

Indian Ornithology, British Botany and Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912): the Scientific Legacy of a Founder of the Indian National Congress

*Flett Theatre, Natural History Museum,
South Kensington
Tuesday, 23 October 2012*

A one-day meeting organised by the Natural History
Museum (NHM) and South London Botanical Institute
(SLBI), supported by the British Ornithologists' Club and
the Linnean Society of London.



British Ornithologists' Club



2012 is the centenary of the death of Allan Octavian Hume - Indian ornithologist extraordinaire, enlightened administrator in the Indian Civil Service, early leading light of the Indian National Congress and founder of the South London Botanical Institute – but a man strangely little known and appreciated today.

The collection of over 80,000 south Asian birds that Hume presented to the NHM remains the largest donation of bird specimens in NHM history and the foundation of knowledge of the sub-continent's ornithology.

The conference will focus on Hume's scientific achievements and legacy, but set in the context of his wider life and initiatives in Indian administration and politics.

Among the nine speakers will be Professor Edward Moulton (University of Manitoba), doyen of Hume studies and co-editor of the projected multi-volume *Selected Writings of Allan Octavian Hume* (Oxford University Press).

Associated with the conference there will be the opportunity for a limited number of participants (on a first come, first served basis) to visit Hume's South London Botanical Institute on the day preceding the conference and see Hume's collections at the NHM at Tring on the day following the conference. Details are provided on the attached booking form.

In addition to the timed guided tours, visitors to the SLBI will be able to view the garden and obtain refreshments. At the NHM at Tring, the free public museum will be open from 10.00 – 17.00.

Programme

10.00 – 10.30	Registration and coffee/tea
10.30 – 10.45	Welcome and general background information
10.45 – 11.00	Allan Octavian Hume: A remarkable man Honor Gay , <i>NHM</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Hume's ornithological activities in India Nigel Collar , <i>BirdLife International</i>
11.30 – 12.00	Hume's Indian network of ornithologists Robert Prys-Jones , <i>NHM</i>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 13.30	The scientific legacy of Hume's ornithological studies Pamela Rasmussen , <i>Michigan State University Museum</i>
13.30 – 14.00	Hume and the Great Hedge of India Roy Moxham , <i>London</i>
14.00 – 14.45	Ahead of his time and still relevant: Hume's legacy of administrative and philosophical initiatives Edward Moulton , <i>University of Manitoba</i>
14.45 – 15.10	Tea/coffee break
15.10 – 15.30	Hume's significance in Indian political history Sriram Mehrotra , <i>Shimla</i> (presented by Alice Moulton)
15.30 – 16.00	Possession and obsession: Hume's botanical collections Keith Spurgin , <i>Truro, Cornwall</i>
16.00 – 16.30	Hume's final project: the South London Botanical Institute Petra Broddle , <i>SLBI</i>
16.30 – 17.00	General Discussion
17.00 – 17.45	Reception

BOOKING FORM

Please return, **before Monday 15 October**, either by post to Hume Conference, South London Botanical Institute, 323 Norwood Road, London, SE24 9AQ or by e-mail to info@slbi.org.uk

I/We (name/s)

Address.....

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e-mail.....

will be attending the Hume conference on Tuesday 23 October, and

either enclose a cheque, made payable to the South London Botanical Institute, for £25 per person (to include tea/coffee, buffet lunch and reception).

or, if you use Internet banking please make payment to The South London Botanical Institute, Sort code 20-94-67, Acc. No. 10853011 quoting your name(s) and 'Hume Conference'.

Conference participants are invited to visit the South London Botanical Institute on Monday 22 October and the Natural History Museum at Tring, which holds Hume's bird collections, on Wednesday 24 October. These visits, **which must be requested when booking**, are free and each will last approximately one hour. Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements (information will be provided). Due to lack of space at both venues, tours will need to be timed, so please indicate which times would suit you best (choose 2 preferences from the 4 given). Spaces are limited and confirmation will be provided during the week commencing 8 October.

I/we would like to visit:

The SLBI on Monday 22 October: 10.30 12.00 14.00 15.30

The NHM at Tring, on Wednesday 24 October: 10.30 12.00 14.00 15.30