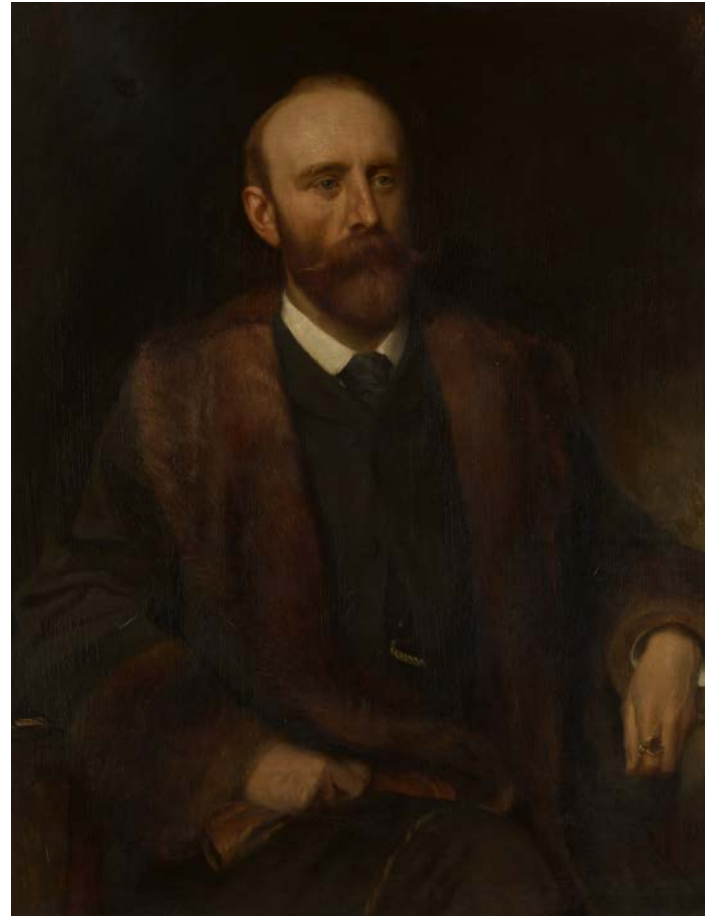


The Percy Sladen Memorial Fund

Supporting field work since 1904

Walter Percy Sladen was Zoological Secretary of the Linnean Society

- Mrs Constance Sladen FLS, founded the Fund in memory of her late husband W. Percy Sladen, FLS. She was among the first women to be admitted in 1905.
- The investment income from the original endowment is still used to support of worldwide field exploration in the earth and life sciences.



W. Percy Sladen, Zoological Secretary of the Linnean Society 1885 - 1895

- The son of a wealthy leather merchant, Sladen was born near Halifax, Yorkshire on 30 June 1849. He received no university training but his hobby was natural history, and he soon become fascinated with echinoderms, establishing a reputation as a leading authority on them.
- He died in June 1900, after some years of ill health. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter has a special room for his collection of echinoderms.



Trustees and Institutional links

- The Deed of Endowment assigned the appointment of the five Trustees to:
- The Royal Society
- The British Museum Natural History (now the Natural History Museum)
- The University of Cambridge
- The University of Oxford
- The Linnean Society of London (which also provides an official address for the Fund)

Tenure for Trustees is 5 years and their expertise covers a wide range of life and earth sciences. They meet twice a year to consider grant applications. Grants are paid from the investment income of the Trust.

Past Trustees:

There were six Trustees initially:

Tempest Anderson MD

T. Bailey Saunders: scholar & writer

Henry B. Woodward: geologist

W. A. Herdman

G.B.Hawes

Henry Bury MA (who remained in post to 1950)

• Later Trustees included

Sir Sidney Harmer

C.F.A.Pantin

G. E. Fogg

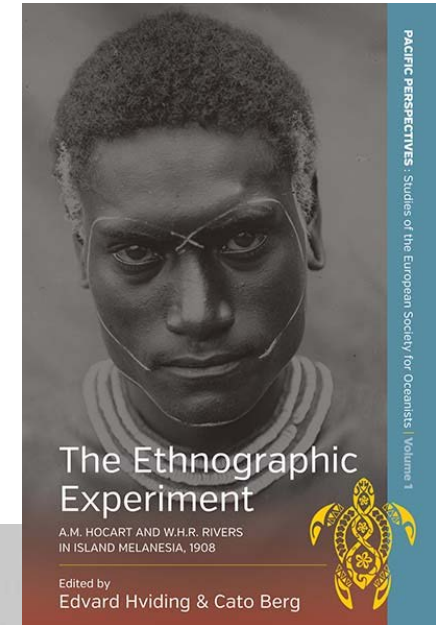
Max Walters



Sir George Taylor (who introduced the tradition of Madeira cake and wine at Trustees meetings) There will be Madeira cake today for tea!

The first field work grants were made in 1905

- The Percy Sladen Indian Ocean expedition, under the leadership of J. Stanley Gardiner, was one of the first to gain financial support. His speciality was field work in coral research
- In 1907/08 W. H. R. Rivers was supported for anthropological investigations in the British Solomon islands
- From 1926 onwards Louis B. Leakey received a number of awards from the Fund
- In 1934, Sir Vivian Fuchs received support for the Lake Rudolf Expedition



The Fund supported women from the beginning

Women recipients included:

Dorothea Bate

Winifred Blackman:

Alice Embleton

Dorothy Garrod

Nina Lanyard

Margaret Alice Murray

Freya Stark

Gertrude Caton Thompson

(many now celebrated by the
Trowelblazers:

<http://trowelblazers.com/>



Expeditions: the Percy Sladen Fund Lake Titicaca expedition of 1937 was lead by Hugh Gary Gilson.



The photos are from an account of the expedition, written in 2008 by one of the participants, Dr Donald M. Hall.

The Linnean Society holds the records of the grants made by the Fund. These include 7 to Louis B. Leakey supporting excavations in East Africa and for pioneering anthropological work in the Solomon Islands by W. H Rivers



Centenary expedition 2004

- In 2004 the Trustees invited applications for a Centenary expedition, It was awarded to Dr Robert Prys Jones and Julian Hume for work on:
- *“The prehistoric terrestrial vertebrate faunas of western Indian Ocean islands, Mauritius and Rodriguez”*
- An evening meeting was held at the Linnean Society
- The Mare aux Songes rich fossil discoveries on Mauritius enabled a member of that team to participate in a major dig at the site, which turned up large quantities of fossil material
- A number of publications have appeared on the results.



117 years of supporting field work

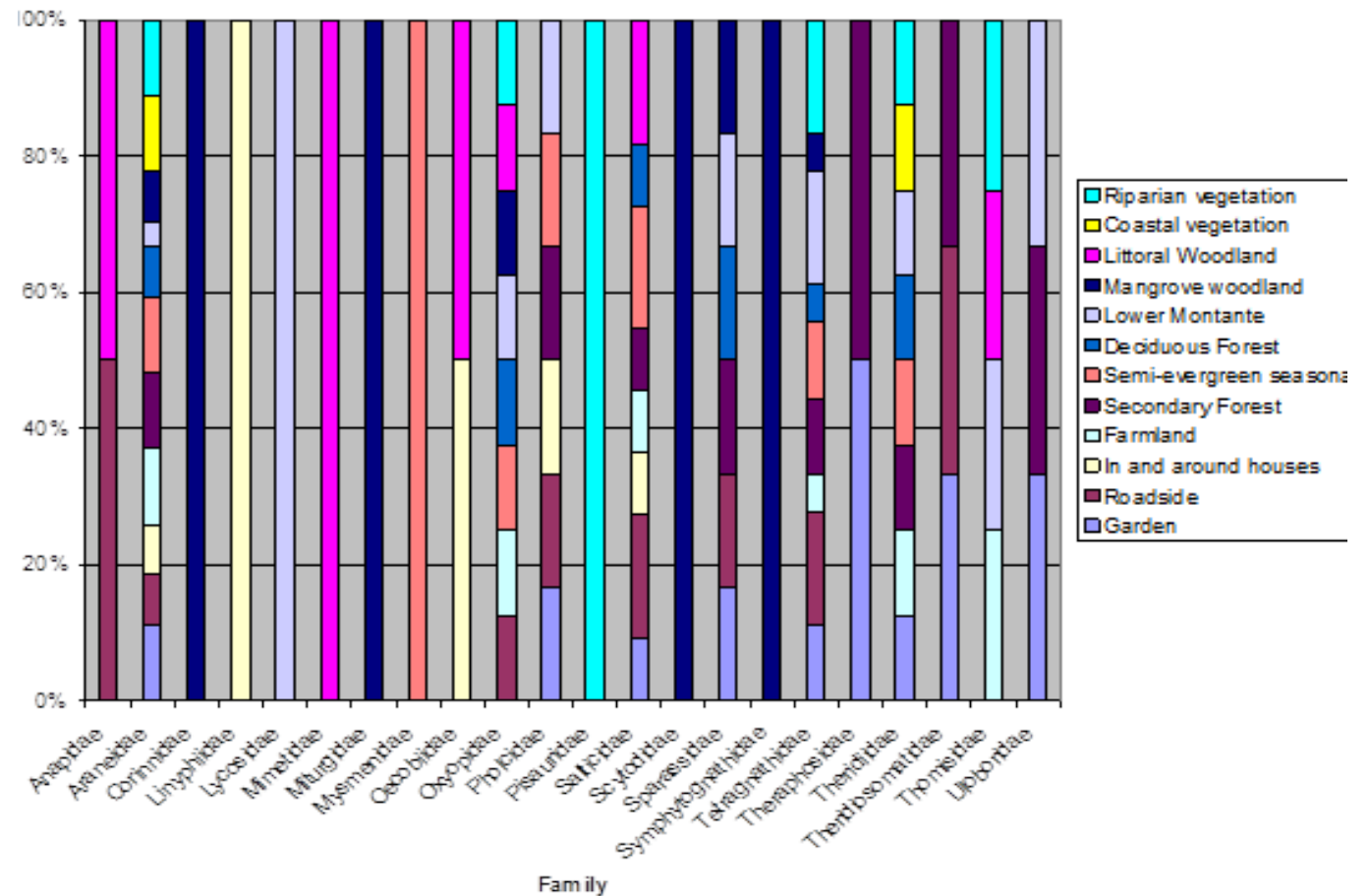
- During the 117 years since the Fund was founded, it
- received 1809 requests for funding, and
- agreed support for 1293 projects, totalling £467,420

When adjusted for the changing value of money,

This is the modern day equivalent of

£2,130,004.95

by: Jo-Anne Sewlal FLS ,
University of the West Indies,
Trinidad, West Indies. 2010 grant



Recent Grant recipients: in 2016 the Trustees awarded 25 grants.

- Several earlier grant recipients have sent posters for display today, others are speaking or attending. A sample of others include:
- Amanda Vincent for work on seahorses (1986 & 1987)
- Peter and Azra Meadows: river systems in Chitral, Pakistan (1999)



- David Goulson: bee reintroductions (2006 & 2010)
- Jeri Wright: Caffeinated nectar (2008)



Carol Chambers capturing bats in Nicaragua
and many others, from all over the world

Applications welcome:

- The Trustees meet in spring and autumn annually, with closing dates for submissions being **30 January and 30 September**
- Submissions are now electronic (with a paper copy kept for the archives). Two references are also required.
- Anyone can apply if they have a field work project. There are NO restrictions based on age, nationality, qualifications or specific membership
- support is **not** given for field work which is part of a PhD or Masters (nor general support for undergraduate expeditions)
- Applications must be for work in the field, in the life and earth, away from where the applicant normally works and lives

The current maximum grant is £1500

see <https://www.linnean.org/the-society/medals-awards-prizes-grants/percy-sladen-memorial-fund-grants>