THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ

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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 rôle of our Society in its third Century has already been the subject of some discussion in recent editions of *The Linnean* as well as providing the text for a Presidential Address (*Biol. J., 20,* 327: 1983). In summary, the view expressed was that either the Linnean Society adapts to the changing scientific environment or its long-term survival is in jeopardy. There has also been a recent review (1982–83) by a Council committee on the "Aims and Objectives" of our Society who saw our future rôle as being "an institutional core to biology, linking government science, specialized societies, and natural history".

As we all know, a similar identity crisis has developed in the biological departments of our universities; thus in my own college, for example, biochemistry has just been placed in a separate division from biology & microbiology!

Biology when the Linnean Society began was essentially the study of natural history. Today it covers a vast area, every aspect of the study of life, including its diversity and its history. Over the last two hundred years biology has acquired many new subdivisions such as microbiology, genetics, ecology, entomology, biochemistry and systematics each with its own language and literature. However, as one of our Foreign Members, Gareth Nelson (1970), has pointed out—biological investigation and knowledge may be simply divided into their general and comparative aspects. We are therefore either general biologists, who usually work on single species and hope to discover general properties, or comparative biologists investigating the diversity of life. Both Linnaeus and our Society have been mostly interested in the accumulation of data concerning the diversity of life. Therefore our rôle in the next century is crystal clear—we must continue to be the guardians of comparative biology, the science of diversity, or systematics.

In the last twenty years there has been a renaissance in comparative biology. This has several strands, but two are particularly important. First, the growth of molecular biology, with the current flood of comparative data on molecular sequence and structure, and the need to find methods of analysing them. Second is the revolution in traditional systematics which has resulted in the wide acceptance of the cladistic method. These strands converge in the computer programmes which allow us to evaluate similarities and differences at all levels, from molecules to whole biotas, and in all their varied forms—behaviour, structure, function, ontogeny, and distribution in space and time. Systematics has become a science with a unified method and an aim, the expression of relationships. Through this unification, botanists can communicate with zoologists, molecular biologists can speak to biogeographers, and ethologists can find common ground with embryologists. Systematics is once again an exciting subject, to which young enthusiasts are drawn.

Thus the future of our Society is a rosy one and we can enter our next century with both a rôle and a purpose—to propagate the ever expanding study of comparative biology.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Bicentenary

The Travelling Exhibit

This is a self-standing, twelve-panel poster exhibit which in full display is either single-sided with six panels up and six below or double-sided half the size. The dimensions are: each panel $25\frac{1}{2}''$ wide × $26\frac{1}{2}''$ tall, six panel run 13′3″ long × 6′ tall, three panel run 6′7″ long × 6′ tall; carrying case $2\frac{1}{2}' \times 3' \times 1''$ The total weight of the panels, stands and carrying case is approximately 20 lbs.

We already have some calls for the display and urgently need your bids so that we can put it to the most effective use. Please let the office know, as soon as possible, where you need it, precise dates or the most convenient period, for

what purpose you intend it and, indeed, whether you might be able to suggest other purposes whilst it is in your charge.

We will also need to know how and when you plan to collect and return the exhibit or whether it will have to be delivered. Naturally we hope to keep transport costs as low as possible and the services of voluntary couriers will be greatly appreciated. Telephoning will save protracted correspondence.

Bicentenary Dinner—Tuesday 24 May

This will be held at the Naval and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly.

It is expected that there will be number of important guests in addition to the Society's medals and awards winners. It is an occasion which the Fellowship may wish to use to celebrate the Society's longevity and has been arranged in addition to the Foundation Day Dinner to enable more Fellows to join in the celebrations. Fellows and their spouses from overseas will be very welcome. Please complete and return the white booking form.

While we cannot entertain many official guests it might be possible, dependent on numbers, to include important outsiders who would 'pay their way'. If you wish to propose such people please give details in the space on the booking form and *return it as soon as possible.*

Summer Evening Party—Thursday 23 June

As announced in *The Linnean 3*(3) : 5 this will replace the Conversazione and, by kind permission of the Director, will be held in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. It will be based on the Temperate House which is big enough to provide cover should the weather be inclement. To enable the greatest number of people to attend, costs are deliberately kept low but a packed supper will be available for those who do not want to bring picnics. The latter will be provided also for the official guests. Please read the buff booking form for the latest information, then complete and return it in good time.

Tree Planting

We do not want to vaunt our prophetic prowess but the question of tree planting as a bicentenary activity was discussed by the Bicentenary Committee when it met on 29 September 1987. We decided then to suggest this to the Fellowship as a worthwhile and memorable activity to associate with the bicentenary.

We agreed to make the Kew Summer Party and the British Association meeting at Oxford the two Society events. In view, especially, of the great gale of 16 October 1987 we hope you will follow this lead and plan some sort of local event yourselves. Perhaps you would like to combine this with borrowing the travelling exhibit? Do please write to us and tell us what is being planned, in case we can help by using these columns for publicity.

Celebration with the Anglo-Swedish Society

As stated in the last number, this will be a dinner on Wednesday 5 October. The King and Queen of Sweden have been invited. We know there will be a large turn-out from the Anglo-Swedish Society because this occasion is an historic event for them just as much as for ourselves, and so it would be appropriate for the Society also to be very well represented. We believe it will be an occasion not to be missed.

The dinner will be held in the Porter Tun room of Whitbread's Brewery near the Barbican in the City of London. Though this may seem an unusual venue, the Brewery is particularly appropriate as members of Royalty are regular guests and indeed our first Patron, King George III, made a visit there with Queen Charlotte in 1787.

As there will be no limit to numbers, Fellows are encouraged to make up parties. Please note the date. Details of the dinner and a booking form will be included in the August issue but as that will leave little time to make plans from scratch, anyone wanting information before then should write enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope.

James Edward Smith

James Edward Smith—a memoir

This short, illustrated biography of 53 pages by Mrs Margot Walker has now been published by the Society and is available at £3 + £1 postage & packing inland, £2 postage & packing overseas.

Smith and his circle

Mrs Walker, who has been a consistent contributor to these pages as well as being one of our most regular voluntary helpers, having written about Smith as above, has produced a complementary exhibit of portraits from the Society's collection for display during the bicentenary year. Whilst this will not be on permanent show it will be put up at appropriate Society events. It may, of course, also be requested by Fellows who intend to organize meetings in the Rooms during the year. It is not suitable for use away from Burlington House.

Commemorative Porcelain

On behalf of the Society, Gina Douglas has produced limited editions of fifty plates, mugs (footed and plain) and ashtrays, hand-decorated with *Linnaea borealis* and the bicentenary logo. Items may be bought only from Burlington House. It is regretted that mail orders are not possible, although items may be reserved (but only up to a stated date of collection). Prices: Plates (9″) £9, Mugs ($\frac{1}{3}$ pint, both types) £5, Ashtrays (5″ × 3$\frac{3}{4}$″) £4.

Contributions to the Bicentenary or Bicentenary Contributions?

We sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will take part in one or more of the activities arranged for this year. If you do, it will naturally put you

to some expense and it could be that you will be able only in this way to contribute to the bicentenary. On the other hand, many Fellows will probably not be able to attend in person, and we have also been thinking of other, less ephemeral, activities such as each Fellow recruiting one new Fellow (as suggested in *The Linnean* 3(3) : 7). A donation is another thought.

As you will be aware, this Society is not as well endowed as it might be and, whereas we have the most elegant Victorian Rooms, they lack certain refinements and embellishments. It was therefore suggested that we should propose a shopping list, rather on the lines of a Brides List, to which Fellows might consider contributing, either in money or in kind. We are thinking, for example, of a good quality square or rectangular (Pembroke) hall table, possibly with one or two drop leaves; or an increasingly necessary video system—a recorder and monitors or a more modern system; or more appropriate light fittings.

Starting a Linnean Tree Fund is another possibility—with a view actually to acquiring trees to help refurbish the decimated collection at Kew, for which many former fellows, most notably of course the Hookers, were directly responsible.

Will you translate these ideas into action, or would you like to propose and implement others of your own?

Bicentenary Badinage

(1) *Failure*

We were very sorry to have to cancel the projected excursion to Norwich planned for April. In spite of some four letters, the first sent over two years ago, and several telephone calls, not to mention discussions here, we have elicited no positive response. It seems a sad reflection of the times that in these days of 'instant communication' we are less able to get a clear reply from a hundred miles away than were the correspondents of our first President, James Edward Smith, over precisely the same distance, two hundred years ago!

(2) *Success . . . ?*

Attempting to finalize the details for the meeting we are planning for next autumn to celebrate the birth of Buffon with the French Institute here in London has not been easy.

We were lulled into thinking that writing letters might be more effective than trying to get a response from the exhausted 'ansafone'—only to be told eventually that that would not really help as M. . . . kept everything in his head anyway. Later, having cerebrated on all the previous wasted correspondence we again tried the telephone. Using our best colloquial french to simplify communication, the conversation in translation went:

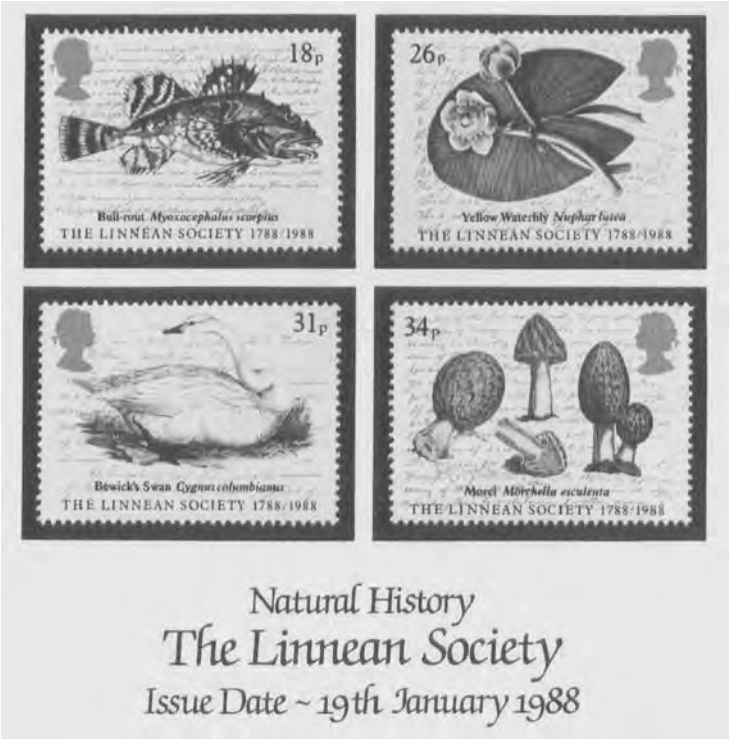
"Could I please speak to M. . . . ?"

"One moment"—followed by—"Could you hold on please, he'll be in sometime today."

(3) *Undoubted Success*

The Stamp Launch on 25 November 1987 was attended by sixty to seventy people, all guests of the Post Office who sadly limited our invitation list. The

general opinion was that whereas some of those present would have selected one of the other options, the final G.P.O. Stamp Selection Committee choice was an unusual and singular montage of Society artefacts to give us a striking set of stamps to start off our bicentenary year. The stamps remain on sale until January 1989. If your Post Office has sold out they may be obtained from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or the philatelic counters of the big Post Offices such as at Trafalgar Square.



Though we ourselves were allowed no part in the selection of the material used either for the stamps or the first day covers, we are very much indebted to Gina Douglas and Linda Glavin for their forbearance when suggesting, producing, re-producing and replacing books, manuscripts and other materials many times over whilst both the initial selection and later the final artwork were being produced. It was extremely serious stuff, particularly our unsuccessful efforts to ensure the G.P.O. publicity copy was both literally and stylistically correct. Our week was made however, when on the Friday after the event we received a letter from the Post Office referring to Robert Brown, "the founder of the Brownies movement".*

Kimberley Research Project 1988

The Kimberley Region of Western Australia is an area of outstanding interest and natural beauty which includes the Napier and King Leopold ranges. The

**Editor's note:* Those not familiar with Scouting may not realise that Brownies are junior Girl Guides–so called after a type of good fairy, and because of the colour of their uniform, I believe.

Kimberley multidisciplinary research project (formerly known as 'Kimberley 200') is being planned in collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society under the leadership of Professor Andrew Goudie (University of Oxford), and preparations for it have been continuing unabated since the first reconnaissance in March 1985. The research programme will begin on 1 April this year and will continue until the beginning of August. During these four months some 40 British and Australian scientists will be working in the field on a variety of studies.

The collection of field data and specimens of plants and animals will be an important priority, as will the study of the composition and ecology of the limestone and sandstone vegetations.

Other biological projects include the study and collection of mosses, lichens and fungi, a survey of the invertebrate fauna (particularly crustaceans and molluscs) of the Napier range; general insect collecting with special emphasis on grasshoppers, bees and ants; the behaviour of bats; a survey of small mammals; and, in close collaboration with local Aboriginal people, a study of traditional bush-foods and their nutritional value. There will also be a varied geomorphological programme, working primarily on the limestone of the Napier range.

In May 1987, Nigel Winser, Royal Geographical Society Expeditions Officer and I, were in Perth and Kimberley on a third planning visit and the Project was subsequently granted full Western Australian government and Aboriginal approval. David Pascoe was appointed as Director of Operations for the Project in August and he and the Project's Administrative Assistant, Claire Belsham, now constitute the Secretariat for the Joint British/Western Australian committee in Perth, working from an office in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The excellent progress that has been made within Western Australia is largely due to their hard and enthusiastic work.

On 15 December 1987, the Project was formally launched both in Perth and in the premises of the Royal Geographical Society in London where it was attended by the Project's Patron, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as well as members of the British team and of the Kimberley Project Committee.

In celebrating the bicentenary of the Linnean Society, the diversity of the proposed life science studies, involving practical collaboration between the participating biologists and geomorphologists, promises to provide an exciting and objective programme within the framework of the 1988 Kimberley Research Project.

Martin J. S. Sands
(DEPUTY LEADER)

Notes

Wanted: Associate Editors for Zoological Journal

The editors of our journals are assisted in their task of assessing submitted manuscripts by a team of associate editors. The journals cover an exceedingly wide range of subject matter and specialist assistance is invaluable.

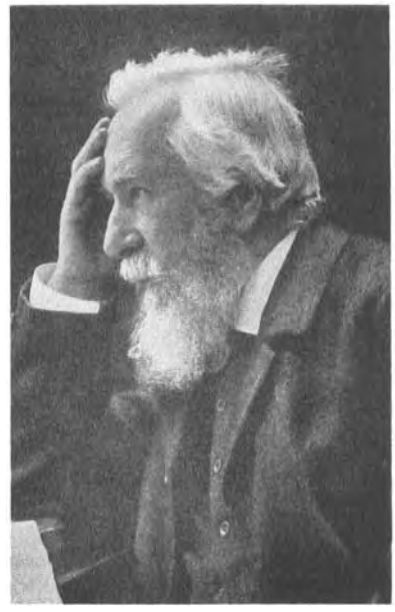
On the Zoological Journal's panel we have presently eight associate editors, five of which specialize in vertebrate subjects. Terrestrial invertebrates

(excluding insects) and molluscs generally are also well catered for, but we are finding increasing pressure in dealing with submissions on *insects* and *aquatic invertebrates*. We would like to increase the panel of associate editors by two: one to cover insects and one for general aquatic invertebrates.

If there are any Fellows (or readers willing to be elected) who have experience or are interested in gaining experience, then please contact the editor, Dr H. M. Platt, Zoology Department, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Telephone: 01-938-9123, Ext. 757.

Picture quiz

An extended solution to the last picture quiz, including the winners, will be published in the August *Linnean*.



Who? Solution by July to the Editor. A small prize in the form of an old print will be awarded. (Clue: not an admirer of the person figured in the previous quiz!)

Annual Contributions

These are due on or before 24 May for the year May 1988 to May 1989 and remain unchanged at: Fellows £35, £30 or £25, Associates £20, £15, £12.50 according to the number of journals taken, Student Associates £2.50.

Invoices will be sent only if requested. Please state when writing if this is to be a continuing requirement.

The List

The 1988 List will contain all those on the Roll on 24 May 1988 and those

paid up Fellows who were elected on that day. It will also include for the first time the information extracted from completed questionnaires.

Please check your entry against the key at the back.

From the Archives

At Mrs Wiggin's
Craven Hill
Bayswater July 29, 1814

My Dear Sir,

I am happy to hear a tolerable account of you, Mrs Mcleay & family, in whose affliction I very sincerely sympathize.

Lord Sidmouth most kindly took entirely on himself the affair of my knighthood. I took the L. Soc. Trans. to the levee yesterday, & presented the 1st vol. which his R. Highness received most graciously and thanked me. Lord Sidmouth stood next to him, & asked him to confer on me the honour of knighthood. The Prince asked him my christian name—laid the sword on my shoulder, & said "rise Sir James Edward"—after which I passed on, having kissed his hand. I took care to be among the first who got in, which I think is always best—he being tired after a while, and hurried—I think the enclosed will do for insertion in the papers—if you think so, will you be so good as to send it to all that you think proper.—If you judge any attention necessary, pray make it.

I shall now, I hope, go home very soon—but not till after Monday.

With my best compliments to Mrs McLeay and all your family,

believe me Dear Sir
ever yours

J. E. SMITH

Market Research—The British Museum (Natural History)

As a Society we have been asked to help Manchester University carry out a survey into the effectiveness of the research work carried out by the Museum. This is at the instigation of the BM, the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, and the Department of Education and Science. Our reading of the Data Protection Act indicates that we may not pass personal particulars from *The List* on to third parties but we can, of course, canvas the Fellowship in general. Should you use or have used the British Museum research facilities and be prepared to complete a simple questionnaire would you please telephone Miss K. E. Barker, on 061–273–6464 or 061–273–7121 ext. 5054, or write to Programmes of Policy Research in Engineering Science and Technology, The University, Manchester M13 9PL.

Summer Concert—Sunday 5 June at 14.30

Whilst working on the Kimberley Research Project with the Royal Geographical Society, their staff have given us details of their Summer Concert

in case the members of the Linnean Society would like to attend. It will be given at No. 1 Kensington Gore where the Beaumont Ensemble (Harpsichord, Oboe and Flute) will play works by Vivaldi, Telemann, Handel, Bach, Joplin, Bizet and other composers. Tea will be served in the interval. Tickets (£4.00 each) may be obtained from the General Office, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

Room Closures

The Rooms will be closed as follows: 1 to 5 April, 30 April to 3 May, and 27 to 30 August.

Deadlines

The closing dates for material for *The Linnean* are 6 May for the August issue and 3 August for the January 1989 issue.

Membership

We welcome the following who were elected on 14 January 1988:

Anthony K. Andoh
John Henry Barrett, M.B.E., M.A., M.Sc.
Prof. Denis Bellamy, B.Sc., D.Phil.
Francois Steven Erland Pierre Bonhomme, D.Sc.
John Suart Bradley, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Anthony Forrester Braithwaite, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Dale Ralph Calder, B.Sc., A.M., Ph.D.
David Cannatella, B.S., M.A., M.Ph. Ph.D.
Prof. Ernesto Capanna
Georges Dussart, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.
Richard David John Elmore, B.Sc. (from Associate)
Prof. Peter K. Endress, D.Phil.
Zakaria Erzinçlioğlu, B.Sc.,Ph.D.
Lord Alistair Hay, M.A., D.Phil.
Prof. Joseph Heller, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Roger Newell Higton, B.A., M.Sc., C.Biol.
Robert Stephen Hill, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Michael Edward Malone
Prof. Lawrence Bernard Martin, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Robert John Mitchell, M.Sc., S.H.M., M.I.Biol.
Michael Mogie, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Laurence Alfred Mound, D.Sc.,
Prof. Michael John Petry, M.A., D.Phil.
Malcom Alexander Ramsay, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.
James D. Reist, B.Sc, D.Phil.
Richard Mark Kingsley Saunders, B.Sc., M.Sc.
Vaughan Robert Southgate, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.Biol.
Gweneth Nell Stevens, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Moya Meredith Smith, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Azra Tufail, B.Sc., M.I.Biol.
Dr Irmgard von Teichman und Logischen, M.Sc.
Rosemary Wise
Hindrik Wolda
Ruth D. Wrensch, B.S., M.S.

Meetings

21 April 1988. Meeting of the **Palynology Specialist Group**. For details of this informal meeting see the orange flier.

24 May 1988 at 16.00. **Bicentenary Meeting.** Tea will be served at 15.15.

Agenda

1. Admission of Fellows.
2. Minutes of the Scientific Meeting held on 14 April 1988.
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 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: Professors J. L. Harley, F.R.S. and Sir Richard Southwood, F.R.S.
   The H. H. Bloomer Award to: Dr R. D. Ransome.
   The Jill Smythies Award to: Miss A. Farrer.
   The Bicentenary Medal to: Dr R. J. Gornall.
6. Treasurer's Financial Report and Accounts for 1987.
7. Executive Secretary's Report.
8. Addresses.
9. Results of the Ballots for New Members of Council, Foreign Members, Fellows and Associates.
10. Ballot for Officers.
11. Presidential Address: *The Silent Explosion—the rise of the flowering plants.*
12. Result of Ballot for Officers.
13. Appointment of Vice-Presidents for 1988–89.

1–2 June 1988. *Evolution, Ecology and Environmental Stress.* This is the Society's international bicentenary symposium, the proceedings of which will be published in the *Biological Journal.* There is a misprint in the Programme of *The Linnean* 4(1): please note the correct dates.

Programme

June 1

09.15–10.20 Registration and coffee.
10.25–10.30 Welcome by the President.

SESSION I

Chairman Dr J. H. Steele (Woods Hole).
10.30–11.30 *Introduction.* Professor P. Grime (Sheffield).
11.30–12.30 *Effects of environmental stress on species rich assemblages.* Professor J. S. Gray (Oslo).
12.30–14.00 Lunch.

SESSION II

Chairman Dr J. H. Steele (Woods Hole).
14.00–15.00 *Symptoms of pathology in the Gulf of Bothnia (Baltic Sea): ecosystem response to stress from human activity.* Dr D. J. Rapport (Canada).
15.00–16.00 *The analysis of stress in natural populations.* Dr A. J. Underwood (Australia).
16.00–16.30 Tea.
16.30–17.30 *Structured population models: a tool for linking effects at individual and population level.* Professor R. M. Nisbet (Strathclyde).
17.45–18.45 Sherry reception.
19.15 (for 19.45) Conference dinner at Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7.

June 2

SESSION III

Chairman Professor W. Wieser (Austria).
10.00–11.00 *Life histories and stress.* Dr R. Sibly (Reading).
11.00–11.30 Coffee.
11.30–12.30 *Genetic changes under an ecological stress: desiccation in Drosophila.* Professor P. A. Parsons (Australia).
12.30–14.00 Lunch.

SESSION IV

Chairman Professor R. J. Berry (University College).
14.00–15.00 *Genetic and phenotypic responses to stress.* Professor A. D. Bradshaw (Liverpool).
15.00–16.00 *Towards a physiological and genetical understanding of the energetics of the stress response.* Professor R. K. Koehn (New York).
16.00–16.30 Tea.

SESSION V

Chairman Professor P. Calow (Sheffield).
16.30–17.30 *Evolution and stress.* Summing up, with contributions from Chairmen of each session.

6 September 1988. *Evolution.* The Society is co-operating in this one-day symposium with the British Association for the Advancement of Science at its 150th Annual Meeting. The morning will cover *Catastrophic evolution* organized by the Royal Astronomical Society, our next door neighbour, under the auspices of a Mason conference in conjunction with the Physics, Geology and Biological Sciences section of the British Association. This will be followed by a separate discussion on biological aspects entitled, *Evolution: strategies, genes and chromosomes*. Dr V. Orel (Mendelianum Museum, Brno, Czechoslovakia) will lecture on Gregor Mendel and the Wilberforce–Huxley evolution debate will be re-enacted. Dr S. J. Owens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is the Biological Sciences section Recorder. See the loose papers for the preliminary programme and registration form and note that early registration will avoid an accommodation surcharge. Further information may be obtained from Dr Connie Martin, The British Association for the Advancement of Science, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, tel. 01–734–6010 ext. 381.

Other Meetings

1988

March

23–25 *Evolution, Systematics and Fossil History of the Hamamelidae.* Reading University. Systematics Association. Details from : Dr R. P. Crane, Field Museum, Chicago and Dr S. Blackmore, BM(NH). Cromwell Road, London SW7 5DB.

29 *Mammalian Breeding Systems.* Dr T. H. Clutton-Brock, Review Lecture. Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW17 5AG.

April

5–9 *The Chromophyte Algae: Problems and Perspectives.* Plymouth, England. Systematics Association and Phycological Society. Details from Dr B. S. C. Leadbeater, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

6–8 *Electrophoretic Studies on Agricultural Pests.* Rothamsted Experimental Station. Details from: Prof M. F. Claridge, F.L.S., University College Cardiff.

12–13 *The Science and Technology of Ocean Management.* University of Wales, Cardiff. Details from: Miss J. Pritchard, Society for Underwater Technology, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ.

12–14 *Ecological Concepts—the Contribution of Ecology to an Understanding of the Natural World.* BES Symposium, University College, London.

12–15 *Macro Effects from Micro Quantities—Environmental and Biochemical Effects of Micro Pollutants*, including, on 13 April, *Macromolecular Modelling.* RSC with Institute of Biology. Details from: M. L. Richardson, 6 Birch Drive, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 2UL.

13–15 *Application of the Scanning Electron Microscope in Taxonomy and Functional Morphology.* Nottingham University. Details from: Dr D. A. Griffiths, MAFF, Slough Laboratory, Berkshire SL3 7HJ.

14–15 *Advances in Seed Biology.* RBG Kew. Details from Dr J. B. Dickie, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, W Sussex RH17 6TN.

14–17 *Habitat Construction, Transplantation and Repair.* Wye College. Details from: Dr G. P. Buckley, Dept of Horticulture, Wye College, University of London, Ashford, Kent TN25 5AH.

22 *Butterfly Conservation: Progress and Prospects.* One day workshop of Butterfly Research Association and Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. B.M. (N.H.). Details from: Mr R. Vane-Wright 01-938-9341.

May

25–26 *New Vistas in Measurement of Photosynthesis.* Discussion Meeting, Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace SW1Y 5AG.

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

June

2–3 *Forests, Weather and Climate.* Discussion Meeting. Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.

5–12 *International Conference of Resource Availability and the Structure and Functioning of Tropical Ecosytems.* University of Miami and Costa Rica. Details from: Dr Jay Savage, Silver Anniversary Symposium, Dept. of Biology, University of Miami, PO Box 249118, Coral Gables, Fl 33124, U.S.A.

July

3–9 *XVIII International Congress of Entomology.* Vancouver, Canada. Details from: Dr G. C. E. Scudder, Sect-General, XVIII Int. C. of Ent., Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 2A9.

15–17 *The Common Ground of Wild and Cultivated Plants.* Strathclyde University. RHS and BSBI symposium followed by four days touring. Details from: Mrs J. Gray, Meeting Makers, 73 Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.

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, PO Box 8514, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

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

25–30 *Third International Solanaceae Symposium,* Bogota, Colombia. Details from: Prof. J. G. Hawkes, F.L.S., Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. See page 37.

August

19–27 Third International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference, Melbourne, Australia. Secretary, 3rd IOP. Conventions Dept., PO Box 1901R, GPO, Melbourne, 3001 Australia.

28 Aug –2 Sep Seventh International Palynological Congress, Brisbane, Australia. 7 IPC Uniquest University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld, 4067 Australia.

31 Aug –3 Sep *Chemistry and Chemical Taxonomy of Bryophytes.* International Symposium. University of Saarlandes, F.R.G. Details from: Prof. Dr H. D. Zinsmeister, D-6600 Saarbrucken.

September

5–9 23rd European Marine Biology Symposium, Swansea. Details from Prof. J. S. Ryland, University of Wales, Swansea SA2 8PP.

7–10 *Simposi Internacional de Botànica.* Lleida, Spain. Details from: The Secretariat of the Symposium, Institut d'Estudis, Ilerdencs de la Diputacio de Lleida, Catalunya, Spain.

13–15 *Towards a More Exact Ecology.* BES Symposium, University of Oxford.

12–17 *Phenotype Responses in Aquatic Ectotherms.* Trinity College, Dublin. Details from: Dr J. C. Aldrich, Department of Zoology, Trinity College, University of Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland.

October

17–21 *23rd IUBS General Assembly.* Canberra, Australia. Details from: Secretaries of the Organising Committee, c/o School of Applied Sciences, Canberra College of Advanced Education, PO Box 1 Belconnen ACT 2616 Australia.

Correspondence

Botanical Secretary,
Burlington House.

24.11.87

Dear Brian,

Natural History & Biological Diversity

Each year the President holds a Vice-Presidents' Evening—an informal meeting of the officers and the vice-presidents to mull over the Society's policies and activities. During my three years as Botanical Secretary, conversation at these Vice-Presidents' Evenings has returned relentlessly to uncertainties about the very existence and purpose of the Society. Is it primarily a scientific society with only secondary accent on antiquarian collections, a professional association for biologists, and a club for London biologists, or do these hold equal sway? And, if it is primarily a scientific society, does it genuinely span the full breadth of biology or is there a focus on particular disciplines? It is believed by many, incorrectly I think, that the focus is on taxonomy.

The Charter states clearly that we embrace "Natural History in all its branches" and certainly there is a breadth of interest from molecular geneticists to tropical ecologists amongst the Fellowship. But there are many other societies within this span, not least the broad discipline societies such as the British Ecological Society and the Society for Experimental Biology. It is clear from our Fellowship, our meetings and our publications that there really is a degree of specialization. How should we express this specialization so as to give focus to our activities for the bicentenary and for the future?

First we should remove the suggestion that something as narrow as taxonomy is the extent of this specialization. The dominating interests in evolutionary processes as well as in, say, the world's vegetation or ecological genetics remind us that there is considerable breadth to the area we are trying to define, albeit one that includes taxonomy. A sharp focus on taxonomy and systematics is, in any case, the domain of the Systematics Association, with which we collaborate successfully in a number of activities.

So what is the span of our specialization? Some prefer the phrase 'Natural History' and its uncertain connotation with all that relates to Field Biology, Ecology and Systematics, albeit with a slightly Victorian feel. We shall see this projected on the bicentenary stamps labelled "Natural History: The Linnean Society" and bearing lovely illustrations from precious works in the Library. Others prefer the more modern but equally uncertain phrase 'Biological Diversity'. The Commission of the European Communities recently held a symposium for scientists to sort out the elements of Biological Diversity of future interest to the Community. My own interpretation of the meeting was as follows. Biological Diversity comprises three strata—genetic diversity, species (or taxon) diversity and ecological diversity, and these three are held together by a single unifying process of biological evolution. Does not this combination—the three strata and the unifying process—epitomise the span of special interest in

this Society? This latter view is the one adopted for the bicentenary exhibit: you will see Biological Diversity and Evolution given as the main areas of the Society's scientific focus.

This is one view, but I would welcome views from other Fellows—do please write and let me know your own ideas. This is the bicentenary year: a time for reappraisal and restatement so that we can carry the Society into its third century in good health and with clear vision.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK BISBY

Department of Environmental Biology,
University of Manchester.

9.10.87

Dear Professor Gardiner,

Melanism Workshop

Though the rapid increase in the frequency of the melanic morphs of the peppered moth *Biston betularia* has long been quoted as a well defined example of Darwinian evolution in action, in recent years there has been considerable discussion on whether or not this is true. A number of groups have criticized the design of earlier experiments on bird predation, and queried whether differential selection through bird predation has really been established. Others have suggested that such visual selection does not exist. This in turn casts doubt on the validity of models developed to explain the changing features of the frequency of the melanic morph *carbonaria*.

In order to explore the questions regarding natural selection in *Biston betularia* a one-day workshop was held at Manchester on 6th November, partially financed by the Linnean Society. Invitations were sent to current workers in the field with a range of views on the question of natural selection through bird predation. For various reasons, including 'flu, the final gathering was of "believers" in visual selection.

In spite of this homogeneity, a lively discussion developed, and the main outcome of the workshop can be summarized as follows:

(i) If one considers all data available, it becomes increasingly difficult to propose any other model for the observed spatial and temporal changes in the frequency of *carbonaria* than natural selection through bird predation. This does not exclude other aspects of selection such as non-visual fitness differences, and biochemical methods should be used to investigate them. On the other hand, direct experimental evidence of bird predation is very tenuous indeed.

(ii) How atmospheric pollution affects the frequency of the melanic moth is not entirely clear. There is a correlation with the lichen population, although the extent to which this is causal and what features of the lichens are important are questions which need further study.

(iii) Much more needs to be known about the behaviour and life history of the moth, especially with regard to flight pattern and resting behaviour.

(iv) The time has come for detailed experimental work to unravel the complex interplay of environmental influences on gene frequency.

Proposals for future lines of research were discussed. We are grateful to the Linnean Society for its support.

Yours sincerely,

L. M. Cook & G. S. Mani

University Department of Zoology,
Cambridge.

30.11.87

Dear Editor,

A Comment on the Management of the Malham Tarn Estate

In his interesting review of the Field Studies Council's land and its management, Mercer (1987) gives an unfortunate impression regarding differing perceptions of management obligations between the FSC and the National Trust with regard to the Malham Tarn Estate. It is true there has been a variety of perceptions, within both organizations, regarding the consequences of the Estate being registered by the Nature Conservancy Council as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The published management policy (Disney, 1975) was agreed by all three parties at the time (as evidenced by the minutes of the Malham Tarn Estate Management Advisory Committee). This policy placed Wildlife Values and Scenic Values as co-equal top priority in determining what was appropriate management policy on the ground. It was recognized that this created possibility for conflict, but this was considered to be minimal. However in the spring of 1984 both the FSC and NT were renotified of the SSSI designation. This notice, served by the NCC and backed up by the powers conferred by the latest Act of Parliament, not only endorsed more than 90% of the published policy but had the effect of promoting the conservation of Wildlife Values to top priority.

The NCC's renotification notice considerably curtailed the freedom of action of both the FSC and the NT. To deviate from the conditions of the SSSI renotification notice now requires a written consent from the NCC. It would be fairer to represent the differences in perception between the NT and FSC over the management of the Malham Tarn Estate as arising from both parties being, perhaps, a little slow to assimilate the full implications of the fact that the NCC, at last, has real power over the management of SSSI's. The NCC now has teeth. All it now lacks is adequate funding to perform its statutory functions as it would wish!

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MERCER, I., 1987. The FSC's land: managing a fieldwork resource. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *32*: 97–103.

Yours faithfully

R. H. L. DISNEY

Biology Department,
King's College,
London W8 7AH

9.10.87

Dear Professor Gardiner,

Plants Today

I am involved in the launch of a new journal which I believe will be of interest to many of your members and I should be most grateful if you could draw it to their attention.

It is to be a very broad spectrum publication, covering the whole range of botany, from plant biochemistry and biotechnology right through to evolution, ecology and taxonomy. We are linking its publication to the British Ecological Society, Society for Experimental Biology and the Botanical Society of the British Isles, so this will give us a very wide range of interests and different types of reader. We hope that subscribers will include schools and teachers and amateur botanists, as well as the professional botanists in Universities, Polytechnics and in Industry and the Scientific Civil Service.

We shall keep the level of the articles such that they can be appreciated by people with little background in any specific topic. But the feature articles will be written by experts in their own field, so that they will be authoritative and will offer an ideal opportunity for those who want to keep up to date with current advances in all fields of plant science. The model for the project is the sister journal *Geology Today*, which has proved very successful. Like that publication, *Plants Today* will be well supplied with photographs and line figures and will also contain a centre spread in colour.

The first issue is to be published in January 1988 and subsequent issues will appear bi-monthly. It will be published by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford OE2 0XL, from whom details of subscriptions can be obtained. Members of the associated societies will be entitled to reduced subscription rates.

I wish to encourage members of the Linnean Society not only to subscribe to this journal, but also to contribute to it. Opinions and comments relating to botanical subjects will be very welcome as will ideas for feature articles. We shall also carry a diary/noticeboard column and we shall be very happy to carry news of the botanical meetings and activities of your Society.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

PETER D. MOORE

William Wood—an eighteenth-century Leeds botanist

"The Revd. Mr William Wood of Leeds, a gentleman well versed in the botany of this country, as well as in other branches of Natural history, being desirous of becoming a Fellow of the Linnean Society, we whose names are hereunto subscribed, believing him highly worthy of that honor, recommend him to be elected accordingly. (signed) R. A. Salisbury, F. G. Cullum (dated) Apr. 19. 1791 elected June 21. 1791."

Thus reads the citation still in the archives of the Linnean Society; but one may ask, who was William Wood? Nowadays his main claim to fame lies in his contributions to Rees' *Cyclopaedia*, to which he contributed the letters B to C (*Cyperus*), including a very full and interesting account on *Classification*. He would have contributed much more had he not fallen ill and died before he had completed even the C entries—and none other than James Edward Smith, founder of the Linnean Society, continued the entries. Rees' *Cyclopaedia* is still a valuable record of the state of knowledge of the period and it shows that Wood was a leading scientist of his day.

He was born on 29 May 1745 at Collingtree, Northampton, where his father Benjamin Wood was a Unitarian adherent and brought up his children in his faith. Young William was a talented student and since he studied at the Dissenting Academy, London, it was hardly surprising that he should continue as a Dissenting (Unitarian) Minister. After preaching in Debenham, London and Stamford he moved to Ipswich in 1770 and thence to Leeds in 1772, where he married Louis Anne Oates and remained until his death in 1808. The eighteenth-century stone structure of Mill Hill Chapel still stands among new glass-fronted buildings of City Square in the centre of Leeds. Nearby is a statue of his predecessor, Dr Joseph Priestley, who discovered oxygen and who wrote a history of electricity. William, therefore, lived at a time of scientific discovery and his academic upbringing fitted him to give regular lectures to young people on natural history, especially botany. In Yorkshire, elsewhere in the north and in Wales he found a wealth of flora which he recorded far and wide while taking exercise for the sake of his health. Many records found their way into W. Withering's *Botanical Arrangement* (ed. 2, 1787–92) while, as late as 1899, J. B. L. Warren's *Flora of Cheshire* (p. 210) cites his record of *Verbascum lychnitis* and notes (p. xcii) his other "lists of Yorks., Derbys., Stafford & Salop" which unfortunately are not extant.

In 1801 Wood toured Scotland from Edinburgh to Inverness and thence along the Caledonian canal to the west coast, sailing over to the Isle of Mull and

to Staffa, returning by Glasgow. "There are few events of his life" wrote Charles Wellbeloved, "of which he was accustomed to to speak with greater pleasure than of this interesting tour", yet none of his herbarium specimens are noted from Scotland. His health was not good, and attempts to improve it by visits in 1807 to Buxton and to the coasts of Durham and Northumberland were in vain. His friend and former teacher A. Rees had persuaded him to write for the *Cyclopaedia*, on the strength of his having already contributed to J. Sowerby and J. E. Smith's *English Botany* (p. 57 *Eryngium campestre*, p. 775 *Alisma natans*). His health suddenly worsened and he died on 1 April 1808. Many tributes have been paid to him including several published accounts, such as C. Wellbeloved, *Memoirs of W. Wood* (1809) and R. V. Taylor. *Biographia Leodiensis* (1865: 232–237).

William Wood

During his active life Wood maintained a herbarium. This was handed down within his family and descended to his great great granddaughter, Miss Dorothy Wood of Dorking. In 1948 she asked the Linnean Society what should be done with it. "During my life" she wrote "the collection was fairly constantly consulted by a few keen naturalists who considered it a valuable reference . . . The collection itself is in excellent condition but the leather bindings of the

volumes have rubbed". The following year, I visited the Linnean Society while studying *Silene nutans* during a Vacation Studentship at the British Museum (Natural History). On hearing that I lived in Leeds, Mr Spencer Savage, the erudite General Secretary, asked me to enquire whether Leeds City Museum would like to have the herbarium. (This was a curious twist since my application to do vacation work in the Museum had been turned down, which enabled me to study at BM(NH) and later apply for a post at Kew Herbarium!) The herbarium was sent to Leeds and acknowledged by the Museum Director, Dr David E. Owen, in a letter to Mr Savage at the Linnean Society and dated 29 September 1951.

At that period in its history Leeds City Museum was recovering from bomb damage, and the collections that were not destroyed were housed elsewhere. Miss C. M. Rob, a well-known amateur botanist from Thirsk, was employed on a part-time basis to help Mr John Armitage with the herbarium. She removed the 700 pages from the eight old leather bound volumes and placed them in cardboard boxes labelled "Mr Smith's" herbarium, which caused some confusion as it had nothing to do directly with J. E. Smith. The confusion was compounded when D. H. Kent's *British Herbaria* (1958: 86), which was compiled from various sources, attributed to Leeds City Museum the herbarium of Joseph Wood, a London architect and well-known botanist (1776–1834), an error repeated by R. Desmond (1977: 675) but resolved by D. E. Allen (1983: 273). Now in the charge of the Assistant Curator of Natural History, Mr Adrian Norris, the herbarium of William Wood is once again available for consultation by arrangement. The collector has featured in an exhibit I staged at an Edinburgh meeting under the title 'The Long Tradition', sponsored by the Botanical Society of the British Isles, The Botanical Society of Edinburgh and the Society for the History of Natural History, September 1985; the Annual Exhibition of the BSBI at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, November 1986; and jointly with Mr Norris at Leeds for an exhibit of early collectors, April 1987. While most of the specimens are identified and annotated with the names current at the time, fewer are localized. It had been hoped to correlate sheets with Wood's localities cited by Withering (Table 1) but this has proved to be impossible with any certainty. However, Table 2 lists those localities (with species) recorded on the sheets.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr D. H. Kent and Mr David E. Allen for helpful comments on this paper, and to Mr Adrian Norris for the loan of exhibition material and correspondence.

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F. NIGEL HEPPER,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

TABLE 1. References to William Wood's observations in Withering's "Botanical Arrangement of British Plants" (ED. 2 1787–92)

		Present name
VOLUME 1		
p. 5	*Callitriche verna* Morphology note	*C. platycarpa*
23	*Circaea lutetiana* Morphology note	same
24	*C. alpina* "Found about Leeds"	probably same
38	*Crocus sativus* "About Halifax"	same
112	*Avena elatior* Morphological note	*?Arrhenatherum elatius*
138	*Dipsacus sylvestris* "I have not found it north of Derbysh. and Nottinghamsh."	*D. fullonum*
215	*Polemonium caeruleum* "Malham Cove, Yorksh." "And at Lover's Leap, Buxton"	same
243	*Ribes alpinum* "About Bradford"	same
262	*Gentiana amarella* Morphological note + "about Gordale *below* the waterfall"	*Gentianella amarella*
263	*Gentiana campestris* "Among the high rocks *above* the waterfall in Gordale"	*Gentianella campestris*
282	*Selinum palustre* "But a friend writes me from Doncaster, that the best botanist in that neighbourhood is of the opinion that it does not grow there [Doncaster] and that Mr Tofield's specimen came from a distance"	*Peucedanum palustre*
300	*Cicuta virosa* "Pond 2 miles from Northwich on the side of the road to Chester; and in Nottingham Park"	same
303	*Scandix odorata* "Pretty common near Leeds, and certainly wild"	*Myrrhis odorata*
310	*Smyrnium olusatrum* "Under the walls of York"	same
326	*Statice armeria* "Wansley Dale between Ascrig and Aysgarth"	*Armeria maritima*
341	*Narcissus poeticus* "Near Halifax"	same
347	*Ornithogalum luteum* "Under Malham Cove"	*Gagea lutea*
359	*Juncus acutus* "Coast of Lancashire"	same
405	*Chrysosplenium alternifolium* "About Esholt, on the River Air, 8 miles above Leeds, plentifully"	same
458	*Stellaria uliginosa* "Moist ground, near Leeds"	same
461	*Avena verna* "Roadside between Holywell and St Asaph"	*Minuartia verna*
464	*Cotyledon umbilicus* "Plentifully throughout Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire"	*Umbilicus rupestris*

TABLE 1 -*continued*

VOLUME 2		
528	*Rubus saxatilis* "In Dob Bottom, & deep, woody, rocky dell, opposite the Holme, near Burnley in Lancash."	same
538	*Geum rivale* "Sides of rivers and mountains in the North, Common"	same
546	*Actaea spicata* "About Thorp Arch. and in Wensley Dale, near Askrig, Yorksh."	same
691	*Sisymbrium sylvestre* "Banks of the Aire below Leeds"	*Rorippa sylvestris*
692	*Sisymbrium amphibium* "In the Foss at York"	*Rorippa amphibia*
728	*Geranium sylvaticum* "About Aysgarth Force, Wensley dale"	same
753	*Fumaria claviculata* "Among rocks of Stonehall, near Rawdon, 7 miles from Leeds"	*Ceratocapnos claviculata*
787	*Astragalus glycyphyllos* "In the ditch of Northampton Castle"	same
811	*Astragalus danicus* "About Thorp-Arch, Yorksh."	same
835	*Lactuca virosa* "In stone quarry at Thorp Arch, Yorkshire"	same
849	*Hieracum paludosum* "Howdrow Force in Wensley dale, Yorkshire"	*Crepis paludosa*
859	*Hypochaeris maculata* "Cats-ears Yorkshire" "About Gordale and Malham Cove, Yorkshire". "The country people believe it is a cure for tetters and other cutaneous eruptions, possibly though a vulgare prejudice founded on its spotted leaves"	same
859	*Hypochaeris glabra* "On the common close to the Inn at Bankstop, near Barnsley, Yorkshire"	same
865	*Serratula tinctoria* Morphology note—"all leaves entire"	
876	*Carduus helenioides* "Mill Gill near Ascrig in Wensley dale, and Skirrith Wood, near Ingleton, Yorkshire"	*Cirsium helenioides*
979	*Orchis conopsea* "In a morass near Leeds"	*Gymnadenia conopsea*
997	*Serapias latifolia* "Common in the North Riding of Yorkshire, but I have as yet seen only one within 50 miles of Leeds"	*Epipactis helleborine*
1002	*Cypripedium calceolus* "Woods about Kilnsly Crag, Wharfdale, Yorkshire"	same
1064	*Littorella lacustris* "On the bank at the South end of Balla Lake, Merionethshire"	*L. uniflora*
1101	*Salix triandra* "About Leeds"	same
1103	*Salix herbacea* "Among the highest rocks of Snowdon"	same

TABLE 2. William Wood's localized herbarium specimens in Leeds City Museum

	Present name
Taxus baccata "Llanraiader Church Yard"	same
Salix helix "Semer Water" May 30, 1786	*S. purpurea*
Cardamine hirsuta "On the bank near Burleigh"	same
Cardamine parviflora "In a ditch near Spring Garden"? Leeds	*C. hirsuta*

TABLE 2—*continued*

Cerastium arvense "Thorp Arch"	same
Corrigiola littoralis "R. A. Salisb. Horto"	same
Sagina erecta "On the roads side near Alfreds Tower"	*Moenchia erecta*
Polycarpaea tetraphyllum "ex horto salisburiensis"	*Polycarpon tetraphyllum*
Atriplex littoralis "Whitegift"	same
Geranium lucidum "from Buxton"	same
Geranium cicutarium "from Northampton"	*Erodium cicutarium*
Vicia sativa "St Vincent rocks May 21, 1790"	same
Heracleum sphondyllum "Bramham Park"	same
Glaux maritima "Whitgift", "salt marshes below Holywell"	same
Callitriche verna "In fossi circa Leeds"	same
Callitriche autumnalis "In fossi circa York"	same
Ligusticum scotium "ex horto Salisburiensi"	same
Sium latifolium "Whitgift"	same
Carduus pratensis "Near Whitgift"	*Cirsium dissectum*
Carduus heterophyllus "Mill-gill Ascrig. Skirrith Wood near Ingleton"	*Cirsium helenioides*
Hieracium murorum "Bolton Abbey" "Gordale"	?same
Leontodon taraxacum "Among the loose sand on the shore below Liverpool"	*Taraxacum? laevigatum*
Crocus sativus "in horto"	same
Crocus autumnalis "in pratensis circa Nottingham: Mrs Sherbrook"	*Crocus nudiflorus*
Eriophorum vaginatum "Blackmore"	same
Juncus jacquinii "Mt. Cenis"	same
Poa cristata "near Thorp Arch"	*Koeleria cristata*
Arundo calamagrostis "opposite Thwaite Mills"	*Phragmites australis*
Triticum junceum "Barmouth"	*Elymus farctus* subsp. *boreali-atlanticus*
Triticum maritimum "Barmouth"	*x Festulobium x loliaceum*
Triticum culmo geniculato "Whitgift"	*Lolium*
Hordeum secalinum "Salt marshes near Whitgift"	same
Avena "Thorp Arch"	
Avena pubescens "on walls about Northampton"	*Helictotrichon pubescens*
Festuca myuros capon's tail grass "Northampton"	*Vulpia myuros*
Festuca vivipara "Scale force, Cumberland July 5, 1788"	same
Agrostis vinealis "Sand of the sea shore near Whitby"	*A. canina*

Agrostis stolonifera "Llangunnog, Montgomeryshire"	same
Aira montana "Berwyn Mountain"	*Deschampsia flexuosa*
Potamogeton natans "Blackmore"	same

The Homes of the Linnean Society

Dr James Edward Smith returned to live in London (14 Paradise Row, Chelsea) in November 1787 bringing with him the Linnaean Collections and Library which he had purchased from Linnaeus's family three years earlier (1784) for the princely sum of £1 088 5s 0d. Within a few months Smith moved again (February 1788), this time to 12 Great Marlborough Street, and it was in the nearby Marlborough Coffee House on Thursday, 26 February that the foundation meeting of our Society took place. The seven persons who attended were: Dr James Edward Smith, Rev. Samuel Goodenough, Thomas Marsham, Jonas Dryander (curator of Bank's library), James Dickson (a nurseryman), John Beckwith (a medic with an interest in entomology), and John Timothy Swainson (Secretary of the Board of Customs). The first formal meeting was held in the same Coffee House on 18 March 1788.

By this stage Smith had been elected President of the new Linnean Society and the first 'General Meeting' was appropriately held in his house (12 Great Marlborough Street) on 8 April 1788. Then at the third 'Fellows Meeting', on 20 May 1788, the President agreed to allow the Society to have the use of two of

Fig. 1. 12 Great Marlborough Street 1932.

the rooms in his house at a nominal rent of £20 per annum. Thus for the next seven years our Society met in the President's house, which also contained the Linnaean Collections.

The Marlborough Coffee House has long since gone, but No. 12 Great Marlborough Street survived until after the Second World War. When we occupied it, it was a typical early Georgian town house, (Fig. 1), but today a smart Café (Loire) faced in white marble, has totally replaced the old house!

Fig. 2. Panton Square 1850.

In summer 1795 Smith moved from Great Marlborough Street to a house in Hammersmith, taking the Linnaean Collection with him. This sent the Society hurriedly searching for other quarters. In the event we joined forces with the Westminster Subscription Library and together jointly leased 10 Panton Square from September 1795 to 1805, at a yearly rent of £90. The house was of three stories and we occupied the first floor. Panton Square was built by Thomas Panton (who made his money from Piccadilly Hall, a notorious gambling hell of the 1650s) and was a smart cul-de-sac surrounded by no more than ten houses. A water-colour drawing of the square in the 1840s, by T. Hosmer Shepherd, shows us how it must have appeared when we were resident there (Fig. 2). In 1923 the whole site was razed to the ground and built over by an extension to Lyons's Coventry Street 'Corner House'. During our occupation of Panton Square we were warmly aided by Sir Joseph Banks who not only gave us financial assistance but also presented numerous volumes to our library. In 1802 we received our first Royal Charter.

With the growth of our library and museum the dual occupancy of 10 Panton Square soon became inconvenient and we resolved to seek new quarters. In 1805 we took a nine-year lease on 9 Gerrard Street, Soho, for £300 with a yearly rent of £105. This house had previously been the Turk's Head Tavern.*

*This Tavern was frequented by Dr Johnson and it was here that he and Joshua Reynolds founded the Literary Club in 1764—it is further worth noting that today the Reynolds Room in The Royal Academy of Arts now occupies that part of Burlington House which at one time housed the Linnaean Collections and Library (see later), while the water lily on the new set of stamps commemorating our Bicentenary is by Major J. R. Gwatkin, a direct collateral descendant of Reynolds.

Although in March 1815 we negotiated a second nine-year lease on the property at £160 per annum, the opportunity to move into more salubrious quarters at a cheaper rent could not be neglected, and in 1821 we moved (well, to be strictly correct we held the Anniversary Meeting there that year) to 32 Soho Square (a 'small' late Georgian house with an Adam facade). This opportunity came with the death in 1820 of Sir Joseph Banks who left his large house (32 Soho Square), together with his library and collections, to Robert Brown (who at that time was also our librarian).

Fig. 3. 9 Gerrard Street.

On 2 August 1822 Robert Brown leased to the Linnean Society the Soho Square half (see Fig. 4) of what had been Bank's House, for 30 years one-quarter of another year and two months and sixteen days at an annual rent of £140. Brown retained the Dean Street half of the house which contained Bank's library and collections and Bank's study, living beneath them on the ground floor in what had been the coach house and stables. Meanwhile, in December 1821, Mr Stock offered us £100 per annum for the remainder of our lease on 9 Gerrard Street provided we paid for the cleaning of the cesspool which would cost about £10. Subsequently 9 Gerrard Street was occupied for many years by the Westminster General Dispensary, today, however, it is the home of a Chinese supermarket (Fig. 3).

Smith remained our President until his death in 1828 whereupon we bought the Linnaean Collections plus his own collections from his executors (for £3150). With the advent of these priceless possessions the Soho half of Bank's

old home became very crowded, and on 19 November 1850 Council decided to take over the entire premises, including the Dean Street half occupied by Brown. Brown meanwhile appears to have had financial difficulties and the freehold of 32 Soho Square was by that time administered by the Glossop Estate (trustees were Rev. H. Glossop and L. A. Young Esq.) who leased it to us (in 1850) for 21 years at a rent of £200 per annum. We, in turn, underleased the

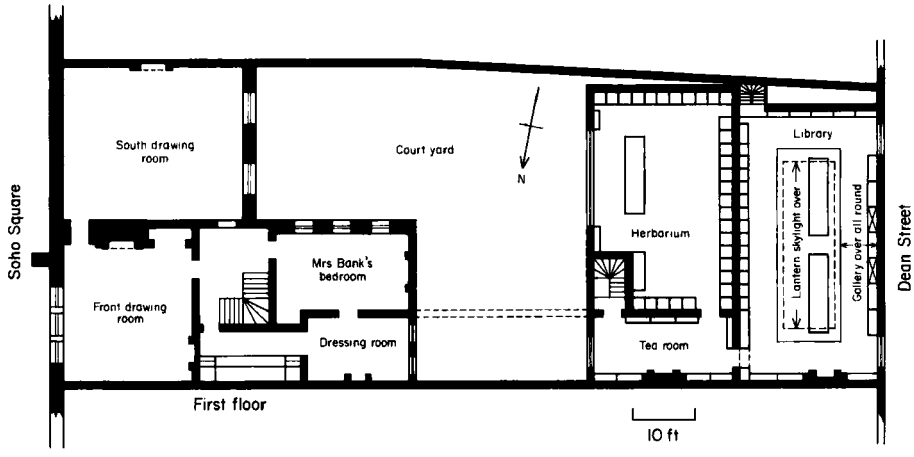


Fig. 4. First floor plan of 32 Soho Square.

Fig. 5. Banks's Library.

ground floor, Dean Street to Robert Brown (who was occupying it) at £80 per annum.

Grand though Bank's House was, the Society was always hoping to become Crown tenants and thereby receive a grace and favour residence. Our wish was finally granted in 1856 when we moved to Old Burlington House with some 14 years on our lease of 32 Soho Square remaining.

The size of 32 Soho Square can be judged by the first floor plan prepared by H. B. Carter (Fig. 4), from the sepia drawings of Banks's Library (Fig. 5) and his study on the first floor (Fig. 6), from the water colour of the Dean Street frontage (Fig. 7) and the ink drawing of the Soho frontage (Fig. 8).

Finally, we have in our possession a further ink drawing of the interior of the Drawing Room (with its Adam ceiling and mantelpiece) which was used as our Meeting Room for some 35 years (Fig. 9). Unfortunately, despite its blue plaque, the house was demolished in 1937 to make way for new commercial properties.

Fig. 6. Bank's Study.

The original Old Burlington House (Fig. 10), set in 3½ acres, was a Restoration period, red/yellow brick house built by Sir John Denham (surveyor of works to Charles II) in 1666–1667. At the time Piccadilly was on the outskirts of London and the site had been part of a farm. Denham sold the house in 1667, apparently unfinished, to Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Burlington and 2nd Earl of Cork (his younger brother was the famous chemist Robert Boyle).

The house remained more or less unchanged for the next 50 years until 1717 when the 3rd Earl of Burlington refaced the front of the house in stone. This was done in the Palladian style with Venetian windows on either side of the first floor. Although Colin Campbell claims the merit of the design it was probably that of the Earl himself.

The house was eventually sold to Lord Cavendish, in 1815, who straight away had the north front refaced in stone and then built the Burlington Arcade (1819) to the west of the property to prevent access by the public (who apparently threw their oyster shells over his garden wall) and to raise revenue (it brought him £4000 a year—and was sub-let for £8640). In 1854 Lord Cavendish sold Old Burlington House to the crown for £140,000.

Meanwhile there had been growing pressure on the Government to provide accommodation for the scientific societies (as long ago as November 1845 we made application to the Government for the accommodation in Somerset House, then occupied by the University of London—our application was rejected; while in 1849 we applied for accommodation in Craig's Court, Whitehall, just vacated by the Museum of Economic Geology, again rejected). In 1852 the Earl of Rosse, President of the Royal Society, sent a memorandum to the Government recommending the bringing together of the London Scientific societies (Royal, Geological, Astronomical, Chemical, Antiquaries and Linnean) under one roof. Initially the Government purchased a site at Kensington Gore for this purpose, but none of the societies wished to go there, they considered it too provincial and together they petitioned for a more central location.

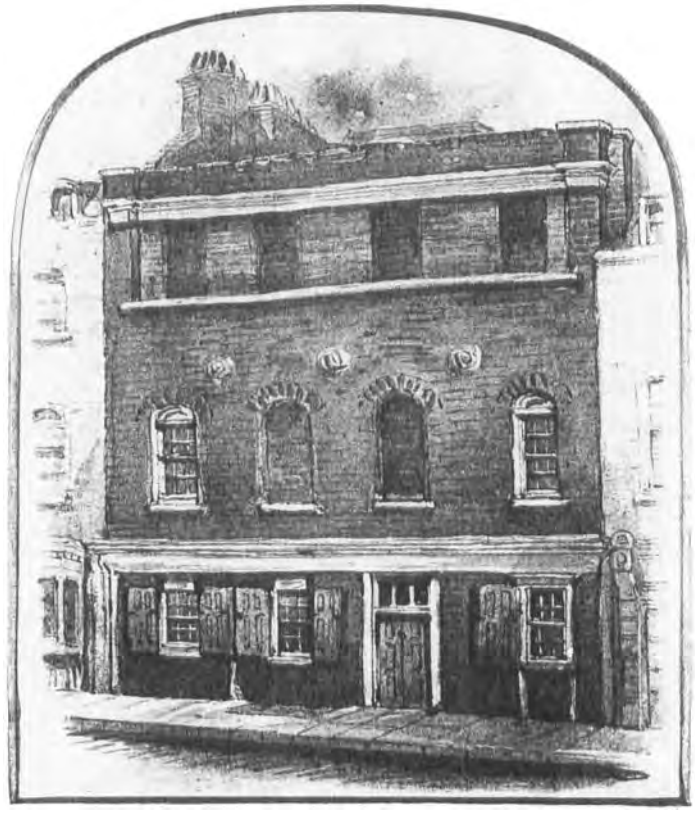


Fig. 7. Dean Street frontage (of 32 Soho Square).

As soon as the purchase of Old Burlington House in 1854 by the Government had been ratified, a deputation from the Linnean Society consisting of the President (Thomas Bell), Treasurer, Secretary and Robert Brown met with Lord Aberdeen to press the claims of our Society for a share in the accommodation provided. However, three years were to elapse before our wish was granted. During this time The Royal, Antiquaries, Astronomical and Geological Societies were facing eviction from Somerset House, the whole of

Fig. 8. Soho Square frontage (32 has the doorway with the semi-elliptical fanlight under a depressed arch).

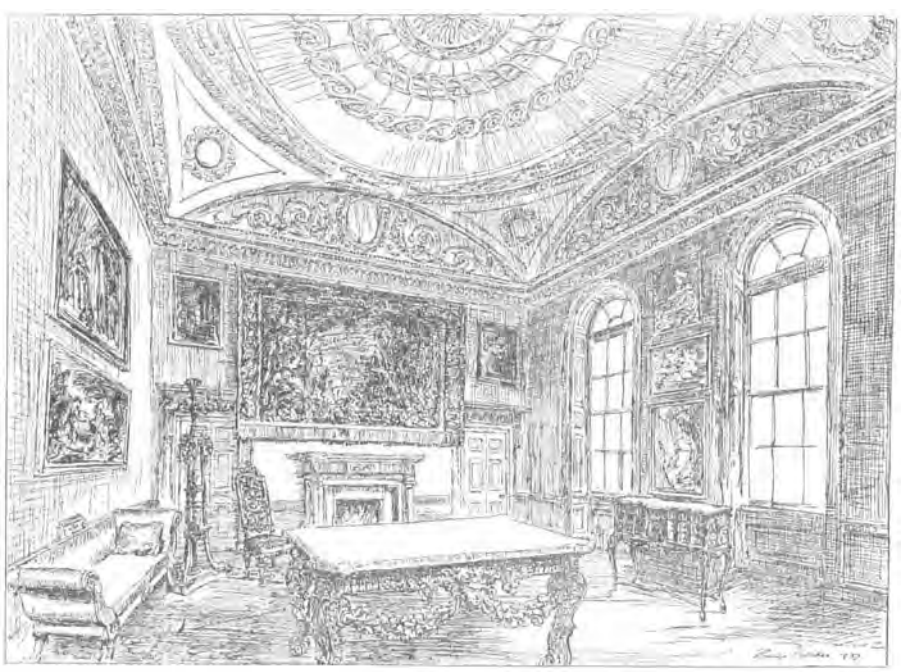


Fig. 9. Interior of South Drawing Room.

which was now said to be required for Government Offices. All were given the option of moving temporarily to Old Burlington House, but in the event only the Royal Society accepted. In 1856 The Royal Society was charged by the Government with allocating accommodation in Old Burlington House. This they speedily did, suggesting that the Linnean and Chemical Societies join them there. Although the Government accepted The Royal Society's proposals there were dissenting voices raised in Parliament to the granting of such gracious accommodation to private societies like the Chemical and Linnean!

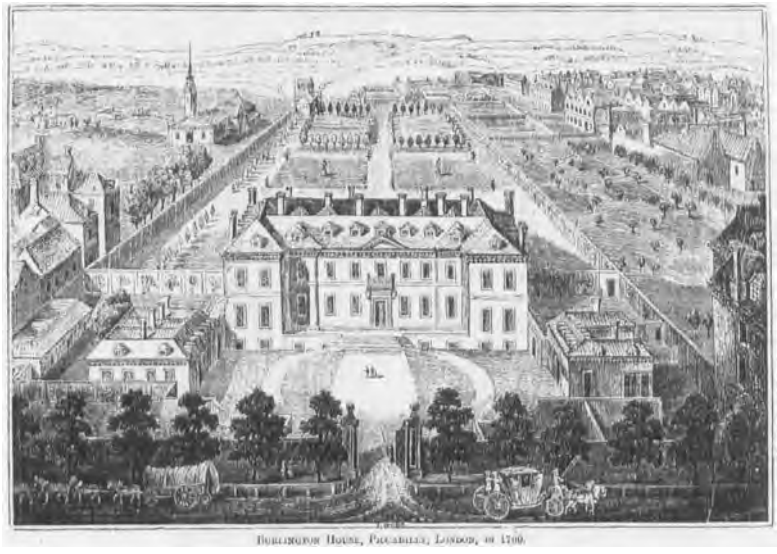


Fig. 10. Old Burlington House in 1700.

So sure were we of moving into Old Burlington House that in June 1856 we opened a subscription to raise the £800 estimated for the cost of our removal from 32 Soho Square. On 21 July 1856 Council met for the first time in Old Burlington House, and our Library and Museum in Soho Square closed on 1 April 1857. The accommodation allotted to our Society was as follows: the attic storey; on the first floor, the Ballroom and room adjoining on the North side of the building; on the ground floor, the two front rooms in the east end; in the basement, the Wine Cellar. The Ballroom on the first floor became our library and also housed the Linnaean Collections (it is now the Reynolds Room—Fig. 11). The adjoining room, north, became our meeting room (Fig. 11—stippled area). It was in this latter room, on 1 July 1858, that the two historic papers by Darwin and Wallace were read as was the custom by our Secretary (John Bennett). Unfortunately neither of the two principals were there; Wallace was in the Malay Archipelago and Darwin remained at Down House, apparently quite prostrated by his daughter's death from scarlet fever. Today the Meeting Room in question has been displaced by a new subsidiary staircase leading to the Diploma Gallery, built by Norman Shaw in 1881. All that remains of it is an elegant President's (R.A.'s) lavatory with mahogany seat and wash basin of blue patterned porcelain (*circa* 1880).

In October 1866 the Government gave notice that it intended to make over Old Burlington House and half the gardens to the Royal Academy of Arts (at that time housed in what is now the National Gallery), and that it would erect new buildings around the courtyard of Old Burlington House for the scientific societies. At the same time it asked the three societies in Old Burlington House and the Geological, Astronomical and Antiquaries who had remained in

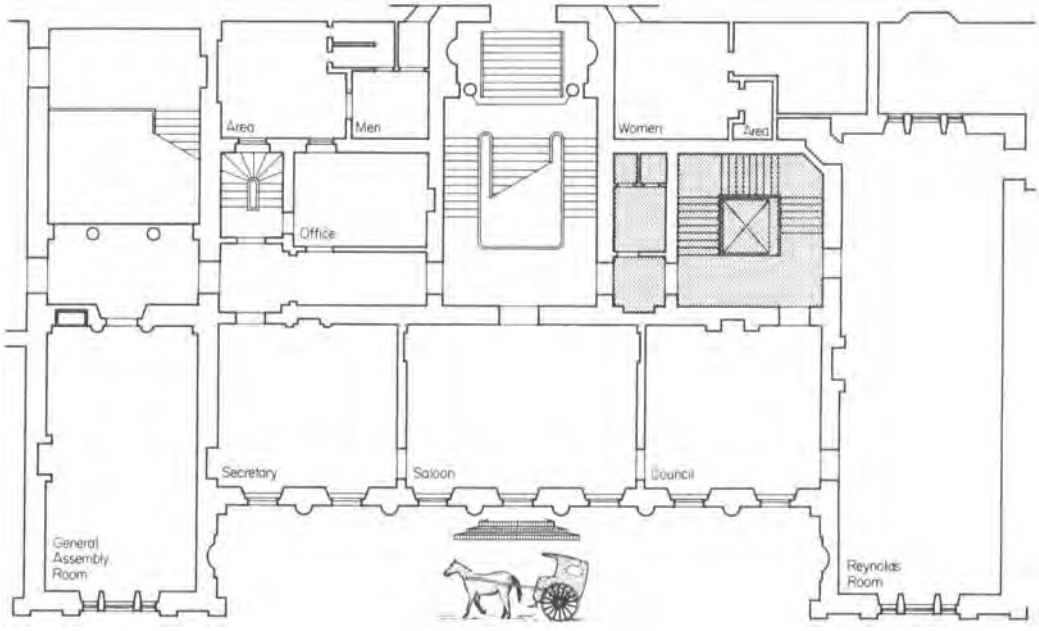


Fig. 11. First Floor plan Royal Academy of Art's rooms.

Somerset House, for their requirements. The Parliamentary estimate for this work was £65 000, of which £20 000 was voted in 1866 as a first instalment. Work commenced in 1868 with the demolition of the old wings, the Colonnade and the Gate House. The architects were Banks and Barry and they built the new wings as well as the Piccadilly frontage. Their three storey blocks, enclosing the courtyard, are however of a more ornate form of the Palladian style than that of the main house.

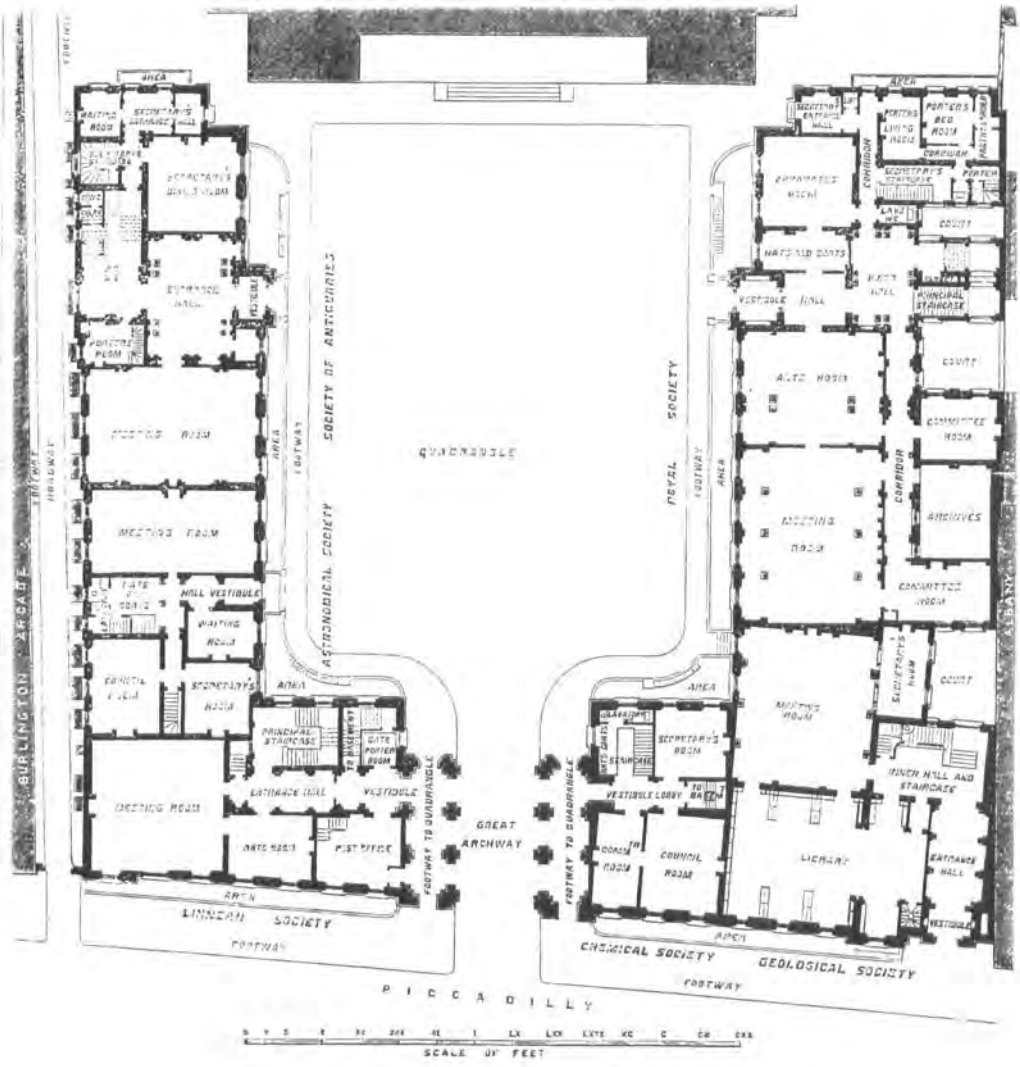
By 1873 Sidney Smirke, the Royal Academy of Arts architect, had added a third storey to Old Burlington House to bring it up to about the same height as the new buildings by Banks and Barry around the courtyard. That same year the Piccadilly frontage was completed so that after 17 years of residence (1856–73) we were able to remove our belongings from Old Burlington House and move into our present accommodation in the South West portion of the courtyard of Burlington House (Fig. 12).

Although Parliament originally decreed that the scientific societies should occupy their quarters in Burlington House free of any charge save for the upkeep of the interior of the building, today we are each responsible for the rates on our individual properties. Our own rates are presently £16 000 per annum

Fig. 12. Piccadilly frontage of Burlington House (Linnean Rooms above and to the left of arch).

but, because of our scientific status, they are reduced to £7999. The fabric (outside) of the building (with the exception of that occupied by the Royal Academy of Arts) is maintained by the Property Services Agency who look after Burlington House for the Government. The interior of our part of the building has recently cost us £16 000 for the renovation of the meeting room and staircase (1985–86) and a further £40 000 for new air conditioning, principally in the strong room. We must also soon face up to replacing the gas-fired boilers in the basement which are over 20 years old and a constant worry to the staff. The Royal Academy of Arts, on the other hand, pay rent (albeit a peppercorn one) and are responsible for the upkeep of their whole building, both inside and outside. They are merely tenants of Burlington House while we luckily are one of the permanent residents.

B.G.G.



NEW BURLINGTON HOUSE: THE HOME OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES.
Plan of Ground Floor

Fig. 13.

Footnote: When we moved into our new quarters in 1873 part of what is now the Executive Secretary's room was a Post Office designed to serve all the societies in the quadrangle (Fig. 13). Today there is an impressive entrance door immediately on the left of the archway coming in from Piccadilly, with well worn stone steps leading up to it and a V.R. wooden postbox to the right. The Post Office closed in 1904 and from then until 1969 we supplied (unknowingly) electricity to the two telephone boxes on either side of the archway. Mr O'Grady wrote to the G.P.O. in 1970 to try to recover some of the money, but with no success, the G.P.O. even asked to be reconnected to our supply, for which they offered us a nominal payment of £1 per annum! On our refusal they approached the Ministry of Works who at that time supplied the electricity for the quadrangle. As Mr O'Grady commented, it is a pity the Post Office no longer controls the telephones, otherwise we could have asked for a few free sheets of Bicentenary stamps.

LIBRARY

At the end of October we said farewell to the last of the part-time Library Assistants provided through the Trust for Urban Ecology under their Manpower Services Commission Community Programme scheme. This began in June 1983 and in the four years since then we have had 19 different part-time assistants, mostly graduates. They cleaned, polished and labelled all the post-1750 book stock and made a start in the reshelving of journals to clear space for eventual possible reshelving in subject order. They also helped in all other Library duties, including assisting at Society occasions. Many have kept in touch with us letting us know how they are getting on: five are in Librarian/archivist posts; four working in other fields; three still job-hunting and three attending further courses. One is a busy mother but hopes to return to Library work later. We would like to thank all concerned especially the Manpower Services Commission and the Trust for Urban Ecology.

Donations

Items of special note include a large number of additions to the Insch Tea Library presented by the India Office Library and Records and 14 boxes of reprints relating to the genetics of maize or *Drosophila* with card index presented by Prof. B. Gardiner. Our usual thanks must go to Professor Pontecorvo and Dr R. Fitter for regular additions of journals we do not otherwise receive and to all others who send us copies of their reprints. Other donations include:

Prof. G. C. Ainsworth	Micheli, P. A.: assorted notebooks and photocopies related to Micheli manuscripts formerly held by J. Ramsbottom, together with a life of Micheli by Targiono-Tozzetti, 1858.
A. W. Armstrong	Bloomfield, F. *Ginseng, the divine herb,* 59 pp. Century, London, 1987.
	Medawar, P. *Memoirs of a thinking radish: an autobiography,* 209 pp. Oxford University Press, 1986.
The author	Blais, R. *Flore Pratique*, 370 pp. Presses Univ. de France, Paris, 1986.
F. Brightman	Chatfield, J. *F. W. Frowhawk, his life and work*, 184 pp. Croward Press, Marlborough, 1987.
	Fontaine, M. *Love among the butterflies*, ed. W. F. Cater, 223 pp. Collins, London, 1980.
	France, P. *An encyclopedia of Bible animals,* 166 pp. Croom Helm, London, 1986.
	Hansell, M. *Animal architecture and building behaviour*, 324 pp. Longman, London, 1984.
	Oxnard, C. E. *Fossils, teeth and sex: new perspectives on human evolution*, 281 pp. Univ. of Washington Press, Seattle, 1987.
	Sage, B. *The arctic and its wildlife*, 190 pp. Croom Helm, London, 1986.
	Wiseman, J. *A history of the British pig*, 118 pp, Duckworth, London, 1986.

B. L. Burtt	Hilliard, M & Burtt, B. L. *The botany of the southern Natal Drakensberg,* 253 pp. Nat. Botanic Gardens, 1987.
The publishers	Nicholson, E. M. *The new environmental age,* 232 pp. Cambridge University Press, 1987.
The publishers	Gamlin, L. & Vines, G. *The evolution of life,* 248 pp. London, Collins, 1987.
R. Desmond	Peck, C. H. *Annual Report of the State Botanist 1868–1912,* Vol. 3, 1891–1899, Leiden, Boerhaave Press, 1987.
	Royal Society, *The Royal Society at Carlton House Terrace,* 26 pp. Royal Society, London, 1967.
The author	Feltwell, J. *The Naturalist's Garden,* 169 pp. Ebury Press, London, 1987.
Hirohito, Emperor of Japan	*Sea Spiders of Sagami Bay,* described by K. Nakamura, collected by Hirohito, Emperor of Japan, 43 pp. + 35 pp. H. M. Biological Laboratory, Imperial Household [Tokyo], 1987.
Dr H. H. Iltis	Allen, O. H. & Allen, E. K. *The Leguminosae,* 812 pp. Univ. Wisconsin Press, 1981.
	Correll, D. *The potato and its wild relatives,* 606 pp. Texas Res. Foundation, Renner, 1962.
	Curtis, J. *The vegetation of Wisconsin,* 657 pp. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1978.
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The nutrition of Great Lakes Cladophora,* by G. C. Gerloff & G. P. Fitzgerald, 1976.
The author	Mabberley, D. J. *The Plant Book: a portable dictionary of the higher plants,* 706 pp. Cambridge University Press, 1987.
Mammal Society	Chanin, P. *Otters,* 28 pp. Mammal Society Series, 1987.
	Stebbings, R. *Bats,* 32 pp. Mammal Society Series, 1986.
	Stebbings, R. *Which Bat is it?* 48 pp. Mammal Society & Vincent Wildlife Trust, 1986.
	Morris, P. & Wroot, S. *The preparation of mammal skins,* 15 pp. Occ. Publ. Mammal Society, n.d.
	Yalden, D. W. *The Identification of British Bat,* 14 pp. Occ. Publ. Mammal Society, 1985.
D. A. Payton	*Veld & Flora,* Vol. 70(4) 1984, 71(1–4) 1985 & 72(1–3) 1985.
Systematics Association	*Biomineralization in lower plants,* ed. B.S.C. Leadbeater & R. Riding, 401 pp. Special Vol. 30, Oxford, 1986.
	Systematic and taxonomic approaches in paleobotany, ed. R. A. Spicer & B. A. Thomas, 321 pp. Special Vol. 31, Oxford, 1986.
	Co-evolution and systematics, ed. A. R. Stone & D. L. Hawksworth, 147 pp. Special Vol. no. 32, Oxford, 1986.
The author	Tabor, R. *The wildlife of the domestic cat,* 217 pp. Arrow, London, 1987.

The Publishers	Fuller, E. *Extinct Birds*, 256 pp. Viking-Rainbird, London, 1987.
J. & M. E. S. Weston	Prance, G. T. & Lovejoy, T. E. *Key Environments: Amazonia*, 442 pp. Pergamon, Oxford, 1985.

Accessions

Other recent accessions include:

Allen, C. & Allen, R. *The first resource: wild species in the American economy*, 529 pp. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1986.

Australia, Bureau of Flora and Fauna, *Flora of Australia*, Vol. 45, Hydatellaceae to Liliaceae, 521 pp. Canberra, 1987.

Birkhead, M. & Perrins, C. *The mute swan*, 157 pp. Croom Helm, London.

Clapham, A. R., Tutin, T. G. & Moore. D. M. *Flora of the British Isles*, Ed. 3, 688 pp. Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Dawkins, R. *The blind watchmaker*, 332 pp. Longmans, Harlow, 1986.

Haslams, S. M. *River plants of Western Europe*, 512 pp. Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Hoenigswald, H. M. & Wiener, L. F. *Biological metaphor and cladistic classification; an interdisciplinary approach*, 286 pp. Pinter, London, 1987.

Lovtrup, S. *Darwinism, the refutation of a myth*, 469 pp. Croom Helm, London, 1987.

Moyal, A. *"A bright and savage land": scientists in colonial Australia*, 192 pp. Collins, Sydney, 1986.

Pietsch, T. W. & Grobecker, D. B. *Frogfishes of the world: systematics, zoogeography and behavioural ecology*, 420 pp. Stanford University Press, 1987.

Sampson, F. B. *Early New Zealand botanical art*, 142 pp. Methuen, Auckland, 1985.

Soule, M. *Viable populations for conservation*, 189 pp. Cambridge University Press, 1987.