

# SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections

February 1988  
Volume 2, No. 1

## 1988 SPNHC MEETING

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History cordially invites all interested individuals to the Third Annual Meeting of SPNHC to be held in Pittsburgh from 31 May to 3 June, 1988. The meetings will include oral and poster presentations, symposia, workshops, tours, and social activities. The program focuses primarily on museum conservation for natural history materials and health and safety issues for individuals working with such materials. Keynote speaker, Peter Raven will address the issue of conservation in natural history museums. SPNHC members should have received registration materials in the mail. For more information, contact Duane A. Schlitter or Stephen L. Williams at The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3706 or call 412-665-2611.

## A Note on "Inks..."

Since the publication of the 1986 article on inks for documentation in vertebrate research collections (Curator, 29:93-108), there have been changes in two of the recommended Pelikan inks. According to Mr. Ronald Fischer, Pelikan Aktiengesellschaft (Postfach 103, 3000 Hannover 1, Federal Republic of Germany), the changes are in the labeling and not in the formulation of the inks.

Pelikan Drawing Ink T, 17 Black is now Pelikan Drawing Ink FT, Black. The label states that this ink is "for use with drawing ink fountain pens with specially hardened nibs." Pelikan Drawing Ink, 50 Special Black is now labeled as Pelikan Drawing Ink Z, 50 Black. Package labeling states that this ink is "for paper, board" and "for all drawing ink fountain pens." According to Mr. Fischer both inks may be used on drafting film and paper and should only be used in technical pens, not regular fountain pens. The reference numbers associated with the products apply to bottle descriptions, not ink specifications.

The authors are grateful to Mr. Fischer for clarifying these points, and to Ann Pinzl (Nevada State Museum) and Arnold Suzumoto (Bishop Museum) for bringing these changes to our attention.

-Stephen L. Williams and Catharine A. Hawks,  
Section of Mammals, The Carnegie Museum of  
Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh,  
PA 15213.

## CONSERVATORS, COLLECTION SPECIALISTS AND RESEARCH

C. V. Horie provides a summary of questionnaires returned by 38 members of the Natural History Collections Working Group of the ICOM Conservation Committee in issue No. 2 (1987) of *Natural History Conservation*. Twenty-four of the respondents are grouped as "conservators" and 14 as "collection specialists." According to Horie, "conservators" describe those responsible for carrying out the physical care of the specimens including collection managers; "collection specialists" describe those whose primary task is the study and taxonomic ordering of the specimens. This is an interesting division of responsibilities as collection managers have been traditionally grouped with collection specialists (as defined by Horie).

As Horie states, "the replies [to the questionnaire] indicate that there is more happening in natural history conservation than one might expect, although the efforts are largely small scale and isolated." The following list details some of the research projects in progress and is extracted from a table in Horie's article. Names and addresses for individuals responsible for each project are available in the article.

- Pest control/fumigants
- Storage/environment
- Preservation of documentation
- Preservation of biomaterials
- Identification of deposits on specimens
- Shale deterioration
- Excavation/preparation in palaeontology
- Fossilisation process, natural/artificial
- Preservation of organic components in fossils
- Casting materials
- Treating deteriorated sub-fossil lone
- Pyrite conservation
- Shell efflorescence
- Fading of feathers by light
- Skeletal preparation/preservation
- Long term changes in preserved mammals
- History of skin preservation treatments
- Effect of different skin preserv. treatments
- Liquid preservatives

## ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE CENTRE:

### Size, Scope and Access to Its Holdings

The Atlantic Geoscience Centre (AGC) is a division of the Sediments and Marine Branch of the Geological Survey of Canada, Canadian Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. One

mandate of the Centre is to ensure the availability of geological information and expertise in the area of Canada comprising the Atlantic and Arctic offshore regions and the sedimentary basins of the Appalachian region for purposes such as the identification of the resource base, the formulation of national energy and mineral policy, exploration of Canadian resources and contribution to Canada's overall understanding of the Earth Sciences. An integral part of this objective has been met through the preservation of record data and sample material and the dissemination of the information.

To access much of the field data acquired by the Centre since its inception in the early 1960's, more than twelve data base management systems have been developed utilizing the Bedford Institute of Oceanography CEC Cyber 840, and more recently, dBase III on IBM-PC compatible computers. Some of these systems include: Multiparameter (all seagoing cruise navigation: more than 500K entries); SAD (all processed sample textural composition analyses performed on AGC holdings: 15K entries to date); Record Inventory (inventory location/documentation for all analogue tapes, catalogues/indices and records collected by the Centre since 1962: 8K entries); P to P (Permission to Publish bibliographic data base for all publications of external and internal papers, abstracts and workshop proceedings authored and co-authored by AGC staff: 3K entries); OSWELL (inventory control for all onshore/nearshore boreholes and wells curated within AGC sample repository: 800 entries); and SID (sample information data base includes all site specific information and subsequent subsample analyses for core, dredge, grab and other marine geological samples routinely collected onboard Federal government oceanographic/hydrographic survey vessels: 25K entries).

Requests by both internal and external agencies are routinely handled by the Centre's Data Section group who regularly access one of these several data bases and in turn provide hardcopy, plots and diskettes to the original requestor.

Of late, conversion of analogue underwater geophysical records to original 35mm microfilm has provided an alternative means of preserving paper records on a medium for future archival retention. The microfilming of all seismic reflection, Hunttec, sidescan sonar and bathymetry records acquired by the Centre during more than 220 cruises conducted since 1965, has presented an unusual microfilming application to the contractor.

In March, 1987, a Tameran TFC 6000 continuous flow camera was installed by a local firm dealing in micrographic services. This data will be distributed on 35mm microfilm for each

cruise filmed throughout 1988 as Geological Survey of Canada Open File Reports. This will be a tremendous micropublishing programme representing more than 100,000 meters of paper records that can be easily duplicated and disseminated to researchers requiring raw data, both nationally and internationally. Microfilm is a medium that can be easily made, shipped, stored, handled and is both accurate and inexpensive. It has been estimated that more than 6.6 million kilometers of collected geophysical lines (airgun/Spanker and Hunttec seismics, sidescan, sonar, 3.5 and 12 kHz profiles) at AGC will be stored on less than 300 microfilm tapes in house, within the confines of a 2x3x6 ft. secure metal storage cabinet.

-Iris A. Hardy, Atlantic Geoscience Centre, Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2.

### ASC ANNUAL MEETING

The Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) will hold its annual meeting at the Field Museum, Chicago, May 11-13, 1988. An all-day workshop (May 13) on Living Collections used for research will include representatives from museums, zoos, aquaria, gardens, culture collections, NSF and NIH. On May 12, there will be a workshop on "endangered collections." Contact ASC, 730 11th St., NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, D. C. 20001 (phone 202-347-2850).

### ARCHIVES and NATURAL HISTORY

The 51st annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) was held in New York City, Sept. 2-6, 1987. Of particular note to SPNHC members was a poster session on the Register of Natural History Manuscript Resources in North America, now in preliminary development. As envisioned, the comprehensive guide would include subjects such as biology, botany, ecology, geology and zoology, as well as adjunct areas such as horticulture, medical botany, wildlife management, etc. The project's directors are Michael Stieber and Gavin Bridson of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The survey's goal is the "documentation of retrospective written and graphic records of descriptive natural history from the earliest explorations of North America down to recent times." The guide will also lead to the development of a natural history data base for advanced research.

Two SAA Roundtables of special interest are the Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable (contact Michael Stieber at the above address) and

the Museum Archives Roundtable. The latter has recently introduced a match service which seeks to pair museum archivists to assist in problem solving and information sharing. If interested, contact Mary E. Ruwell, Archivist, Pioneers' Museum, 215 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. For information about the Museum Archivist newsletter, contact Kathleen Robinson, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Box 6826, Houston, TX 77265.

The 1988 SAA conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, September 29-October 2. For information contact SAA, 600 S. Federal St., Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605.

-Janet Miller, Archivist/Registrar, Dept. Anthropology, Field Museum.

### NATURAL HISTORY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUMS

A questionnaire was mailed to professionals in Southern California natural history museums to identify which topics were of greatest concern to these museum professionals. The questionnaire was similar to one distributed in the Mountain-Plains Museums Association in 1985. 69 responses were returned from the approximately 120 questionnaires distributed. The ten topics of greatest interest to respondents were:

1. Collection storage and maintenance
2. Collection mgmt. computer programs
3. Collection management policy
4. Conservation of specimens
5. Coop. on exhibit development
6. Natural history bulletins & newsletters
7. Research on new conservation techniques
8. Development of exhibit concepts
- 9a. Public relations and marketing
- 9b. Recruitment of volunteers & interns
- 9c. Original research in academic discipline

This information will be used to develop workshops and sessions for annual meetings. For further information, contact Allan Griesemer, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92374.

### U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW AND MUSEUM DATABASES

Article I of the U.S. Constitution empowers Congress "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." The most recent amendments to Title 17 of the U.S. Code were enacted 19 October 1976 and portions of the new law which pertain to museum objects took effect on 1 January 1978.

Malaro (1985) discusses the applications of this law, but both her book and most U.S. government publications are hazy on the application of the law to natural history collections. Paintings, plays, musical scores, sculptures, and things of this nature are easily recognizable as creation of human ingenuity. These items are clearly defined and discussed in the new law. Objects such as a rhino skull or a passenger pigeon skin, no matter how rare or valuable, are not. A database which contains the collective records of individual natural history specimens is the creation of human effort, however. This, and all types of databases, are covered by copyright law.

In order to copyright something, one must go through a procedure set forth by The Copyright Office to register the item. Traditionally, a copyright has been held by a single individual (the creator or inventor) but may be transferred to another individual or institution. Copies of the work are required to be presented to The Copyright Office when applying for registration.

Although databases are currently copyrightable, the registration process is cumbersome. Due to the ephemeral nature of databases, The Copyright Office has sought public comment on altering the law to specifically accommodate database registration. Comment has also been sought on the idea of allowing several individuals to jointly hold the copyright for a database. A decision on these issues is expected in early 1988.

Regardless of the anticipated changes, copyright law will no doubt continue to provide the owner(s) of the copyright with "the exclusive rights to do or authorize: (1) Reproduction of the work; (2) Preparation of derivative works based on the copyrighted work; and (3) Distribution of copies of the copyrighted works by sale, rental, lease, or loan.

The Copyright Office strongly urges registration of a copyrightable object and makes registration a requisite to suit. For further information, consult the government document section of your library or write to: The Copyright Office, Information and Reference Division, Library of Congress, LM 455, Washington, D.C. 20540.

**References:** Malaro, M. C. 1985. A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. xiii + 351. Oman, R. 1987. Proposed regulations: registration of claims to copyright; registration and deposit of databases proposed regulation. Announcement from The Copyright Office, Library of Congress, FR DOC. 87-22958. U.S. Government. 1985. Copyright Law of the United States of America, contained in Title 17 of

the United States Code, U.S. Government Circular, 92:1-99.

-Suzanne B. McLaren, Section of Mammals, The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3706.

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Annual Conference-** members include C.A. Romero-Sierra, D.A. Schlitter, S.L. Williams, J. Kaylor, I.U. Birker, and D. Faber.

**Bibliographic** - Joan Kaylor, Redpath Museum, is the new Chairman.

**Bylaws** committee is preparing a document to better define, structure and guide SPNHC standing committees. Also under study are other standing rules of the society. Committee members include C.A. Romero-Sierra, S.L. Williams, D. Faber, J. Faber, J.P. Cuerrier, and S. Albright.

**Computer-use** chair, I.A. Hardy, continues to compile EDP questionnaires and answer or refer all queries on available data management systems and holdings. Hardy notes that this committee might act as a central distribution point for information pertaining to the holdings of major repositories as well as the software and hardware in use.

Interested SPNHC members are encouraged to contact Hardy.

**Conservation** committee members have provided numerous references and information for inclusion in the newsletter, begun to develop documentation records for specific kinds of specimens, and begun plans to develop a poster as a means for informing other professionals of conservation concerns. Members include C. Rose, C. Hawks, G. Fitzgerald, P. Cato, C. Collins, N. Feinberg, M. Florian, K. Garrett, F. Howie, A. Johnston, R. Jullien, J. Kaylor, C. Kishinami, J. Reynolds, C. Romero-Sierra, J. Waddington, and R. Waller.

**Liason** committee has provided materials for the newsletter and developed contacts with other professional societies. Members include J. Golden, F. Collier, H. Feinberg, R. Gauthier, C. Hawks, J-P. LeBlanc, M. Massaro, J. Miller, F. Rafi, J. Simmon, and R. Waller.

**Membership** - New application forms have been printed and are being distributed as part of the membership drive. These forms are available to any SPNHC member for distribution, and are encoded to allow the committee to determine which distribution avenues are the most effective. Publication of the membership directory is forthcoming. Committee members include S. Albright, S.L. Williams, D. Schlitter, A. Pinzl, J. Simmons, J. Waddington, J. Deisler, M. Florian, and G. Fitzgerald.

**Publication** - Please suggest articles and books for review in *Collection Forum* to Mary Carman,

Publications Review Editor. Contact Mary if you are interested in reviewing publications.

### Collection Forum

Volume 3 of *Collection Forum* has finally been published and distributed. Only a few of the papers presented at the 1987 meeting were submitted for publication. Authors can still submit their papers for publications in a future issue. A spring issue will be produced only if additional manuscripts are sent in and approved.

*Collection Forum* has published two general kinds of papers during its initial two years - research articles which are peer reviewed and feature articles which are not. Several kinds of papers are presented at our annual meetings and it is sometimes difficult to decide how to present them. Descriptions of important collections and historical events should be of interest to our readers. Are we wrong? If those papers are sent for peer review, they are invariably rejected. You will all have to help to develop a body of literature on natural history collections by submitting interesting and provocative papers. Letters to the Editor are encouraged as well as opinions relating to natural history collections.

We need to generate additional funds to publish *Collection Forum*, *SPNHC Newsletter*, and other forthcoming publications. Ads are a good source of revenue; help us by suggesting a company representative write for advertisement rates. Request that your library subscribe. Our journal depends upon a wide distribution for its survival and good authors demand it.

-Daniel J. Faber, Editor, *Collection Forum*

### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

**Mammal collection management.** H. H. Genoways, C. Jones, and O. L. Rossolimo (eds.), 1987. *Museology* No. 8. Compiled from papers presented at the 4th International Theriological Congress, Edmonton, Alberta (1985); available from Texas Tech University Press, Box 4139, Lubbock, TX 79409-4139 (Prices: \$24, paper; \$40, cloth).

**Conservation planning: where can you find the help you need?** P. Dillon, 1987. *History News*, 42:10-15. Discusses grant writing, finding conservation services, and availability of IMS grants; oriented towards museums without conservation departments.

**The conservation of geological material.**

R. J. Crowther and C. J. Collins (eds.), 1987.

Special edition of *Geological Curator*, 100 pp.

Collected papers from conference hosted by the Geological Curators' Group and Dept. of Paleontology, British Museum (NH), January 1986;

available from Tom Sharpe, GCG Treasurer, Dept. of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP UK.

**References for the preparation of ichthyological specimens.** J. F. McElman, K.J. Sulak, and L. Van Guelpen, 1987. A compilation by the Atlantic Reference Centre of laboratory techniques that have been found useful in preparing fish specimens for study. *Curation Newsletter*, No.9.

**Danger in the Discovery Room?** Potentially hazardous materials in museum education programs. J. Fenn, 1987. *Museum Quarterly*, fall 1987. Discusses potential hazards to children in "hands on" programs in museums; copies available from J. Fenn, Dept. of Conservation, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M5S 2C6.

**Strengthening support for systematics collections and research in developing countries.** L. Knutson, 1987. *ASC Newsletter*, 15(4):38-39. Based on discussions from 1986 ASC annual meeting; includes 24 specific suggestions.

**A technique for salvaging anatomical material from study skins of rare or extinct birds.** S. L. Olson, J. P. Angle, F. V. Grady and H. F. James, 1987. *Auk*, 104:510-512. Manuscript prepared with suggestions by conservator, C. Hawks.

**Describing the condition of mounted animals.** C. V. Horie, 1987. *Natural History Conservation*, 2:4-5. Description of system used at The Manchester Museum to describe mounting systems, skin, fur, and feathers.

**A spot test to distinguish formalin from alcohol solutions.** R. Waller and D. E. McAllister, 1987. *Curator*, 30:240-249.

**Safeguarding museum collections from the effects of earthquakes.** J. Hensley, 1987. *Curator*, 30:199-205.

**Curatorial care of works of art on paper.** A. Clapp, 1987. Excellent general guide to the care of all types of paper records; available from FAIC, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Price: \$16.95).

**Materials for conservation.** C. V. Horie, 1987. Butterworths, 144 pp. Describes properties of materials used in conservation, current and obsolete; available from Butterworths, 80 Montvale Ave, Stoneham, MA 02180 (Price: \$45).

**Safety in museums and galleries.** F. Howie, 1987. Butterworths, 300 pp. Safety requirements of museum work, especially for conservators and scientific researchers; available from Butterworths (Price: \$36).

**Exposure to formaldehyde in anatomy: an occupational health hazard?** *Anatomical Record*, 219:109-112. Excellent summary of health

hazards posed by exposure to formaldehyde and common sense approaches to minimizing the risks. **A preliminary list of conservation resources for the care of natural science collections.** SPNHC Conservation Committee, 1987. Prepared for 1987 Montreal SPNHC Annual Meeting; available from Dan Faber, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8.

-Thanks to C.A. Hawks and J. Simmons for many of the above listings. Ed.

## JOURNALS and ORGANIZATIONS

**Leather Conservation News** - Best source currently available for information on conservation of skin and leather; contact Paul S. Storch, Editor, South Carolina State Museum, Box 100107, Columbia, SC 29202-3701 (Price: \$12/annum).

**Natural History Conservation.** Newsletter of the Natural History Collections Working Group of the International Council of Museums Conservation Committee. Issue No. 2 lists citations for 152 relevant publications in the categories of General, Environment and Storage, Methods and Materials, Botany, Earth Sciences, and Zoology; subscriptions available from F. W. Howie, British Museum (NH), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, UK.

**Museum Quarterly.** Journal of the Ontario Museum Association; available from OMA, 38 Charles St., Toronto, ON M4Y 1T1.

**Curation Newsletter.** Newsletter prepared by the Committee on Curatorial Supplies and Practices of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists as a means for sharing curatorial practices and supplies. Limited circulation is intended to keep production costs low; contact S.L. Jewett, Division of Fishes, NMNH Rm WG-12, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

**History News.** Bimonthly journal of the American Association for State and Local History, 172 Second Ave. N., Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37201.

**The Conservation Unit,** Museums and Galleries Commission, 7 St. James' Square, London, SW1Y 4JU UK (phone 01-839 9340). Will continue the work of the former Conservation Section of the Crafts Council; will maintain a register of conservators, publish technical works on conservation, and provide technical information services.

## MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS

**Materials Issues in Art and Archaeology.** April 5-8, 1988 in Reno, NV; Materials Research Society Symposium L, cosponsored by the Getty Conservation Institute and the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution. Emphasis will be in 3 main areas: 1) technical

methods of examination and characterization of artifacts and works of art, 2) technical studies of the technologies of ancient and historic manmade materials, and 3) deterioration of natural, ancient and modern glasses. Contact, E. V. Sayre, Conservation Analytical Lab., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

**Symposium on Natural History Museums**, October 4, 1988 in Kansas City, MO. Symposium will focus on New Directions and Professional Standards; invited speakers include Phillip S. Humphrey (Director, Museum of Natural History, Univ. Kansas), Hugh H. Genoways (Director, Univ. Nebraska State Museum), Carolyn Rose (Director, Conservation Analytical Lab., Smithsonian), Louise DeMars (Exhibits, Peabody Museum of Natural History), and Michael Spock (Vice-President for Public Programs, Field Museum). Other speakers will address such topics as destructive testing of natural history collections, vertebrate paleontology collections, and the role of state natural history museums. Sponsored by the Natural History Affinity Group of the Mountain-Plains Museums Association. Contact Paisley S. Cato, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 or call 409-845-5777.

**Museum Computer Network - CALL FOR PAPERS** for 1988 annual meeting to be held 26-18 October at Los Angeles Museum of Natural History. Sessions to include studies of impact of implementation of systems on collection management, examples and case studies, reports on the development and implementation of standards, and issues pertaining to networks. To propose papers or demonstrations, contact David Bearman, Archives and Informatics, 5600 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Deadline, 1 March.

## MATERIALS and SUPPLIES

**PDB** (paradichlorobenzene) - On April, 17, 1987, EPA proposed to regulate PDB as a probable human carcinogen. It is expected that OSHA and ACGIH will consider changing workplace air quality standards for PDB (currently at 75 ppm).

- Monona Rossol, *AIC Newsletter*, Sept., 1987

**P.T.I. #112 Waterleaf** (blotting paper produced by Paper Technologies, Inc.; for address, see supplier #9 below) - As reported in the *AIC Newsletter* (Sept. 1987), tests by M. R. Palmer and G. W. Carriveau of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., show the paper to be highly pure, containing only cotton fibers and not detectable sizing or other additives. C. A. Hawks suggests that the blotting paper would be an acceptable liner for wooden drawers or acidic trays in biological collections.

**G-Pak pouches** - Advertised as providing a total barrier to moisture and gases, G-Pak heat-sealable pouches are constructed of 2 layers of films, a polyolefin inner liner bonded (without adhesives) to a polyester outer layer. The pouches are said to be resistant to freezing and boiling (useful temperature range is -50 to +115 C), formaldehyde, most acids, alkalis, greases, oils, and organic solvents and are available in a variety of sizes in 2 mil and 4.5 mil thicknesses. Chris Collins, Geological Conservator at the Leicestershire Museums in England, reports that the bags are thought to be able to contain the radon gas emitted by some geological specimens. Heat sealers and pouches available from suppliers #4 and #6.

**Materials for construction of specimen boxes and trays.** Board used for boxes and trays should be acid-free and ph neutral.

Materials with alkaline buffers should never be used in contact with protein. The most suitable paperboards are constructed of cellulosic fibers purified of lignin and sulphur compounds.

Suitable products include the following:

**Boards** - Corrugated board for heavyweight trays and boxes, ph neutral on side towards specimen, alkaline reserve on exterior: Lig-free Type II, Corrugated boxboard (#3). Archival photographic mat/mounting board for lightweight boxes or trays: ph neutral, non-buffered, sulfur and lignin free (#3), Archivart Photographic Board (#10).

**Linens** - Lining the base of trays and boxes with replaceable, ph neutral, 100% cotton blotters will prolong the life of the container: Archivart Light-Weight Neutral Blotting Paper (#5,10), Arches Rag Blotting Paper (#8), P.T.I. #112 Waterleaf (#9).

**Adhesives** - Hot melt adhesives are available as solid sticks in most hardware stores. Requires heat to melt the adhesive, but provides an excellent bond when set. Tyvek tape with pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive, easy to apply, very strong (#7).

**Pre-fabricated boxes and trays** - Some suppliers will pre-cut board so that boxes and trays can be shipped flat and assembled when needed. Some will provide completely assembled boxes and trays in sizes to suit the customer. Two-piece boxes with metal-reinforced corners, of unbuffered, ph neutral board (#2, 3, 7, 10).

-C.A. Hawks, The Carnegie Museum Nat.Hist.

**Plastic boxes** - to house bird eggs; variety of sizes available; request "plain" vs "decorative" lids (#1).

**Cotton** - unbleached, raw cotton used to cushion eggs; available from Test Fabrics (#11), a fabrics company that caters to the needs of special groups, such as museums.

-J. Hultberg, The Brooklyn Children's Museum (reported in *RTBS*, informal newsletter of Collections Care Pilot Training Program).

**Papers for use in aqueous preservatives -** *Curation Newsletter* No. 9 (Fall 1987) reports that the availability of Byron Weston Resistall 36# paper, a 100% cotton rag paper, is limited; the company will not manufacture the paper unless it has a large enough order (minimum 6,000 lbs.). If you are interested in a joint purchase with other museums, contact Susan L. Jewett, Division of Fishes, NMNH Rm.WG-12, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 as soon as possible. Some alternatives to this paper have been tested by Lou Van Guelpen and others at the Atlantic Reference Centre, New Brunswick. A summary of these tests are included in the Fall 1987 *Curation Newsletter*.

### SUPPLIERS

1. Althor Products , 496 Danbury Rd  
Wilton, CT 06897; (203) 762-0796.
2. Conservation Materials, Ltd., 240 Freeport  
Blvd., Box 2884, Sparks, NV 89431;  
(702)331-0582.
3. Conservation Resources International, 111 North  
Royal Street., Alexandria, VA 22314;  
(703)549-6610.
4. Guest Medical Ltd., Wimborne House, 136 High  
(0732)450177.
5. Inter City Papers, Ltd., Box 3050, Sta.A,  
Mississauga, ON L5A 3S7; (416)276-8400;  
(800)268-2816. (distributor for #10,  
especially "Promatco" products).
6. Kapak Corp., 9809 Logan Avenue So.,  
Bloomington, MN 55431; (612)884-7301.
7. Light Impressions Corp., 439 Monroe Ave., Box  
940, Rochester, NY 14603;(716)271-8960.
8. New York Central Art Supply, Inc., 62 Third  
Ave., New York, NY 10003; (212)473-7705.
9. Paper Technologies, Inc., 25801 Obrero, Suite 4,  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691.
10. Process Materials Corp., 301 Veterans Blvd.,  
Rutherford, NJ 07070; (201)935-2900.
11. Test Fabrics, P.O. Drawer 0, 200 Blackford  
Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846; (201)469-6446.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our society is progressing slowly but surely - our membership has increased over the past 12 months, a newsletter was initiated, the journal increased in size, and attendance at the annual meeting doubled from 1986. The 1988 meeting is at The Carnegie Museum of Natural History; the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and the Provincial Museum of Alberta have shown an interest in co-hosting the 1989 meeting in Edmonton.

New members joined us, but at the same time, others dropped their memberships. There will be a

regular turnover as people change their jobs. Some confusion exists regarding Regular Members and Sustaining Associates. SPNHC is a member driven organization; thus, our activities (publications, meetings and surveys) are funded, mainly, by dues of our Regular Members. Sustaining Associates are corporate or institutional members who have an interest in the objectives of SPNHC. We need to increase numbers in both categories.

Soon you will receive a ballot for new officers. Show your support by voting for the member whom you believe will continue to lead our organization for several years. I will be stepping down as President at the Carnegie meeting, so I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time on executive and committee work.

Is SPNHC doing the right thing? Can you suggest what we should do differently? We need your input, so why not write a letter to a Council member NOW and let him/her know how you feel or what ideas you have. Our Council needs your input. See you in Pittsburgh.

-Dan Faber, President, SPNHC

### CORRECTIONS

My apologies for omitting the following poster from the listing of presentations at the 1987 meeting in Montreal: "Are You Prepared?" discussed the collections problems faced as a result of the 1979 flooding of the Pearl River, Jackson, Mississippi. Presented by Cathy Carter, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

### FROM THE EDITOR

My job is so much easier due to the numerous submissions of information and articles from SPNHC members. Many thanks, and keep up the great work! The deadline for submission of material to the August 1988 newsletter is 15 June 1988.

SPNHC publications are continuing to evolve. If you have opinions concerning the content and structure of these publications, please send your comments to President-elect, Cesar A. Romero-Sierra, Dept. of Anatomy, Queen's University, Old Medical Bldg., RM 101, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6. As noted earlier in this issue, his Bylaws Committee is working to develop stronger guidelines for all SPNHC committees.

Thanks once again to the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, for donating the costs of paper, printing and postage for this newsletter. The newsletter was prepared at Texas A&M University.

-Paisley S. Cato, Editor, *SPNHC Newsletter*

**SPNHC Council**

- PRESIDENT - Dan J. Faber
- PRESIDENT-ELECT - Cesar A. Romero-Sierra
- SECRETARY - Shirley S. Albright
- TREASURER - J.P. Cuerrier
- MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
  - 1988 - Ingrid U. Birker  
Carolyn L. Rose
  - 1989 - Fred J. Collier  
Wynn Watson
  - 1990 - Janet B. Waddington  
Stephen L. Williams

**Committee Chairmen**

- Annual Conference - C.A. Romero-Sierra
- Bibliographic - J. Kaylor
- Bylaws - C.A. Romero-Sierra
- Computer-use - I.A. Hardy
- Conservation - C.L. Rose
- Liaison - J. Golden
- Membership - S.S. Albright
- Publication - D.J. Faber
- Supplies & Equipment - L.M. Marhue
- Teaching Collections - M.A. Dancy

**SPNHC Newsletter**

- Editor - Paisley S. Cato
- Associate Editor - Julie Golden

**SPNHC NEWSLETTER**

c/o P.S. Cato, Editor  
 Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
 Texas A&M University  
 College Station, TX 77843-2258

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INTERESTS (research, collection management, etc.):

SPNHC NEWSLETTER is a benefit of membership in the SPNHC and is published biannually, summer and winter. Address all inquiries concerning membership to the SPNHC secretary. Inquiries concerning newsletter content should be addressed to the editor. Deadlines for submitting information for inclusion in the SPNHC NEWSLETTER are December 15 and June 15.



SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS  
Box 6520, Station J, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2A 3Y6

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUMES OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS 1988-90

SHIRLEY S. ALBRIGHT

University Degrees:

B.Sc. (Geology) Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA

Recent Work History:

1972 Assistant Curator, Science Collections and Exhibitions, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J.

1975 Collection Manager (Registrar) for Scientific Collections, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J.

Collection Responsibilities:

Invertebrate fossils, geological and malacological as well as other large natural history collections.

Research Interests:

Lower paleozoic invertebrates (particularly molluscs and brachiopods) of the mid-Atlantic section of the USA; pleistocene vertebrate invertebrate associations; argillite procurement of prehistoric populations; collection management.

SPNHC Activities:

Secretary; Chairman, Archival Committee; member, Bylaws Committee and Membership Committee.

PHILLIP J. ANGLE

University Degrees:

1960 B.Sc. Shippenburg State Univ., Lubbock, TX

1966 M.Sc. (Zoology) Univ. of Maryland

Recent Work History:

1960 began at Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, in Ornithology; serves now as Collection Manager for Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Birds and Mammals.

Collection Responsibilities:

Departmental collections.

Research Interests:

Field and laboratory preparation techniques especially as related to long-term storage of scientific specimens and conservation problems in general. Collaborator of Field Guide to the Birds of the Antarctic and Subantarctic (with G. Watson).

INGRID U. BIRKER

University Degrees:

B.Sc. (Liberal Science) York University

Recent Work History:

1981 Paleontology Technician, Redpath Museum, McGill Univ., Montreal, Quebec.

Collection Responsibilities:

Curator/Technician of paleontology collections at non-public university teaching and research museum.

Research Interests:

Paleontology and botany; conservation of paleontological materials; geological and biological site preservation and monitoring; molding and casting.

Other Activities:

Currently reading M.Sc. in museum studies at Leicester University in England during leave of absence from the Redpath 1987-89.

SPNHC Activities:

Member-at-Large 1987-88; member, Conference Committee and Resources Committee.

CHRIS J. COLLINS

University Degrees:

1982 Honours degree (Geology) Univ. of Wales

Recent Work History:

1983 Geological Conservator, Leicestershire Museum Service.

Collection Responsibilities:

Leicestershire Museums geological collections; conservation work for museums nationwide.

Research Interests:

Clay mineral stability in non-saturated environments; shale conservation.

Other Activities:

Involved in developing specific conservation, research and training internationally; involved with Geological Curators' Group and ICOM in developing field.

COLIN C. EADES

University Degrees:

1970-78 Public administration courses, Carlton Univ.

1987 Collection Care Pilot Training Program, L.A. County Museum

Recent Work History:

1978 Assistant Director (Administration), National Museum of Natural Sciences (NMNS), Ottawa.

1985 Project Leader, Corporate Information Systems Framework, NMNS, Ottawa.

1986 Chief, Zoology Division, NMNS, Ottawa.

Collection Responsibilities:

Management of national zoological collections.

Research Interests:

General - conservation of natural history collections.

Other Activities:

Advocates the need for administrative skills to plan and implement collections maintenance.

JULIA GOLDEN

University Degrees:

1966 B.A. (Geology) Washington Univ., St. Louis

1969 M.A. (Geology) Washington Univ., St. Louis

Recent Work History:

1980 Curator of Paleontologic Collections, Department of Geology, Univ. of Iowa.

Collection Responsibilities:

Paleontology collections including invertebrates, vertebrates and micropaleontology (fusulinids, conodonts and palynomorphs) with over 1 million and more than 17,000 type specimens.

Research Interests:

Computer applications to collections management.

SPNHC Activities:

Chairman, Publicity and Liaison Committee.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR OTHER RESUMES ----->

JOAN M. KAYLOR

**University Degrees:**

1979 B.Sc. (Geology) McGill Univ., Montreal, Quebec

**Recent Work History:**

1980 Curator of Mineralogy, Redpath Museum, McGill Univ., Montreal, Quebec.

1975 Collection Manager (Registrar) for Scientific Collections, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J.

**Collection Responsibilities:**

Departmental collections.

**Research Interests:**

Collection care; collecting, conserving minerals.

**SPNHC Activities:**

Member, Conference Committee and Resources Committee.

WILLIAM BRIAN MCKILLOP

**University Degrees:**

1968 B.Sc. (Hon.) University of Waterloo

1970 M.Sc. University of Waterloo

1975 Ph.D. University of Waterloo

**Recent Work History:**

1980 Curator, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

1982 Chairman, Natural History, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

1984 Curator, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

**Collection Responsibilities:**

Invertebrate Zoology.

**Research Interests:**

Aquatic invertebrates - published 27 papers on molluscs, mites, lepidoptera moths, dermestids, paleontology, aquatic invertebrates, colour measurements, colour fading, cleaning techniques, museums research (policy, techniques, politics and funding), etc.

**Other Activities:**

Guest Lecturer, Department of Entomology, Univ. of Manitoba; Vice-President, Zoo. Soc. Man. (1980); President, Man. Ent. Soc. (1981-82).

CAROLYN L. ROSE

**University Degrees:**

1971 A.B. (Art History/Fine Arts) Sweet Briar College

1976 M.A. (Special Studies) George Washington Univ.

**Recent Work History:**

Since 1977 Director, Anthropology Conservation, Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1983 Adjunct Associate Professor, George Washington Univ.

**Collection Responsibilities:**

Museum-wide assessment of conservation needs and priorities for the U.S. National Museum of Natural History.

**Research Interests:**

Deterioration of organic materials (especially proteinaceous) and effect of preparation on materials, fumigants and the environment on the preservation of natural history specimens.

**Other Activities:**

Chairman (Board and Council), National Institute for Conservation; Board Member (Past President), Washington Conservation Guild

**SPNHC Activities:**

Member-at-Large (1987-88); Chairman, Conservation Committee.

STEPHEN L. WILLIAMS

**University Degrees:**

1970 B.Sc. (Zoology) Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, TX

1973 M.Sc. (Zoology) Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, TX

1975 M.A. (Museum Science) Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, TX

**Recent Work History:**

1976 Collections Manager, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA.

**Collection Responsibilities:**

Mammal research collection.

**Research Interests:**

Collection care; mammalian systematics and zoogeography.

**SPNHC Activities:**

Council member; Chairman, Conference Committee (1988); Chairman, Membership Committee; member, Bylaws Committee