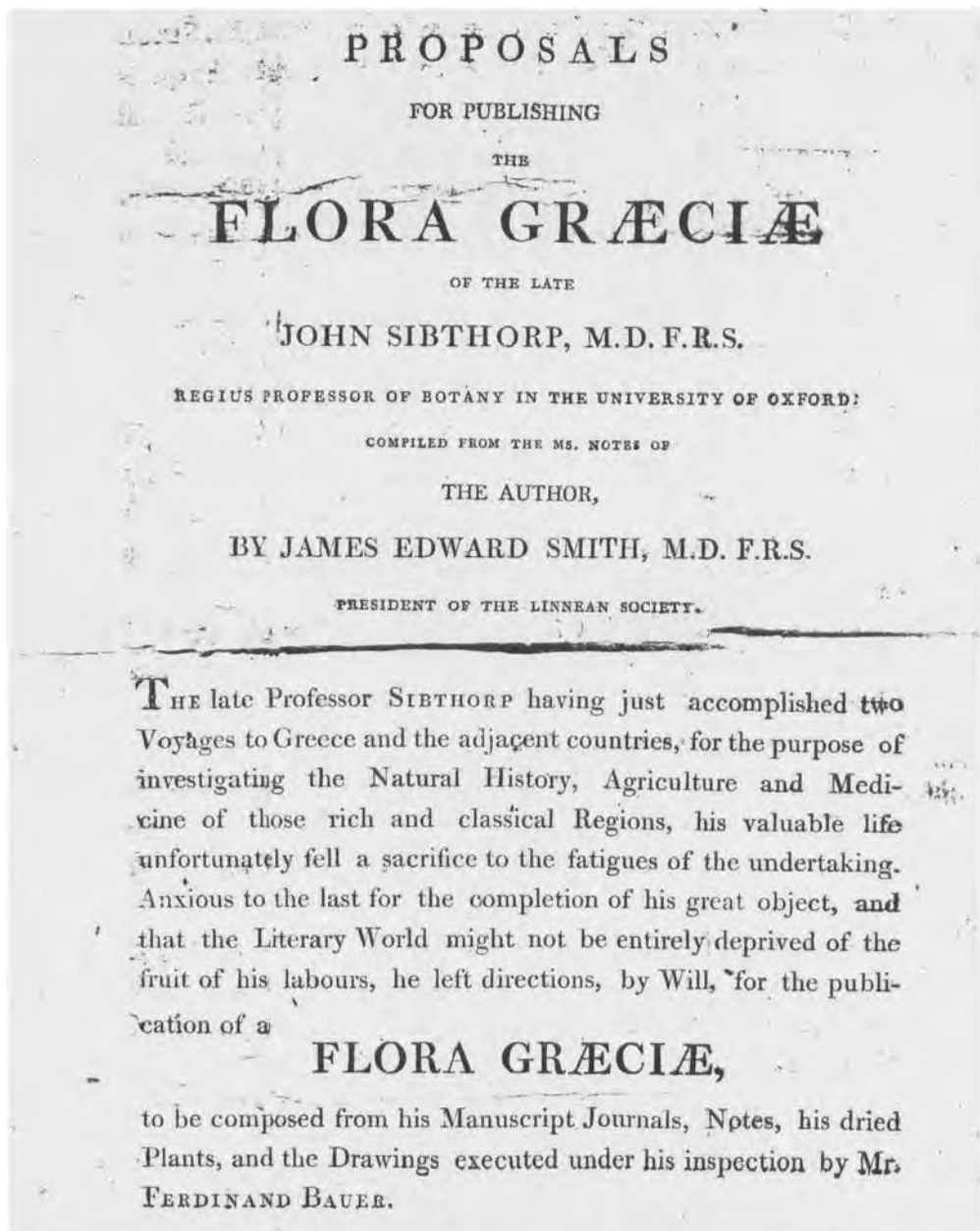
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A. D. BONEY

A prospectus for *Flora Graeca*, 1805

James Sibthorp (1758–1796), Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford, bequeathed an estate to the University with instructions that the profits should be used for the publication of a *Flora Graeca* in 10 folio volumes, each containing one hundred plates. He also instructed that a smaller octavo *Prodromus Florae Graecae*, without illustrations, should be published, both books to be based on his

own notes and collections. Sibthorp's executors were John Hawkins, the Hon. Thomas Wenman and Thomas Platt, and they selected James Edward Smith, the founder and first President of the Linnean Society, as the most suitable botanist to write the final text to accompany the plates by Ferdinand Bauer. Smith completed the text for the first six volumes and the first fascicle of the seventh before his death in 1828, and the flora was completed by John Lindley. The complicated background of this sumptuous flora, of which perhaps only 25



Copy of a prospectus for the flora (front page of a folded quarto sheet).

copies were produced in the original issue, is discussed by Stearn (1967, 1976) and Henrey (1975).

In 1911, following the death of an eccentric Cork gardener and bibliophile, William Edward Gumbleton, a copy of *Flora Graeca* was bequeathed to the National (then Royal) Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin (Morley & Nelson, 1979; Nelson & McCracken, 1986). This set of 10 volumes is one of the first issue, containing none of the 1845 and 1847 watermarks which characterize Henry Bohn's second issue of the flora (Stearn 1967: 295).

An entry from an auction catalogue, pasted onto the end-papers of the Glasnevin copy, indicates that it originally belonged to the Royal Horticultural Society of London—the Horticultural Society is listed as a recipient of one of the 25 'perfect copies' of the original issue (Henrey, 1975: 111, 113), and the Society received the last fascicle of *Flora Graeca* on 3 November 1840 (see Stearn, 1967). Evidently this copy was among the books sold in the infamous auction of the Society's first library by Sotheby's in March 1859 (Fletcher, 1969).

A further interesting aspect of the Glasnevin *Flora Graeca* is the copy of a prospectus for the flora, a folded quarto sheet, that is glued to the fly-leaf of volume 1. There are several copies of this prospectus in the Sherard Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (MSS Sherard 248/5.f.88; 410.f.84), but only this Glasnevin copy is noted by Stafleu & Cowan (1985: n. 11,935).

While Stearn (1967, 1976) has discussed the background of this flora, little has been written about publication history of the volumes (see Henrey, 1975: 111) and the relationship between Smith and the executors. Some of the problems associated with the production of such an expensive book are detailed in a letter to James Smith, dated 30 January 1805, which Thomas Platt penned on the third (blank) page of the prospectus in the Glasnevin copy. This letter indicates that the finances of the project were not always sound, and that the executors had to delay paying James Smith's stipend.

As this letter is not part of the extensive *Flora Graeca* archive held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, it is worth publishing it in full.

Dear Sir,

The Delay in answering your last Favour has arisen from my Wish of consulting Mr Hawkins respecting the addition of the Grasses to the Prodomus. He has I understand written to you on the Subject so that nothing remains for me to say except that I think they might be introduced in the engraved Titles.

As some alterations have been made in the proposals since you saw them I send them on the other Side for your approbation. The Word *Graeciae* instead of *Graeca* in the Titles of the works is in Conformity with Dr Sibthorps Will which we are bound to follow.

It concerned me much to postpone the Payment of the Stipend but I trust that the Sale of the Work, if we have not assistance shortly from the Fund will prevent any great Delay. As we now cannot get on too fast You will be good enough to furnish Mr Taylor with the materials for the first Fasciculus as soon as you can. It appears also to be that the Prodomus or at least o[ne] volume of it should be ready for delivery with the f[irst] Part of the great work.

It is finally settled that Mr White is to deliver the Work of which Mr Sowerby is apprized. Requesting your immediate answer. I remain

Dr Sir

Yours very truly

Tho Platt

London Jany 30 1805

Excuse the use of this vile Paper to save Postage

Acknowledgements

I acknowledge gratefully the assistance of Mrs A. M. Townsend, Plant Sciences Librarian, University of Oxford, who provided information on the Sherard MSS in the Bodleian Library.

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E. C. NELSON

OBITUARIES

John Scott Lennox Gilmour (1906–1986)

John Scott Lennox Gilmour, who died in Cambridge on the 3rd June (1986) aged 79 was Director of the University Botanic Garden from 1951 to 1973, and Fellow of Clare College from 1951. Born in London on 28th September 1906, he was educated at Uppingham, and proceeded to Clare College in 1925.

After reading Part II Botany, he was appointed Curator of the University Herbarium and Botanical Museum in Cambridge. He was a keen field botanist and student of the British flora, and he served as the first President of the re-born and re-named B.S.B.I. from 1948 to 1951, and as President of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust (CAMBIENT) from 1958 to 1974.

His horticultural contributions were made against a background of a distinguished career in Botanic Gardens, which took him from Kew to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley (1946–1951), and from there back to the University Botanic Garden in Cambridge from which he retired in 1973. He served as Chairman of the International Commission on Horticultural Nomenclature from 1952 to 1966, and Secretary ('rapporteur') and later

Chairman of the International Commission on the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants from 1956 to 1965. He was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by the R.H.S. in 1957, and on his retirement in 1973 received the well-earned tribute of a volume of the prestigious Curtis' Botanical Magazine dedicated to him.

Gilmour's other contribution to botanical science, on the philosophy of classification, is set out in papers some 50 years ago, when he was in his late twenties. These papers are characterized by a severely pragmatic attitude to all human classificatory activities, and are presented against a philosophical background which is that of 'logical positivism'. He played an active rôle in the Systematics Association in the post-war period and twice served on the Council of the Linnean Society, first in war-time (1940–42) and secondly from 1953 to 1957.

No account of John Gilmour's life would be complete without reference to his wider social and humanitarian concerns which reflected his rationalist philosophy. In post-war Cambridge much of this 'extra-mural' effort went into the activities of the Cambridge Humanists, of which he became President in 1975. Believing strongly and sincerely that all 'absolutes' are inimical to the proper development of human civilization and culture, he felt it a moral imperative to 'preach' his beliefs, but in the process he remained unfailingly courteous and sensitive to all, not least to the professionals of religion whose views he strongly rejected for himself.

The last years of John's life were increasingly restricted and troubled by infirmity and illness, but he was blessed by a devoted wife and happy family circle, whose support was undeviating; his pleasure at the growing clan of grandchildren lightened the end.

S. M. WALTERS

Christopher Carl Hentschel (1899–1986)

Christopher Carl Hentschel, who died on 21 July 1986 was a distinguished zoologist and member of the University of London. Born on 4 July 1899 in Chancery Lane, London, he was educated at St Paul's School and King's College, London. He moved to Chelsea Polytechnic in 1931, as Lecturer in Zoology, where he spent the rest of his working life.

A fine lecturer, he built up the teaching of zoology at Chelsea and became Head of the Department of Botany and Zoology in 1953. After the polytechnic had become a College of Advanced Technology he was appointed Vice-Principal, and, upon the sudden death of Nicholas Lightfoot, Principal in 1962 until his retirement in 1965, during the crucial period of the college's transition to full University status. Always active in the University, he was appointed as Recognised Teacher of the University to the Board of Studies in Zoology in 1933 and made its secretary in 1934,—remaining so until he was elected chairman in 1952 and serving until 1957. He was a member (or Chairman) of every Board of Examiners in Zoology and Biology between 1936, and became Principal of Chelsea in 1962. He also was a member of Senate 1956–64 and 1966–70, as well as serving as Convocation Science Senator and other bodies such as the Central Research Fund Committee, the Military Education

Committee, etc. A Fellow of the Linnean Society of London from 1923, he was four times elected to Council and was Vice-President in 1943–44 and 1952–53. ‘CCH’, as he was generally known, was a bachelor, robust and forthright but readily breaking into the heartiest laughter. Throughout his long career he supported many young biologists—there are still members of staff at the Chelsea Campus and old graduates of the Department of Botany and Zoology who speak gratefully of ‘being given their chance’ by CCH.

A man of integrity, his confidence always to be trusted, he was a loyal colleague and member of the college. In retirement at Folkestone and latterly at Durham, he continued to correspond with old colleagues and show a sustained lively interest in aspects of zoological research, retaining the affection and esteem of all who knew him.

THOMAS J. MORTIMER

Library

Notes

The bicentenary programme and its activities have already been mentioned and the Library seems to be coping well with the combination of social and domestic events and readers’ requirements.

Could we remind you that if you are intending to call in and ask for large numbers of references, prior warning will save everyone’s time: because many of the journals are not only in our basement but also in the one below the Geological Society across the courtyard, it takes time to retrieve them. A day or two’s warning, if possible, will allow us to plan our workload and it will avoid your having to sit and wait.

As we still get asked if it is possible for Fellows to borrow books and journals we should perhaps reiterate that most things are available for loan. We are delighted for them to be used in this way.

Donations

Apart from donations of books and reprints, which are always a most welcome addition, the Library on occasions gets offered chances to add to its manuscript holdings. Recent donations relate to a wide range of different types of manuscript:

Through the good offices of Dr R. W. J. Keay, we have been offered a number of mostly unpublished typescripts by D. R. Rosevear, presented by his widow.

Moving back chronologically, our new Foreign Member, Dr S. J. Hughes, has presented us with some manuscript “notes on Mycetes” by Hugo von Rabenau. These appear to be notes made when von Rabenau was a student of Prof. A. de Bary who was also a Foreign Member and Professor at the University of Halle, from 1867 to 1872.

Dr J. Bastin, currently working on a reissue of Wallace's "Malay Archipelago", has presented us with photocopies of some of the letters in the Cambridge University Library that relate to the notebooks and journals we hold.

Going back to the very early days of the Society, Dr Georgia Beale has given us a transcription of a letter in French by J. E. Smith to the Société Linnéenne de Paris thanking them for their offer of membership and explaining that it would not be possible for him to supply to that Society the copies of his publications as required by them because of the great costs involved. One might add 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose'!

Lastly, Dr W. Horning of the Mc'Leay Museum, Sydney, has been working on the photocopies of the letters and manuscripts held here. So far he has transcribed the Smith/Mc'Leay correspondence and is now working on Kirby's letters to Mc'Leay. Anyone familiar with either Mc'Leay's or Kirby's handwriting will know the difficulty of such transcriptions. The photocopies we now have will make work very much easier for anyone needing to use those papers.

We are grateful to the above and to the following for donations:

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FORTHCOMING PAPERS IN THE JOURNALS

Botanical Journal

- IQBAL, M. and GHOUSE, A. K. M., Anatomy of the vascular combium of *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del. var. *telia* Troup (Mimosaceae) in relation to age and season.
- COONEY-SOVETTS, C. and SATTLER, R., Phylloclade development in the Asparagaceae: an example of homoeosis.
- UPRETI, D. K. and SINGH, A., A new species of *porina* from the Andoman Islands, India.
- SHOVEL, K. S. and ALVIN, K. L., Patterns of cuticular organisation in the hybrid *Tsuga* × *jeffryi*: (Henry) Henry and its putative parents.
- LAMONT, B., KEIGHERY, B., PENNY, L. and WALLACE, J. L., A numeric geographic and structural analysis of the *Hakea falcata* group (Proteaceae).

Biological Journal

Papers from the Symposium *Insect Diversity in the Tropics* at the First International Conference on Tropical Entomology, Nairobi, August 1986:

MOUND, L. A., Insect Diversity in the Tropics: a symposium—Introduction.

ACKERY, P. R., Diversity and phantom competition in African acraeae butterflies.

GAULD, I. D., Some factors affecting the composition of tropical ichneumonid faunas.

HOLLOWAY, J. D., Macrolepidoptera diversity in the Indo-Australian tropics: geographic, biotopic and taxonomic variations.

JANZEN, D. H., Insect diversity of Costa Rican dry forest: why keep it, and how.

WOLDA, H., Altitude, habitat and insect diversity.

Zoological Journal

BURCKHARDT, D., Jumping plant lice (Homoptera: Psylloidea) of the temperate neotropical region. Part 1: Psyllidae (subfamilies Aphadarinae, Rhinocolinae and Aphalaroidinae).

DENIS-BRYAN, K., A new species of east-manosteid arthrodire (Pisces: Placodernii) from Gogo, Western Australia.

FITTON, M. G., SHAW, M. R. and AUSTIN, A. D., The Hymenoptera associated with spiders in Europe.

PUGH, P. J. A., KING, P. E. and FORDY, M. R., The structure and probable function of the peritreme in intertidal Gamasina (Acarina: Mesostigmata).

McIVER, J. D., On the myrmecomeroph *Coquillettia insignis*: arthropod predators as operators in an ant-mimetic system.

TEUGELS, G. G. and ROBERTS, T. R., *Siluris anguilleris* Linnaeus, 1758: designation as type species of *Clarias* Scopoli, 1777 and rediscovery of holotype (Pisces: Clariidae).

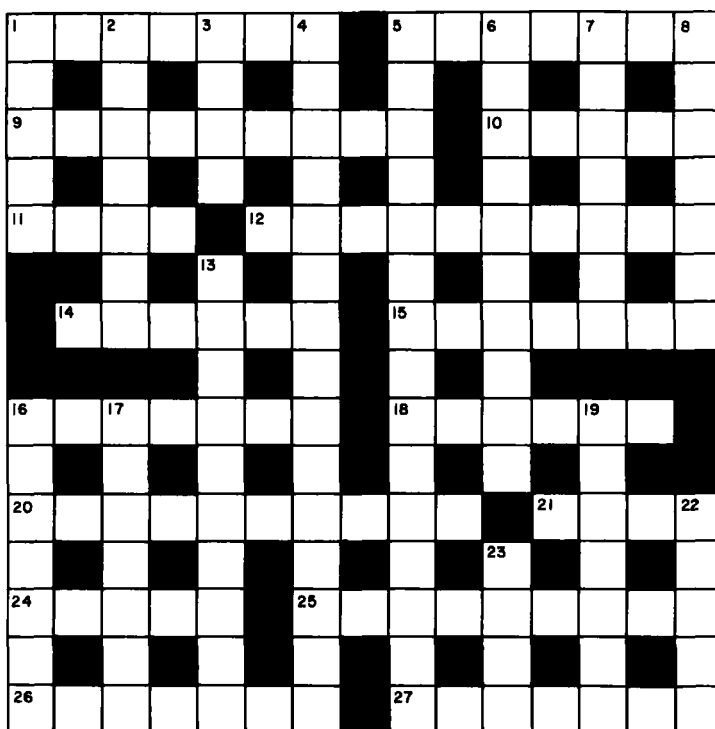
Crossword

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO. 1, *The Linnean* 1(5): 29.

Across: 1. Turbellarians; 8. Linnean; 9. Smith; 10. Soho; 11. Solander; 13. Bombay; 14. Baltic; 16. Charters; 18. Acol; 21. Istle; 22. Nomadic; 23. Eschscholtzia.

Down: 2. Ranch; 3. Even; 4. London; 5. Rush away; 6. A bird; 7. Spherical; 10. Subscribe; 12. Mattress; 15. Branch; 17. Attic; 19. Cadiz; 20. Omul.

S.D.B

*Across*

1. Secretly under the flower (7)
5. A dark confined space, albeit found somewhere in the Antarctic (7)
9. A kind of grace or an overbearing pride (9)
10. Twice as good now after direction (5)
11. Are you sorry? No? O.K., stand in the corner (4)
12. . . . Ye lubbers (5,5)
14. Sausage and mash, large portions facing us! (6)
15. Three singing notes in a boat (7)
16. Very red and in a state (7)
18. Fruity drink down under—Cheers! (3-3)
20. 'If I was a . . .' (7,3)
21. A ringleading friend is a gem (4)
24. The very best (4)
25. Drinks at home? Just the opposite (9)
26. I reckoned it could have been a visitor (7)
27. I can tell a tale (7)

Down

1. Mark sat in a mess (5)
2. Hangers-on with cry from singer (7)
3. See spy in gaol (4)
4. Once a year a joker may get this (11,4)
5. Take a pleat outside with ease and point to a chair (6,4,1,4)
6. Flowery hat redecorated with article (10)
7. Nelson wideawake with . . . (4,3)
8. Finish sounds as if to love (3,4)
13. . . . from the hills (5,5)
16. Crawling under strong canvas (7)
17. A tooth for a tooth . . . (2,2,3)
19. Lying down to rest (7)
22. You can't win if you halve your losses with hesitation (5)
23. A tailless animal with nice fur (4)

Solutions by August to the Editor. A small prize will be awarded.

R.P.

CONVERSAZIONE

To: The Executive Secretary, Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly
W1V 0LQ,

I wish to attend the Conversazione on 17 June 1987 and to bring guests.

I enclose my cheque for,£..... (for persons at £6.00 per ticket)*.

I note that no afternoon visit has been arranged

Nane (block letters)

Address

.....

Cheques should be made payable to THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON and
crossed.

*no more than three guests.