

# SPNHC Newsletter

Society for the Preservation  
of Natural History Collections

August 1988  
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## SPNHC 1988 ANNUAL MEETING

The Third Annual Meeting of the Society was held in Pittsburgh at The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 31 May through 3 June. Each year the number of presentations and attendees at the annual meeting has increased substantially. This year's meeting included 184 registrants, 37 oral presentations, 10 poster presentations, 15 workshops or tours, two special symposia and two scheduled social activities. The sessions were complemented by contributions from and/or participation of several corporations, including The Interior Steel Equipment Company, Spacesaver Corporation, Fisher Scientific and Forestry Suppliers.

The theme for the meeting focused on one of the primary concerns of the organization, conservation for natural history collections. The meeting opened with an ice-breaker under the stars in the Art Museum Sculpture Court. The second day, Peter Raven, Director of The Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, in the keynote address, stressed the need for reevaluating our policies, practices and philosophies for caring for collections, especially in light of the widespread extinctions occurring today and the prohibitive costs of replacing lost and/or deteriorated museum material. Invited guests, Arthur Beale (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston) and Mary-Lou Florian, (Royal British Columbia Museum) spoke on natural history conservation issues. During the afternoon, individual presentations were given. The day ended with an evening symposium entitled "Controlling the Environment", introduced and conducted by Carolyn Rose (Smithsonian Institution). Conservation specialists, Stefan Michalski (Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa), Robert Feller (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh), and David Erhardt (Smithsonian Institution), spoke on climate, lighting, and storage and display materials respectively.

The next two days featured individual presentations, the annual business meeting, an evening Soiree at The Pittsburgh Zoo, and a variety of workshops and tours. The final day of the meeting was devoted to a full-day symposium, "Health Hazards Associated with Natural History Museums," presented by Monona Rossol (Arts, Crafts and Theatre Safety, New York). The symposium was informative, thought-provoking and inspired the participants to go back to their institutions and immediately improve laboratory, office and storage area conditions. The Local Committee, consisting primarily of staff members of the host organization, The Carnegie, went all out to provide a stimulating, enjoyable and memorable week in Pittsburgh.

## SPNHC BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

### NEW OFFICERS

Daniel J. Faber completed his two-year term as the first President of SPNHC. J.-P. Cuerrier resigned his appointed position as Treasurer and Daniel Faber resigned his position as Managing Editor. The Council and SPNHC membership are sincerely grateful to Dan Faber, Joanne Faber, and J.-P. Cuerrier for the services they provided to the Society in its first years of existence.

Cesar Romero-Sierra (Queen's Univ., Kingston), previously President-Elect, succeeds Faber as President. President Romero-Sierra, with Council approval, appointed Suzanne McLaren (Carnegie Museum of Natural History), as the new Treasurer and Paisley Cato (Texas A&M University) as the new Managing Editor. Shirley Albright (New Jersey State Museum, Trenton) will retain her position as Secretary for two more years. Joan Kaylor (Redpath Museum, Montreal) was elected Secretary-Elect and Stephen Williams (Carnegie Museum of Natural History) was elected President-Elect for two-year terms. The two newly elected Members-at-large are Carolyn Rose (Smithsonian Institution) and Ingrid Birker (Redpath Museum). They will serve on the Council for three-years. President Romero-Sierra, with Council approval, appointed Julia Golden (Univ. Iowa), Member-at-large, to fill the Council position vacated by Williams.

### NEW COMMITTEES

During the past year, SPNHC Council worked to identify appropriate standing committees, and to define the purposes and set forth guidelines for each committee. As a result of this effort, a set of Standing Rules and Policies were developed for the SPNHC Standing Committees. Each Standing Committee must serve the needs of the entire Society and not be restricted to specific interest groups. Based on these documents, the current standing committees are: Archival Committee, Bylaws Committee, Conference Committee, Conservation Committee, Election Committee, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Membership Committee, Publications Committee, Publicity and Liaison Committee, and Resources Committee. The chair for each committee is appointed each year by the President, in accordance with the Society Bylaws. The name of each standing committee and of the chair is published in each Newsletter and Collection Forum. Members who would like to participate in committee activities are encouraged to contact the chairs.

### NEW EDITORIAL POLICIES

With the appointment of a new Managing Editor, the SPNHC Council approved a set of written Editorial Policies intended to ensure professional standards and procedures for all SPNHC publications. According to this document, the following editorial positions are recognized: Managing Editor, Newsletter Editor, Associate Editor for Anthropology, Associate Editor for Earth Sciences, Associate Editor for Life Sciences, Associate Editor for Book Reviews, Associate Editor for Miscellaneous Publications, and Associate Editor for Advertisements. A copy of the policies and guidelines for submitting manuscripts to Collection Forum may be obtained from Paisley S. Cato, Managing Editor, SPNHC, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, USA, phone: (409) 845-5783.

### NEW ADDRESS FOR DUES

The Treasurer will now receive all membership dues and maintain the current membership list. This is a significant change from previous procedures and it is hoped that it will better serve the Society membership. All communications involving membership dues should be addressed to: Sue McLaren, Treasurer SPNHC, 5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3706 USA, phone: (412) 665-2315.

### CHANGES IN SPNHC DUES

During the past two years, SPNHC has had considerable difficulty with accepting mixed currencies for payment of dues. Because several members paid incorrect rates, bookkeeping and corrections became time-consuming and expensive. In the future, all dues will be paid in U.S. currency at a rate of \$15.00 per year for individual membership. (NOTE: 1988 dues for individual membership are \$12.00 U.S.) Dues are payable in the last two months of the year. The first dues notice will be sent in November, 1988.

Membership in SPNHC entitles each member to receive two issues of Collection Forum, two issues of the Newsletter, and supplementary mailings of SPNHC. Members have the right to vote and may serve on committees or the Council, if appointed or elected in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A new membership directory will be distributed this fall. The Directory will include only current members, those who have paid their dues for 1988. Members who are uncertain about their membership status or who have changed addresses within the last 12 months should contact Steve Williams, SPNHC Membership Committee, Section of Mammals, The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 USA.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Each year the SPNHC membership nominates and elects two individuals to fill three-year positions on the SPNHC Council as Members-at-large. These Council positions are very important to the Society. The Council guides the thrust and progress of the Society as leaders of the membership.

Members of the Society are encouraged to nominate individuals who are able and willing to actively participate in SPNHC. The two Members-at-large will be the only positions on the 1989 ballot. All other positions are filled to the completion of their terms. Please send the name and address of anyone you wish to nominate to either member of the Nominations Subcommittee. Nominations must be postmarked by October 15, 1988.

Iris Hardy  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
Atlantic Geoscience Center  
P. O. Box 1006  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2 Canada

Ellen W. Faller  
Peabody Museum of Natural History  
Yale University  
P. O. Box 6666  
New Haven, CT 06511 USA

-Fred Collier, Election Committee Chair

### SPNHC 4TH ANNUAL MEETING JULY 1989 IN ALBERTA

SPNHC has accepted the invitation of the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Calgary to host the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society. The meeting is scheduled for 9-14 July 1989 in Drumheller and Calgary, Alberta. The theme for the meeting is "Collections Treasures," including such concerns as the preservation and handling of type material and problems with commercially valuable material. The program will include technical papers, poster presentations, hands-on workshops, field trips, a panel discussion "Public vs. Research Access to Natural History Collections," and a day-long conservation symposium.

The deadline for abstracts is April 15, 1989 and posters should be mailed by May 20, 1989. For more information, contact: Jane Danis, Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Box 7500, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0 Canada, phone: (403) 823-7707 or Dr. Tony Russell, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4 Canada, phone: (403) 220-5198.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Conservation Committee, Documentation Subcommittee: G. R. Fitzgerald presented a final draft of "Documentation Standards for the Preparation and Conservation of Paleontological and Geological Specimens" for Committee approval. In it, he discusses the reasons for keeping accurate records, and suggests guidelines and minimum standards for documenting the treatment of specimens. Once approved by SPNHC Council, the standards will be published in Collection Forum.

Supplies and Equipment Subcommittee: Carla Kishinami has produced, and tested on her colleagues at Bishop Museum, an exhaustive questionnaire on curatorial supplies. The goal is to develop a listing of supplies and suppliers for materials used in natural history collections. The questionnaire is being reviewed by the Resources Committee and will be pilot tested before being distributed to SPNHC members.

Publicity and Liaison Committee: In cooperation with Association of Systematic Collections, SPNHC will cosponsor a workshop on collections management and preservation for the ASC Annual Meeting in May 1989 at University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Ideas for the format and speakers are being discussed now and ideas from SPNHC members are invited. Contact SPNHC committee members Stephen Williams, Duane Schlitter, Julia Golden, or Paisley Cato. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

### SPNHC JOINS NIC

In October of 1987, SPNHC joined the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC), an umbrella organization in the U.S. dealing with conservation issues on a national scope and cooperating on international projects in conservation. The following is excerpted from the report of the NIC Council Meeting, 19-20 October, Washington, D.C., submitted by Catharine Hawks, SPNHC representative to NIC.

#### Collections-Care Pilot Training Programs

Four different training programs emphasizing the specialities of fine arts, anthropology, natural history, and history were held at the Art Institute of Chicago, Arizona State Museum, Museum of Natural History of L.A., and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, respectively. Arthur Beale (Boston Museum of Fine Arts), Chair of the NIC Advisory Panel for the CCPTP noted the success of the first year of the natural history program and described it as a catalyst in the field of natural science conservation.

#### Natural History Working Group

Members: Kimball Garrett (rapporteur), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Catharine Hawks, SPNHC; Stephen Williams, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

#### Preamble: Impediments to Progress

There has been a lack of recognition of the size and

diversity of natural history collections among museum organizations, conservation organizations, and funding agencies. Natural history museums have lagged far behind in representation in these organizations, especially with regard to policy and funding decisions.

There has been a traditional lack of awareness within natural science institutions regarding conservation and care of collections. Now, at a time when conservation concerns are becoming more of a reality, the support and resources of natural science institutions seem to be diminishing.

#### Priorities:

- 1) Conservation Surveys
  - a) Define parameters for general surveys.
  - b) Identify special conservation needs and concerns of natural science institutions. NIC could research and publish a "General Status Report on Conservation in Natural Science Institutions."
  - c) Identify surveyors.
  - d) Publicize the availability of these surveys.
- 2) Training
  - a) Continue and expand professional training programs like its "Collections-Care Pilot Training Programs."
  - b) Develop a curriculum for formal training of natural science conservators.
- 3) Research
  - a) Basic research in materials, conservation processes, etc. The NIC could research and generate a study on "Research Needs in Natural Science Conservation."
  - b) Dissemination of research results through inter-organizational networks, abstracting services, and the proposed "Conservation Hot-line."
- 4) Expansion of Resources
  - a) Conservation facilities within large museums should be opened up to all museum departments including natural sciences.
  - b) Expand the access of natural science institutions to collections care funding.
  - c) Expand approaches to increase private sector awareness and to generate funding for collections care.

It was felt that certain changes within the NIC would be desirable in order to increase the representation of natural science institutions:

  - 1) Provide a mechanism for equal representation of the biological and geological sciences in NIC.
  - 2) Recognition of the difference between conservation staffing at natural science institutions (i.e. limited to non-existent) and other cultural institutions, thus changing the NIC voting membership requirements of 3 staff conservators in some cases.
  - 3) Expand NIC's advocacy role in conjunction with SPNHC and ASC to aggressively convey the

conservation concerns of natural science institutions to funding agencies and other organizations.

- 4) Perhaps consider a name change or subtitle for NIC that would better connote an umbrella of concerns that includes natural sciences.

During the months since the Council Meeting, the NIC has begun the computerization of a resources directory to assist the formation of the proposed "Conservation Hot-line"; published the Chicago Forum Transcripts; held a Board Meeting to discuss (among other issues) changes in the By-Laws and membership requirements which would permit greater input by natural sciences institutions; sent special invitations to a number of natural science museums and organizations to encourage them to join NIC, a first step towards developing a specialty group task force to assess conservation needs in the natural sciences; and undertaken an agreement with the Getty Conservation Institute to develop museum Conservation Survey forms and guidelines, as well as conduct a training workshop on how to use them.

### IS COPYRIGHTING YOUR DATABASE THE SOLUTION?

One of the best means by which a natural history collection can measure its importance as a scientific and educational resource is by keeping track of the type and frequency of its use. Such records help to justify budgeting for collection care, loan shipments, staff salaries, and general operating costs. The same kind of information is used to emphasize the significance of a collection when applying for grant money.

For many years, keeping such records was a relatively simple matter of keeping a 'guest book', a loan file, or similarly organized chronological records of collection usage. Users had to ask permission to visit the collection or to borrow specimens, and each instance was recorded. With the advent of collection computerization and the availability of electronic data transfer, this is no longer entirely true. For individuals who attach no significance to specimen examination, a quick look at the collection database will do. State game agencies, parks departments, and conservation groups often have the time and resources to build composite databases that contain information pertinent to specimens in numerous natural history collections. Once such databases are constructed their owners and other users, such as commercial environmental impact operations, need never visit the actual collection again.

As mentioned in the February 1988 SPNHC Newsletter, databases are copyrightable in the U.S. and a registered copyright may deter many people from misusing a database. However, if infringement is discovered, the only thing that copyright ownership insures is a solid basis for lawsuit. Thus, before embarking upon registration, which may be

time-consuming, one must ask (1) whether your administration would pursue infringement into court? (2) is copyright registration the only way to deter improper use of your database?

Since the answer to question 1 may often be 'probably not', the American Society of Mammalogists' Committee on Information Retrieval has developed and published a set of guidelines which may help to deter misuse (*Journal of Mammalogy* 69(1):217-218). These guidelines represent generally held, but previously unwritten, standards of conduct for collection usage. For users whom you believe may not be aware of accepted practices, a copy of the guidelines can accompany collection information.

-Sue McLaren, Carnegie Mus. Nat. Hist.

(Space does not permit reproduction of the guidelines here. Ed.)

### ASC WORKSHOP

The Association of Systematic Collections will hold a workshop on "Collection Resources for the 1990's" in Washington, D.C., October 5-7, 1988, funded by National Science Foundation. The workshop will address three main topics: institutional needs and trends, trends and needs in computerization and networking, and the needs of collections and users as perceived by the various taxonomic disciplines. The participants will produce a report that will update previous studies and will be of use to funding agencies in evaluating research resource programs.

### ECONOMIC BOTANY COLLECTIONS

The Department of Botany at Field Museum is conducting a general survey of Economic Botany Collections. The Economic Botany Collection at Field Museum is in the process of relocation, reorganization and renovation. We are interested in locating other institutions that also house economic botany collections in the hope of developing an open line of communication concerning problems and possible solutions in curation and storage of materials. If enough institutions can be identified, we hope eventually to create a guide to major economic botany collections. If you would like to participate in the survey, please request a questionnaire from: Dr. Timothy Plowman, Associate Curator, Department of Botany, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605-2496, USA.

- Nancy Pliml, Herbarium Asst., Field Museum

### MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS

#### Museum Documentation Study Tour.

September 18-20, 1988, London. Sponsored by Museum Documentation Association (MDA), the tour will visit two London museums of the registrants choice. Contact: MDA (supplier #5).

#### Indexing Languages Training Seminar.

September 21, 1988, Cambridge. Sponsored by MDA, the intensive one-day conference will examine principles behind the construction and use of indexing languages in museums, including classification systems and thesauri. Contact: MDA (supplier #5).

International Conference on Terminology for Museums. September 21-24, 1988, Cambridge. Cosponsored by MDA and Getty Art History Information Program, the conference will provide a substantial review of recent developments of systems and systems within individual institutions with special sessions on natural history, geology and conservation. Contact: MDA (supplier #5).

New Directions and Professional Standards in Natural History Museums. October 4, 1988, Kansas City. The symposium will address such topics as the role and missions of state museums of natural history, status of anthropology in natural history museums, destructive testing of objects, planning for collections in small natural history museums, and improving science education in rural areas using natural resources. The symposium is part of the joint meeting of the Midwest Museums Conference - Mountain-Plains Museums Association 4-7 October, 1988. Symposium information from: Paisley Cato, Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Meeting information from: MMC/MPMA Joint Meeting, Kansas City Museum, 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64123.

35th Annual Systematics Symposium.

October 7-8, 1988, St. Louis. Conserving Biological Diversity - Prospects for the 21st Century sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden. Contact: MBG, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166.

Natural Sciences Curatorial Course.

October 17-21, 1988, Derbyshire. Sponsored by Biological and Geological Curators Groups, the course will cover topics on records centers; preservation and storage of invertebrates, vertebrates, geological and botanical specimens; exhibition techniques, documentation and collections policies. Visits to at least 6 museums and a National Park are planned. For information contact: Steve Moran, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3ED Scotland; Tel:0463-237114.

Museum Computer Network Annual Conference. October 26-28, 1988, Santa Monica, CA. Sessions include: Vendor/User Forum, Conservation Information Network, Collections Management Databases, Introduction to Museum Computing Workshop, Strategic Planning and Data Architecture, Impacts of Automation on the Profession, Vocabulary Control, Optical Technologies and Members Systems Demonstrations. Contact: MCN Program Coordinator, 5600 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Natural History Collections Care Symposium.

November 2-4, 1988, Pretoria. The purpose of the symposium sponsored by The Transvaal Museum is to

keep South Africa abreast of developments in collections management in the western hemisphere; to discuss the changing role of collections managers in the museum community; to air new ideas and to discuss and make contributions towards collections management research and conservation in natural history collections. Contact: Elizabeth Jones, Transvaal Museum, P.O.Box 413, 0001 Pretoria, South Africa.

Databases in Systematics (training course).

December 12-16, 1988, Southampton. Sponsored by the Systematics Association. Contact: Dr. S. Hollis, Dept. Biology, Bldg. 44, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH England.

International Council for Archaeozoology.

May 21-25, 1990, Washington, D.C. Sixth International Conference with the theme of the nature and implications of man/animal interactions over time. Workshops on Curation of Archaeozoological Collections, Computerization of Archaeozoological Data, SEM Examination of Bones - practicum, and Preparation of Comparative Collections. Field trips to museums and research centers. For information, registration and abstract forms contact: ICAZ, Department of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 USA.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Bibliography of Works on the Conservation of Ethnographic Materials. Compiled by Ruth Norton and Sue Walston. ICOM Committee for Conservation Working Group on Ethnographic Materials. Sydney, August 1987, 119 pp. Available from: ICOM, Maison de l'Unesco, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. (Price:\$10.00 US; payment by Bank Transfer, International Money Order, or Unesco Coupons).

Conservation and Exhibitions: packing, transport, storage and environmental considerations. N. Stolow, 1987. Butterworths, 266 pp. Reviews past and current methods and techniques for the handling and conservation of collections during exhibition and transport; also presents new ideas and concepts from recent research and industrial technology. Available from: Butterworths, 80 Montvale Ave, Stoneham, MA 02180.

Taxidermy: the revival of a natural act. C. Stoa, 1987. The Sportsman's Press, 141 pp. Reviews taxidermy from 1750 to present; covers issues of collections and their care, mounting birds, moulding and casting fish and tanning. Available from: The Sportsman's Press, 25 King Charles Walk, London SW19 6JA, U.K.

Code of Ethics and Guidance for Practice for Those Involved in the Conservation of Cultural Property in Canada. IIC Canadian Group, 1986. Canadian Association of Professional Conservators, 18 pp. In addition to code of ethics and guide for conservation practice, a glossary and a list of principal references used for the compilation of document. Available from:

IIC-CG, Box 9195, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3T9, Canada.  
Special Resource Issue. Art Hazards News, 11(3), 1988. A select listing of health and safety organizations, agencies and institutions in the U.S. and Canada. Includes addresses and telephone numbers plus brief listing of publications and audio-visuals.

Guidelines for usage of computer-based collection data. Committee on Information Retrieval (S. McLaren, Chair), 1988. J. Mammalogy 69:217-218. A set of policies developed by a committee of the American Society of Mammalogists to guide the use of computer-based data to insure the accuracy and validity of primary research (see also "Copyrighting" p. 4).

Suggestions regarding alcoholic bird collections. P. F. Cannell, M. R. Bakst and C. S. Asa, 1988. Condor, 90:500-503. Recommendations for preparation and management of fluid-preserved specimens to improve quality of material available for research.

AAM Policy Regarding the Repatriation of Native American Ceremonial Objects and Human Remains. Aviso, 3:4-5, 1988. Policy adopted by the Council of the American Association of Museums January 15, 1988.

Preservation of herbarium specimens: an archive conservator's approach. S. H. Clark, 1986. Taxon 35:675-682. Summary of the problems with many herbarium support materials, adhesives and fumigants with excellent suggestions for alternative materials and procedures.

Hide storage and display project. H. Dumka, 1987. Leather Conservation News 4(1):12-15. Describes a storage technique for hides where storage space is limited and describes display techniques designed to minimize stress on large hides.

Pest Control: a survey of natural history museums in Great Britain and Ireland. M. Linnie, 1987. Int. J. Mus. Management Curatorship, 6:277-290. Results of a survey of 108 natural history museums. Types of pests, damage, sources of infestation, pest control strategies, effects of pesticides on specimens and health and safety aspects are discussed.

Glove Selection. Art Hazards News, 11(4):2-3. A guide to choosing the correct glove materials for particular chemicals and a rating of their suitability.

Beetle-down.....to your local museum is a guide to the natural history museums in the U.K. Published by the Biological Curators' Group and Watch, it advertises a program initiated 1 July to encourage children and their parents to visit natural history museums.

A Hands-on Approach for Don't-Touch Exhibits. P. H. Rheume, 1988. Curator 31(2):96-98. A low-cost solution for students to learn animal foot-prints.

Developing New Museum Archives. M. Daniels, 1988. Curator 31(2):99-105. Guidelines to establishing an archives with reference to the Museum Archives Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists.

Removing Rust Stains from Bones. R. T. Brunstetter, 1988. Curator 31(2):106-107. Describes method of using

Whink (see supplier #4), an 8% solution of hydrofluoric acid.

Teaching Introductory Museology. D. Anderson, 1988. Curator 31(2):108-122. Description of an undergraduate introductory course and a discussion of the author's basic philosophy behind teaching museology.

Compactors in Small Collection-Based Museum Libraries. B. J. Macfadden, G. C. Shaak, S. D. Webb and E. Brown. Curator 31(2): 137-140. A solution for the Simpson Library, Florida State Museum, which houses more than 30,000 reprints, 1750 books and runs of 25 journals, that are associated with the vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology collections.

Collections management for museums. The Museum Documentation Association, 1988. Proceedings from the first Annual Conference of the MDA held in Cambridge in September 1987. (see supplier #5. Price £30 plus £1 postage outside U.K.)

Catalogue of the Living Collections of the Iowa State University Botany Department Greenhouses. R. W. Pohl and D. Q. Lewis, 1988. Jour. Iowa Acad. Sci. 95(1):8-13. Description of teaching and research collections that include over 800 plant taxa. Propagation materials may be provided to other educational institutions for teaching or research.

## JOURNALS and ORGANIZATIONS

Journal of Biological Curation. A new journal promoting the theoretical and practical aspects of the care of biological collections. The journal will be published by the Biological Curators' Group. The first issue is planned for Spring 1989. Emphasis will be placed on the following subject areas: collection management; documentation, particularly advances in computer based systems; natural history interpretation, particularly display planning, execution and evaluation; biological recording; collection storage and dissemination of data; curatorial techniques in the preparation and conservation of biological material; experimental investigation into the permanence of stored collections; descriptions of collections and institutional holdings from U.K. and abroad. Manuscripts should be submitted to: Dr. John Mathias, Keeper of Biology, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TD England. Subscription information from: Biological Curators' Group, Mr. Adam Wright, Membership Secretary, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5QP U.K.

Art Hazard News, Center for Safety in the Arts, 5 Beekman St., New York, NY 10038 USA (subscription: \$15 US per year).

Leather Conservation News, Paul S. Storch, Editor, South Carolina State Museum, Box 100107, Columbia, SC 29202-3701 USA (subscriber: \$12 US per year).

The Carnegie Mineralogical Award. The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, has established a new award in mineralogy to recognize major

contributions which promote and improve the preservation, conservation and educational use of minerals and mineral collecting. Eligible recipients of the Award include private mineral enthusiasts, collectors, educators, curators, mineral groups and societies, as well as museums and universities. The Award consists of a medallion, certificate of recognition and a cash prize of \$1500. The administration and selection process will be the responsibility of The Mineral Museums Advisory Council. The Carnegie Mineralogical Award will be presented at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show held every year in February. For more information, contact: The Mineral Museums Advisory Council, c/o Ron Bentley, 6 Claremont St., Enfield, CT 06082.

The Tucson Gem & Mineral Society is the first recipient of the new award given by The Carnegie Museum of Natural History and underwritten by The Hillman Foundation, Inc.

- Richard Souza, Dept. Min., Carnegie Museum

### MATERIALS and SUPPLIES

Caveman Chemistry of Films is a demonstration packet illustrating the chemical and physical properties of PVC, cellulose triacetate, polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyester films. It includes samples and charts of properties and is available from Tuck Taylor, \$4 postpaid. (supplier #1).

PALSTAT a software package for paleontologists and biologists produced by P. D. Ryan and D. A. T. Harper for The Palaeontological Association and available from Lochlee Publications (supplier #2). The disc-based, user-friendly package contains 31 programs for the BBC Model B/Master encompassing a wide variety of graphical and statistical procedures.

Conservation Information Network. Subscriptions are "pay as you use" and subscribers have access to over 100,000 citations from the international conservation literature. For information about communications software and establishing an account contact The Getty Conservation Institute (see supplier #3).

Tax-free alcohol. Even nonprofit organizations must pay the new \$250 tax for users of taxfree distilled spirits. There is no appeal procedure, short of having Congress alter the law. For information about the tax law and fee structure contact the Department of the Treasury.

- R. A. Davis, Cincinnati Mus. Nat. Hist., who submitted this information, suggests contacting your local congressmen and asking for a change in the law. Ed.

### SUPPLIERS

1. Tuck Taylor, P.O. Box 406, Lima, PA 19037
2. Lochlee Publications Ltd., Oak Villa, New Alyth, Perthshire PH11 8NN, Scotland, U.K.
3. Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Avenue, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 USA
4. Whink Products Company, Eldora, IA 50627 USA
5. Museum Documentation Association, Bldg. 0, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4DH U.K.

### FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter marks a change in the SPNHC publications structure. Julia Golden has been appointed Editor for the SPNHC Newsletter; as you can see from the quality of this issue, she's off to a strong start. All submissions for the newsletter should be sent directly to Julie (Dept. Geology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242 USA, phone: (319) 335-1822).

The editorial structure for Collection Forum has also changed. Beginning with the Fall 1988 issue, I will be serving as Managing Editor, with the very active support of three Associate Editors, Marie Lawrence, Jack McCoy and Janet Waddington. Mary Carman, Editor for Book Reviews, has done an excellent job compiling a series of reviews for the Fall 1988 and Spring 1989 issues. Guidelines for submitting manuscripts may be obtained by writing me.

So, look for some changes as we grow, expand and improve. Please don't hesitate to send your suggestions and critiques of our publications - they can only help us improve. Thanks! And thanks once again to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University for underwriting the costs of producing and mailing this Newsletter.

-Paisley S. Cato, Chairman, Publications Committee

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the remarkable success of the Third Annual Meeting, May 30-June 3 at The Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, we can now look ahead with renewed enthusiasm. On behalf of all SPNHC members, I express deep appreciation and gratitude to the Director of The Carnegie, James E. King, the Local Committee members, and the Program Support contributors. In particular, I wish to single out Duane Schlitter and Steve Williams for their invaluable efforts.

For the first time, the Society's Council is now complete, as established in the Bylaws. Standing Rules have been developed and approved. More cohesively structured Standing Committees are in action.

This year will demand more from us all, while it also promises to be more rewarding. The legacy from our Past-President, Dan Faber, is undoubtedly inspiring and we will all have a hand in shaping developments. I encourage all of you to contact the Chairperson of the committee to which you prefer to make a professional contribution. Your input becomes part of the very essence of the Society.

I also encourage you to suggest candidates for the positions of Member-at-large, for the period 1989-92, in accordance with the instructions given in this newsletter by the Election Committee Chairman, Frederick J. Collier. In due course, when the list of nominees has been prepared, please make your selection.

We continue to develop our dreams envisioned in the past, while we find new ones. Let us share yours.

-Cesar Romero-Sierra, President SPNHC

**SPNHC COUNCIL**

PRESIDENT - Cesar A. Romero-Sierra  
 PAST-PRESIDENT - Daniel J. Faber  
 PRESIDENT-ELECT - Stephen Williams  
 SECRETARY - Shirley S. Albright  
 SECRETARY-ELECT - Joan Kaylor  
 TREASURER - Suzanne McLaren  
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE  
 1989 - Frederick J. Collier  
       Wynn Watson  
 1990 - Janet B. Waddington  
       Julia Golden  
 1991 - Ingrid U. Birker  
       Carolyn L. Rose

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**SPNHC NEWSLETTER**

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