

# SPNHC NEWSLETTER

*Society for the Preservation of  
Natural History Collections*

*February 1990  
Volume 4 Number 1*

## SPNHC ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7-11

Field Museum of Natural History will host the 5th Annual Meeting. Final circulars have been mailed and the packet contains abstract, registration and accommodation forms as well as registration forms for the special conservation symposium.

The technical and poster sessions will enable SPNHC members to describe research and special projects, propose collection management policies, exchange practical advice and discuss common problems. Posters will be on view throughout the meeting. Vendors will display products for three days.

The topics for workshops being offered are: disaster planning, archival materials, worker right-to-know regulations, museum problem solving, exhibit in progress, care and repair of books, and computer applications. Tours include visits to collection facilities at Field Museum, Chicago Academy of Sciences and McCrone Associates laboratory, and a geological tour of Chicago.

Overlapping the SPNHC meeting is the American Association of Museums annual meeting which will offer many interesting sessions and tours. In addition, speakers at the Spring Systematics Symposium held at Field Museum will discuss *Evolutionary Ethics*. The week of May 7-13 in Chicago promises to be an intense immersion into museology practices and philosophy.

Deadlines: 10 March Preregistration

10 March Abstract

10 April Accommodations

Contact: David Willard, Field Museum (#1)

## SPNHC OTTAWA 1991

The committee organising the 6th Annual Meeting of SPNHC to be held in Ottawa in 1991 is planning the program for the week and some thought is being given to holding a computer workshop. Computer workshops at previous annual meetings seem to have been well received and informative. Before the planning committee includes a computer workshop in the program we would like to get an idea from those who might attend as to whether or not there is any interest. If a workshop is included in the program it will likely be held during the first day, when the Council and committee representatives are meeting.

If you are interested in a computer workshop at the Ottawa annual meeting, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have access to the Conservation Information Network, you may send me an Envoy 100 message to CINC.NMNS or write to Peter Frank. (#5)

## EXHIBITING NATURAL HISTORY MATERIALS SPNHC SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

The exhibition of natural history specimens has not received the attention that anthropological and art materials have. While conservation plays a major role in setting standards for the exhibit conditions for these materials, it is rarely taken into consideration when exhibiting natural history specimens. This symposium will be the first time that conservation professionals have come together to address the conservation aspects of displaying natural history specimens.

The aim of this symposium is to make museum personnel who are responsible for the care and exhibition of natural history collections aware of the problems presented by exhibition. All aspects of the exhibit process will be discussed from the choice of specimens to be exhibited to the final installation of the exhibit. The damaging effects of the exhibit environment on specimens, including case construction materials and props, will be discussed as well as ways of minimizing them.

By raising the consciousness of museum personnel to the exhibit needs of collections, it is hoped that conservation standards for the display of natural history collections will become established and implemented. The symposium will provide participants with the knowledge needed to ensure the best possible care for natural history collections on display and its published proceedings will be a valuable resource for museum personnel involved in collections care.

The symposium will be held May 11 at the Field Museum. It is aimed at exhibit designers, collections managers, curators, registrars, technicians, preparators, and anyone else on the exhibit design team. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants.

Preregistration: \$10 members, \$20 non-members

After March 10: \$15 members, \$25 non-members

Contact: Elizabeth Merritt (#2) or Lynn Barkley (#3)

Accommodations and transportation information contact:  
David Willard (#1)

## SPNHC ELECTION

Don't forget to vote

The SPNHC ballot for the offices of President-elect, Secretary and two Members-at-large have been mailed to all current SPNHC members. If you have not received a ballot yet, contact Fred Collier (202) 357-2405. Ballots must be post-marked on or before March 15.

### HELP! THE DOCUMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Documentation Sub-committee of the Conservation Committee is working on a number of projects and needs input from SPNHC members.

One project is to produce *Standards of Practice for the Documentation of Preparation and Conservation Treatment of Natural History Specimens*. This will be based on the documentation guidelines for the preparation and conservation of paleontological, geological and biological collections published in *Collection Forum* volumes 4(2) and 5(2). If you have implemented preparation and conservation documentation systems, your comments would be especially appreciated. "Standards of Practice", approved by SPNHC Council, will be important for establishing preparation and conservation documents as a normal procedure in natural history collections.

Three other projects include developing files of:

- 1) procedure manuals for the preparation of all types of natural history specimens,
- 2) policies that relate to collection management, conservation, loans, sampling, etc., and
- 3) guides to the use of collections.

We plan to annotate these documents and if possible produce generic ones that will serve as guides to institutions wishing to develop similar documents for their own use. If you would like to help your colleagues, please contact the sub-committee chair, Jerry Fitzgerald. (#4)

### NATURAL HISTORY AFFINITY GROUP FORMS IN SOUTHEAST

A group of natural history museum professionals came together for a formative meeting during the Southeastern Museums Conference annual meeting in Atlanta during October, 1989. Stating the need for more education in the field of natural history and the need for a regional network, Allyn Lord (registrar, The University Museum, Fayetteville, Arkansas) organized the new group which set forth a list of specific objectives and short term goals.

Group members represented areas including zoology, education, anthropology, and others. The general consensus of the group was to define themselves as the Natural History Affinity Group (NHAG) within the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC), and to include as wide a range of professionals in related fields as possible.

Short term goals include development of a mailing list, creation of natural history sessions for the 1990 SEMC annual meeting, a survey of southeastern museums regarding natural history questions and concerns, and continued organization towards a more formal group. For more information, contact Ms. Lord. (#7)

### CALL FOR CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

The National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC) has recently called for assessors to participate in its new Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). CAP is a pilot program adjunct to the Institute of Museum Services' Conservation Project Support program. NIC administers the IMS-funded program and will assist applicants in finding appropriately trained conservation assessors. Over \$500,000 is allocated for this program in 1990.

The CAP Advisory Committee recommends that an assessor should have the following qualifications: evidence of conservation/preservation training; at least five years of experience in the field; and experience conducting general surveys or assessments. As part of a CAP grant, NIC will provide museums who do not have a conservator or assessor with a list of assessors, assessor information sheets, supplemental material supplied by each assessor, and "Guidelines for Selecting a Conservator", a brochure published by the American Institute for the Conservation of Artistic and Historic Works. If you would like to participate in CAP as an assessor, please contact Mary Estelle Kennelly, CAP Coordinator. (#6)

A brief note on some of the differences between CAP and IMS Conservation Project Support may be helpful. The CAP program is designed for small to medium sized museums that can be assessed in a two-day site visit. CAP grants will fund one or two assessors, travel and per diem costs, and a final report. The report will assist the institution in identifying needs and setting priorities, and may assist in seeking subsequent funding for conservation projects. Alternatively, the IMS Conservation Project Support Grants fund general surveys especially for larger museums. IMS grants can be used for more varied purposes which may include the services of a conservator/assessor and purchasing equipment.

### MEMBER NEWS...

As of 1 February, the new address of **Stephen Williams**, SPNHC President-Elect, will be The Museum, P.O. Box 4499, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-3191 [tel: (806) 742-2486]. After working at The Carnegie Museum of Natural History for 13 1/2 years as Collection Manager, Steve is joining the staff in Texas to continue managing vertebrate research collections and work with the Museum Science Program. .. **Gregory Walters** is the new Exhibit Designer at The Sternberg Museum, Fort Hays State University, Fort Hayes, Kansas. Congratulations to **Paisley and Kerry Cato** parents of Kathryn Sue, born December 26. ..If you missed the Annual Meeting in Drumheller/Calgary, read the excellent review by **Randall Miller** in *Geoscience Canada* 16(4):245. ..Condolences to family and friends of **Robert Schuster** (Entomologist, UC-Davis) who died of cancer in August 1989.

### 1989 NIC MEETING

The annual meeting of the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC) was held in Washington, D.C., October 17-18, 1989. Sessions included: Making collections care an integral part of an institution's long range plans; Heightening the appreciation of the general public; Increasing the understanding of leader in the private and public sectors; Serving as a national forum: A catalyst for change; and Projects and programs to address national needs.

Prior to the annual meeting, there was a special meeting to discuss the direction of the Natural Science Conservation Project being undertaken by NIC. Basic topics of discussion included: 1) the nature of natural science collections, 2) unique aspects of natural science collections, 3) present state of natural science conservation, and 4) specific areas in need of development. This information will be incorporated with similar information acquired during the 1989 Association of Systematics Collections meeting which addressed institutional and collection management needs. Collectively, this information will be used to develop a proposal for a more comprehensive study of the conservation needs for the natural sciences.

### DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW OF SPNHC MEMBERSHIP

A recent assessment of the SPNHC membership shows representation of all natural history disciplines. Assuming all 1989 members renew their memberships, the current number of members is about 460 (a 20% increase over 1989). Of this total, one-fourth of the members report being affiliated with more than one of the general disciplines which include anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology and other. For the members that specified single disciplines, 11% listed other, 8.7% anthropology, 6.5% botany, 4.9% geology, 10.7% paleontology, and 58.2% are scattered in the disciplines in zoology (e.g. malacology, entomology, ichthyology, herpetology, ornithology, mammalogy, etc.).

It is not surprising that a majority (78%) of SPNHC members listed their professional activity as the care of natural history collections/materials. However, many members also checked more than one activity which include administration (33.7%), research (68.6%), exhibits (30.7%), and education (29.8%).

Perhaps the significance of these figures is that SPNHC is attractive to a broad range of natural history disciplines and professions, and that it serves as a viable mechanism for communication among these groups as well as a unified voice to the rest of the museum community.

### IN PROGRESS....

**Truth or Verify?** How should loans of research specimens between museums and/or universities be handled? Should loan forms stipulate how the specimens are to be treated (and not treated) or should this be a matter of trust between professionals? What does your museum do? I am preparing an article on the subject for *Collection Forum*. Send your opinion, complaints, stories and loan forms to Beth Merritt. (#2)

**ENT-LIST** is a new electronic mail system for systematic entomologists. It is an outcome of the recommendations of the Systematics Resources Management in Entomology Workshop held August 19, 1989 at Penn State University. Mark F. O'Brien established ENT-LIST at the University of Michigan to facilitate the exchange of information among collection managers and those working with entomological collections. Registered users may send inquiries and messages through ENT-LIST to all subscribers or to a particular individual. To become a registered user, send your name and computer address to Mark via INTERNET at: Mark\_O'Brien@ub.cc.umich.edu or via BITNET at: hcfb@umichub. If you have problems sending an electronic message, contact Mark by mail. (#8)

**Wagner Free Institute of Science** has begun a revival of the Publications and Transactions of the Wagner. The first publication is a catalogue of the type fossils with a history of paleontology at the Institute. A catalogue of mineral and palaeontological collections is in preparation. Contact Eugene A. Bolt, Jr., Curator, for subscription information. (#9)

The collections of the **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ)**, including over 50,000 bird skins, 160,000 bird egg sets, and the only major research collection of bird nests in North America, are now part of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM). Lloyd F. Kiff, Director of the WFVZ, is currently Acting Curator and Section Head in Ornithology at the Natural History Museum. The WFVZ collections continue to be housed in facilities in Westwood and Brentwood. Plans are being developed for an eventual physical merger of the WFVZ and LACM collections.

**MCN Call for papers** - The Museum Computer Network is seeking proposals for papers, panel discussions, and demonstrations for the annual meeting October 10-14. Topics may include overall planning efforts for automation, information architecture studies, and use of CASE technology; linking of museum, archival, and library systems; data sharing and information access; and use of image-related technologies in the museum context. Connections among diverse systems will be considered as well as the effect of new technologies on staff. Contact the MCN office with ideas and questions. (#31)

### HAZARDS

A brief list of some regulations and announcements extracted from recent issues of ACTS FACTS. Through the courtesy of Monona Rossol, editor, SPNHC exchanges newsletters with ACTS. Information about subscriptions to ACTS FACTS can be obtained from Ms. Rossol. (#12)

- [v.3(11):4] Bladder cancer is linked to some occupations: painters, truck drivers and drill press operators. Painters are exposed to a number of carcinogens in paints and solvents. Truck drivers are exposed to motor exhaust. Drill press operators are exposed to cutting and lubricating oil mists which may contain among other things saccharin.
- [v.3(11):4] A revised fact sheet "OSHA's Final Rule on Occupational Exposure to Formaldehyde" (OSHA 89-27) is available by sending a self-addressed label to your nearest OSHA regional office or OSHA Publications. (#19)
- [v.3(12):1] A bill (HR3566) passed the Senate and the House containing authorization language which outlines six actions which OSHA may now take in workplaces which were exempt from regulations because they employ 10 or fewer workers and have occupational lost workday case rates less than the national average for that industry. (Ed. note: See new publication on complying with OSHA regulations.)
- [v.4(12):2] "Ethylene Oxide sterilizers in Health Care Facilities" is a new free NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB 52) pamphlet containing some information on engineering control and work practices applicable to museum personnel engaged in fumigation. (#20)
- [v.4(1):3] Paradichlorobenzene (PDB) is one of five chemicals added to the National Toxicology Program's (NTP) Fifth Annual Report on Carcinogens (Summary 1989 NTP 89-239). Single free copies of the report are available. (#21)

### SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

**Byron Weston Resistal paper** which is used for wet labels is now available from a new source. University Products will carry the paper in two weights: 28 and 36 lb. For availability and price information, contact Christine Allen. (#14)

**Dyna-Cast** is a new two part thermosetting plastic for strong, lightweight, paintable casts. For information on how to use or purchase Dyna-Cast, contact Len Principe, Kindt-Collins Company. (#15)

**EXPAL** is a computer program used for expert systems and databases. The first database available is Mesozoic Dasycladales (calcareous algae). Contact Jim Leever, Petroconsultants Sales Corp. for information. (#16)

**Fumigation Bubble** inexpensive, portable and versatile for methyl bromide, aluminum phosphide or carbon dioxide. Contact B&G Equipment Co. (#17) or David Mueller (#18).

SPNHC 5th ANNUAL MEETING  
 May 7-11, 1990  
 Field Museum of Natural History  
 Chicago, Illinois

### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Museum studies in collection management.** Genoways, H.H., 1989. Association of Systematic Collections Newsletter 17(6):77,79-81. A survey of Museum Studies Programs offering course work and/or degrees in management of scientific and anthropological collections.
- Priorities for conservation of natural history collections.** Horie, C.V., 1989. Natural History Conservation (ICOM-CC Natural History Collections Working Group) 4:3-5. Paper presented at ICOM 89, on assessing collections and needs for trained staff.
- Institute of Museum Services, Study of the General Operating Support (GOS) Program.** 1990. Explains the GOS process and recommends improvements in the program, available free to museum professionals. (#21)
- Doing it right: A guide to improving exhibit labels.** Brooklyn Children's Museum, 1989. 64 p. (AAM member \$11.95, non-member \$13.95). The do's and don't's of label writing and methods for evaluating label effectiveness. (#19)
- Desert explorations - A videodisc exhibit designed for flexibility.** Diamond, J., A. Bond, & A. Hirumi, 1989. Curator 32(3):161-173. Describes the development of the Chapman Grant Hall of Desert Ecology, San Diego Natural History Museum.
- Oh, yes, they do: How museum visitors read labels and interact with exhibit texts.** McManus, P.M., 1989. Curator 32(3):174-189. Report on observations of reading habits of visitors at British Museum (Natural History).
- Public access to museum information: Pressures and policies.** Stam, D.C., 1989. Curator 32(3):190-198. Discusses handling museum information as an institutional resource.
- A traveling museum and where it went.** Zucker, B.F., 1989. Curator 32(3):199-211. A history of the St. Louis Educational Museum begun in 1904 and concluded in the 1940's.
- The rain forest in Milwaukee.** Young, A.M., 1989. Curator 32(3):229-244. Describes the design and execution of the new walk-through exhibit at The Milwaukee Public Museum.
- A state museum looks to the twenty-first century.** Miller, S., 1989. Curator 32(4):249-255. History of the Maine State Museum, collection philosophy and use.
- Do-it-yourself curriculum design and dissemination.** Chase, V.C., 1989. Curator 32(4):256-268. Sample curriculum and strategies for dissemination, marine science as example.
- Manuals for museum policy and procedures.** Yang, M., 1989. Curator 32(4):269-274. Outline for planning and writing a manual, aimed at a museum or department without a manual.
- Pull-out drawers Open windows.** Houlding, L.P., 1989. Curator 32(4):275-280. Description of hands-on cabinets in the Collection Gallery at Miami Museum of Science.
- A theoretical approach to the pollution of air volumes within museums.** Brimblecombe, P., 1989. The Conservator 13:15-19. Modelling the build-up and loss of pollutants indoors.
- Insect pests in museums.** Pinniger, D., 1989. Institute of Archaeology Publications, 45 p. Identifies problems and gives practical advice, illustrates and describes major pests, covers prevention and control. (#22)
- Keeping archives.** Pederson, A. (ed.), 1987. Australian Soc. Archivists Inc., 374 p. Reviews collecting, storing, cataloguing, conservation, computers and training users. (#23)

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (continued)

- Titles from National Institute for Conservation (NIC) (#6)**  
 NIC 1989-90 Directory of Members (\$12). NIC 1989-90 Annual Report (1989) (\$5). The conservation assessment: A tool for planning, implementation & fundraising (\$25). Draft materials for the Conservation Assessment Program (1989) (\$20). Collections, monuments and architecture at risk: A forum for southern California decision makers (Los Angeles, 1989 \$6).
- How to comply with the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard: A complete guide to compliance with OSHA worker-right-to-know regulations.** Environmental Resource Center (D.J. Young, compiler), 1989. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 193 p. (\$24.95) Designed for administrators and managers of chemical manufacturers and distributors, but may prove useful for small businesses and museums. Describes procedures to evaluate the hazards of chemicals you work with and tells you how to inform your staff about these hazards. Includes outline for training workers, 10 basic compliance requirements, outlines steps to compliance, material safety data sheet evaluation check list and tables with up-to-date permissible exposure limits for hazardous substances.
- Inert atmosphere fumigation of museum objects.** Gilberg, M., 1989. *Studies in Conservation* 34:80-83. Effects of N<sub>2</sub> on various museum pests.
- Plastics Materials 5th edition.** Brydson, J.A., 1989. Butterworths, 839 p. Introductory chapters tell the history, chemistry, structure, additives, processing and product design; remaining chapters each describe a particular family of plastics (e.g. polyethylene, PVC, PVA, cellulose, resins, etc.) and includes chemistry, production, properties and applications.
- Archaeological Wood.** Rowell, R.M., & Barbour, J. (eds.), 1990. American Chemical Society, *Advances in Chemistry Series* 225, 350 p. (estimated) (U.S. & Canada: \$79.95; Export: \$95.95) Explores the use of chemistry techniques in the analysis of archaeological wood. (#24)
- Archaeological Chemistry IV.** Allen, R.O. (ed.), 1989. *Amer. Chem. Soc., Advances in Chemistry Series* 220, 524 p. (U.S. & Canada: \$89.95; Export: \$107.95) Chemical techniques to help understand archaeological materials. (#24)
- Photography in archaeology and conservation.** Dorrell, P., 1989. Cambridge Univ. Press. (\$39.50) Comprehensive guide to photography in the field and in museums and conservation departments.
- The museum conservation of ethnographic objects.** Morita, T., & C. Pearson (eds.), 1988. Osaka National Museum of Ethnology (*Senri Ethnological Studies* 23), 290 p. Reports on collecting, ethics of conservation and techniques. (#25)
- Archaeological site preservation techniques: A preliminary review.** Thorne, R.M., P.M. Fay, & J.J. Hester, 1987. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Impact Research Program, Technical Report EL-87-3. National Technical Information Service, 76 p.
- State regulation of geological, paleontological, and archaeological collecting.** West, R.M., 1989. *Curator* 32(4):281-319. Compilation of state-level regulations and laws.
- Opals from Opal Butte, Oregon.** Smith, K.L., 1988. *Gems & Gemology* 24:229-236. Describes crazing and its prevention.
- Fossil collections of the world: an international guide.** Webby, B.D., (compiler), 1989. *International Palaeontological Assoc.*, 216 p. (\$15) Describes 450+ collections in 47 countries, lists name and address, history, size of collection, catalogues and publications, and research facilities. (#26)
- A catalogue of type fossils in the Wagner Free Institute of Science Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a history of paleontology at the Institute.** Spamer, E.E. & C.A. Forster, 1988. Wagner Free Institute, 115p. (#9)
- Paleotechniques.** Feldmann, R.M., R.E. Chapman, & J.T. Hannibal (eds.), 1989. *Paleontological Society, Special Publication* 4, 358 p. (\$20) 41 papers on aspects of extracting, preparing, replicating and illustrating fossils. Prepared for a workshop (which was not held) in conjunction with the International Geological Congress. (#28)
- Geology and the local museum.** Knell, S.J., & M.A. Taylor, 1989. HMSO, 150 p. A simple guide to curating and using geology collections, includes basic documentation, storage, conservation and display. (#27)
- Protocols for scientists on the deposition of investigated mineral specimens.** Dunn, P.J., 1988. *American Mineralogist* 73:1480. Encourages mineralogists to deposit properly documented study specimens in well curated mineral collections.
- Formal definitions of type mineral specimens.** Dunn, P.J., & J.A. Mandarino, 1988. *Mineralogical Magazine* 52:129-131.
- An annotated bibliography on preparation, taxidermy, and collection management of vertebrates with emphasis on birds.** Rogers, S.P., M.A. Schmidt, & T. Guetebier, 1989. *Special Publication, Carnegie Museum of Natural History* 15, 189 p. (\$15) Over 1200 citations including foreign works. (#29)
- Crocodylian, Tuatara, and Turtle species of the world: a taxonomic and geographic reference.** King, F.W. & R.L. Burke, 1989. Association of Systematics Collections. Annotated checklist of 271 species. (#20)
- Phenoxetol: An unsatisfactory preservative for fishes.** Crimmen, O.A., 1989. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter* 5:26-27. A report on the disintegration of fishes over 14 years of storage.
- Systematics: Relevance, resources, services and management: A bibliography.** Knutson, L., & W.L. Murphy (compilers), 1989. Association of Systematics Collections, 56 p. (\$9.50, add \$3.50 for overseas airmail) Emphasizes collection-based research, documents the relevance of systematics, and describes the importance of supporting systematics collections. (#20)
- Automating Britain's oldest public museum.** Moffet, J., 1989. *Spectra* 16(3):1-4. Describes the process and progress for the Ashmolean Museum (University of Oxford).
- The basics of authority work in the building of automated information systems for museum collections data.** Stam, D.C., 1989. *Spectra* 16(3):5-8. What an authority file is and how to build and use one.
- From the bottom up: Retrospective data entry/Prospective database construction.** Baron, R.A., 1989. *Spectra* 16(3):9-14. Describes the SWAP system and building a database with a small art collection as example but the procedure is applicable to any collection. [also: *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship* 8:11-12.]

**PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (continued)**

**Computers in exhibits: Criteria for application and evaluation.** Hensley, J.R., 1989. *Spectra* 16(4):1-3. Suggestions on how to design interactive programs and how to evaluate their effectiveness.

**Successful museum computerization: The secret ingredients.** Sledge, J., 1989. *Spectra* 16(4):9-10. Thoughtful insight and good advice.

**How to choose a computer system: Advice from a vendor.** Witt, B.B., 1989. *Spectra* 16(4):11-12,24. How to evaluate your computer needs, use vendors and write a Request for Proposal (RPF).

**Reforming collection documentation: A new approach.** Abell-Seddon, B., 1989. *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship* 8:63-68. Describes how to distinguish the different types of information in manual records and how to build an automated system using the Revelation software package.

**Archives and manuscript control with bibliographic utilities:**

**challenges and opportunities.** Bearman, D., 1989. *American Archivist* 52:26-39. MARC format for Archives & Manuscript Control (AMC); applications to collection management.

**Museum databases, HELP systems and endusers.** Greenhalgh, M., 1989. *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship* 8:33-43. Discusses how to make museum databases meaningful to outside users and explores the use of hypertext for on-line help.

**A model for computerization of museum collections.** Kamisher, L.M., 1989. *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship* 8:45-56. Reviews eight North American museum projects to automate information and contains a useful bibliography.

**Data entry: The 'bugaboo' of museum computerization.** Schmiegel, K.A., 1989. *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship* 8:57-62. Advice on evaluating the data to be entered, technology available for entry and advocates professional management of the data entry step.

**MEETINGS**

**Annual Meeting of the Mountain/Plains Regional Conference of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums.** Feb. 16-18. Richmond, Texas. Contact Mark Texel, tel: (713) 545-9212.

**Acquiring an automated museum documentation system.** March 26-28. Cambridge, England. A seminar sponsored by Museum Documentation Association. (#30)

**Breaking New Ground.** April 8-11. University of Leicester. A conference on current research in museum studies. Gaynor Kavanagh, Dept. Museum Studies, Univ. Leicester, 105 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7LG UK.

**Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Annual Meeting.** April 12-14. Denton, Texas. Contact Earl Zimmerman, tel: (817) 565-3617.

**Materials Research Society, Annual Meeting.** April 16-20. San Francisco. Sponsored by Conservation Analytical Laboratory, tel: (301) 238-3700.

**SPNHC 5th Annual Meeting.** May 7-11. Chicago. Technical and poster sessions, vendor displays, special conservation symposium, workshops and tours. (#1)

**Grant Writing, Fundraising, and Management Strategy for Conservation Programs.** May 8. Chicago. Prior to the AAM meeting, sponsored by The Chicago Conservation Center, contact: Barry Bauman, 730 N. Franklin St., Suite 701, Chicago, IL 60610; tel: (312) 944-5401.

**Congress of Ideas.** May 9-13. Chicago. Amer. Assoc. Museums, Annual Meeting, 90 sessions, tours and special events. (#19)

**Exhibiting Natural History Specimens.** May 11. Chicago. A special conservation symposium sponsored by SPNHC. (#2)

**Uses of Biological Collections.** May ?? Isle of Man. Biological Curators Group Annual Meeting. D. Whiteley, Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP UK.

**American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting.** May 29-June 3. Richmond. tel: (202) 232-6636.

**American Society of Mammalogists, Annual Meeting.** June 9-13. Frostburg, Maryland. Contact: Ron Berry, tel: (301) 689-4167.

**New York Natural History Conference: A Forum for Current Research.** June 20-22. Albany. Sessions include ecology and biogeography symposia, and natural history collections in New York. Biological Survey, Rm. 3140, New York State Museum, Albany, NY 12230 USA; tel: (518) 474-5812.

**Joint Annual Meeting of American Ornithologists Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society.** June 25-July 1. Los Angeles. Contact: Kimball Garrett, tel: (213) 744-3368.

**Fourth International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology.** July 1-7. Washington, D.C. Co-hosted by Smithsonian Institution. Congress Secretariat ICSEB IV, Microbiology Bldg., University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 USA.

**Biological Systematics.** August 5-9. Richmond. 41st American Institute of Biological Sciences Annual Meeting. (#32)

**Systematics, Society, and Public Policy and Archives in Natural History.** August 5-8. Richmond. Sponsored by Association of Systematics Collections. (#20)

**ICOM-CC Wet Organic Archaeological Materials WG.** August 20-24. Bremerhaven. Contact: Dr. P. Hoffman, German Maritime Museum, D-2850 Bremerhaven, Germany.

**9th Triennial Meeting ICOM-CC.** August 26-31. Dresden. Conservation of natural history collections. ICOM-CC 90, ICOM-Nationalkomitee der DDR, Wildensteiner Str. 7, Berlin 1157 GDR.

**Staff development and training for museum documentation and automation.** Sept. 4-8. Cambridge, England. 1990 Museum Documentation Association Annual Conference. Study tour Sept. 2-4 precedes conference. (#30)

**Museum Computer Network Annual Meeting.** Oct. 10-14. Richmond, VA. (#31)

**International Conference on Museums and Environmental Issues.** March 20-25, 1991. Beidaihe, PRC. Sponsored by the Chinese Association of Natural Sciences Museums and ICOM, with post-session tours. ICOM/Natural History Committee, Dr. Craig Black, Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007 USA.

**SPNHC 6th Annual Meeting.** May 7-11, 1991. Ottawa.

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Compiled by Lynn Barkley, Resources Committee

### February

- 12-13. AAM Conference on Financial Management for Museums; Tampa; tel: (202) 289-1818  
 12-14. Exhibit design and development; Campbell River, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 26. Great expectations: How to create a great docent through selection, training and evaluation; Vancouver, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315

### March

7. Workshop on volunteer management; Virginia Association of Museums, 301-A North Sheppard St., Richmond, VA 23221  
 8-9. Successful educational programs in cultural institutions: NYBG Model; 10th Annual Symposium; New York Botanical Garden, tel: (212) 220-8720  
 9-10. Care of furniture and wooden objects; B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 12-16. Display materials workshop #C012; Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Maryland; Smithsonian; Mary Ballard, tel: (301) 238-3792 or Francine Hall, tel: (301) 238-3700  
 13-16. Basic museum protection; part of the National Conference on Museum Security; Chicago; tel: (202) 357-3375  
 18-23. Natural sciences curatorial course; Geological and Biological Curators Groups; Univ. Sheffield, Bob Toynton, 85 Wilkinson St., Sheffield S10 2GJ, tel: 768555 ext. 4932  
 19-23. Archaeological site stabilization; National Park Service; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Norma Patton, tel: (404) 331-4881  
 25-26. Conservation in field archaeology; National Park Service; Tucson, Arizona; Berta Ulibarry, tel: (505) 988-6678  
 25-27. Project planning through problem solving; AAM Registrarial Committee Program; Houston; tel: (202) 289-1818  
 26-27. Profit for the non-profit museum and gallery gift shops; Penticton, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 28-30. Legal problems of museum administrators; sponsored by the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association; Houston, Alexander Hart, tel: (215) 243-1630

### April

- ??? Care of collections; International Academic Projects; Florida; John Maseman, South Florida Conservation Center, tel: (305) 785-7512  
 19-22. Locality data for natural history specimens: GIS technology; workshop in conjunction with Association of American Geographers (AAG); Toronto; AAG, 1710 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
 19. Teaching skills and techniques for museum and gallery professionals; Vancouver, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 20-21. Confronting the Dragon: Museum Archives Institute; New England Museum Association and Old Sturbridge Village Museum; Sturbridge, Mass.; Theresa Rini Percy, tel: (508) 347-3362  
 23-24. Current issues: Museums and the law; Vancouver, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 23-4 May. Preventive conservation: Museum collections and their environment; Getty Conservation Institute; Los Angeles, Kathleen Daurdes, tel: (213) 822-2299  
 26. Conservation of natural history specimens-Frozen collections; Univ. Manchester; C.V. Horie, Manchester Museum, The University, Manchester M13 9PL UK

### April continued

- 30-5 May. Critical issues in cultural management; historical furnishings; National Park Service; Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; Connie Backlund, tel: (304) 535-6371

### May

- ??? Basic museum studies; B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 3-4. Museums and information: New technological horizons; Winnipeg; Doug Leonard, tel: (204) 956-2830 or Ian Sutherland, tel: (613) 992-3333  
 11. Exhibiting natural history materials: A special conservation symposium; SPNHC; Chicago; Lynn Barkley, tel: (213) 744-3369  
 20-25. Curation of archaeozoological collections during the International Council for Archaeozoology Meeting; Washington, D.C.; Susanne Miller, tel: (208) 236-2680  
 22-24. Museum architecture and conservation training workshop at the Annual International Institute for Conservation - Canadian Group Meeting; Quebec City; Andre Bergeron, tel: (418) 643-7001

### June

- ??? Basic museum studies; B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 4-7. Archaeology for managers; National Park Service; Harpers Ferry, WV; Connie Backlund, tel: (304) 535-6371  
 11-29. The consolidation of painted ethnographic objects; Getty Conservation Institute; Los Angeles; tel: (213) 822-2299  
 25-29. IAP (International Academic Projects) 1990 Summer Schools, Conservation, Archaeology and Museology, Courses in: Identification of fibres, Surveying of archaeological sites, Computers in museums, Making replicas of museum objects, Safe handling and display of books; James Black, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY UK

### July

- ??? Basic museum studies; B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315  
 2-27. Museum Management Institute; Berkeley, California; Ricki Lederman, tel: (415) 974-1230  
 2-6. IAP 1990 Summer Schools, Courses in: Archaeological excavation techniques, Identification of wood, Geographical Information Systems in Archaeology, Making electroform replicas of metallic museum objects (Denmark), Textiles conservation; James Black, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY UK  
 9-13. IAP 1990 Summer Schools, Courses in: Care of collections-historical materials, Conservation of archaeological monuments; James Black, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY UK  
 16-20. IAP 1990 Summer Schools, Courses in: Biodeterioration, Materials for conservation, Mounting museum objects for display, Conservation of skin and leather; James Black, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY UK

### September

- ??? Microscopic methods for the identification of plant fibers of ethnobotanical interest; Illinois; Mary Lee Wood, tel: (815) 244-1173  
 25-26. Building a positive work environment; Pre-conference training, British Columbia Museums Association; Courtenay-Comox, B.C.; Jacque Gijssen, tel: (604) 387-3315

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12. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Public Dissemination DSDTT, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226; tel: (513) 533-8287
13. National Toxicology Program (MD B2-04), Public Information Office, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 USA
14. Christine Allen, University Products Inc., P.O. Box 101, 517 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01041 USA; tel: (800) 628-1912 or (413) 532-9431
15. Len Principe, The Kindt-Collins Co., 12651 Elmwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44111 USA; tel: (800) 321-3170; in OH (800) 362-1160
16. Jim Leever, Petroconsultants Sales Corp., P.O. Box 740619, 6600 Sands Point Drive, Houston, TX 77274 USA; tel: (713) 995-1764
17. B&G Equipment Co., P.O. Box 130, Applebutter Lane, Plumsteadville, PA 18949 USA; tel: (215) 766-8811
18. David Mueller, 10540 Jessup Blvd., P.O. Box 40641, Indianapolis, IN 46280 USA; tel: (800) 992-1991 or (317) 846-5444
19. American Association of Museums, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005 USA; tel: (202) 289-1818
20. Association of Systematics Collections, 730 11th Street NW, Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001 USA
21. Public Information Officer, Institute for Museum Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Rm. 510, Washington, D.C. 20506 USA
22. Institute of Archaeology Publications, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY UK
23. Australian Society of Archivists Inc., P.O. Box 83, O'Connor, ACT 2601, Australia
24. American Chemical Society, Distribution Office Dept. 341, P.O. Box 57136, West End Station, Washington, D.C. 20037 USA
25. National Museum of Ethnology, Senri Expo Park, Suita, Osaka, Japan
26. Paleontological Institute, Lindley Hall, Rm. 121, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045
27. HMSO Publications Centre, P.O. Box 276, London SW8 5DT UK
28. The Paleontological Society, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996
29. Publications Secretary, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 USA
30. Museum Documentation Association, Bldg O, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4OH UK
31. D. Stam, Museum Computer Network, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244; tel: (315) 443-5612
32. American Institute of Biological Sciences, 730 11th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

**SPNHC NEWSLETTER**

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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