

# SPNHC Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we approach our 10 year anniversary we can look back proudly on the accomplishments we have achieved since the inception of the Society. During this period, we have developed an organization that has united persons from many disciplines into a Society which has focussed on the shared and special concerns about the management and care of collections. Our accomplishments have been great in developing a basic understanding of how our disciplines and challenges truly interrelate with one another.

We have explored the basic issues of collections management, the deterioration of the material which compose our holdings, and how we can contribute to their prolonged care and management for the future. Now fully grounded in our understanding of the importance of our goals and the methods to achieved them, we must look forward to our responsibility of communicating our knowledge to others who use those collections that we all hold in trust.

As a beginning to our outreach responsibilities, we held our 9th annual meeting in May in conjunction with the Association of Systematic Collection. At this meeting, in concert with directors and curators, we began to develop guidelines for the care and management of collections which included our concerns as managers, conservators, curators, scientists, and researchers using these collections for research and interpretation. This process has had a significant impact on how collection management and care will be included in future museum documents and long range planning.

At the same time, we are planning for the future by communicating our concerns to other preservation organizations. For example, we are planning a joint session with the American Institute for Conservation to encourage conservators equipped with the knowledge of materials and deterioration mechanisms to begin to explore natural history questions and to be interested in our challenges and needs. SPNHC is also in the process of constructing a listserver with ASC to provide a place on the Internet for discussion of collections related topics. The listserv will be hosted by the University of California - Berkeley Museum of Paleontology.

In addition, we are setting up a long-range planning committee to assess what our role should be in future years to best respond to our continually changing environment and expanding needs for collections. I have asked Council members and committee chairs to consider the following questions:

- 1) What does the Society do well and why?
- 2) What does the Society do less well and why? What changes should be made?

- 3) How has the organization changed in the last ten years (e.g; membership, profile, focus, perspective)?
- 4) How has the management and care (including education, research and public awareness) of natural history collections changed in the last ten years?
- 5) What do you see as the appropriate role for SPNHC in the upcoming years so that w can be most responsive to these changes and to those that will occur in the future?
- 6) What short-term (2 years), medium-range (5 years) and long-range (10 years) goals should we adopt for the society?

Along these lines, I also challenge each of you to be thinking about how SPNHC can better serve the field and can influence necessary changes for the future. I have asked Grant Hughes, President-Elect to serve as Chairman of this committee and request that you send your comments to him with a copy to me.

I know that our upcoming years will be as fruitful as those of the past and I seek your help in making the organization the best it can be.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This year SPNHC members will elect two Members-at-Large. These officers are voting members of Council, and assist the society through work on committees. the call for nominations to these positions was opened at the 1994 Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis. Please note the final date for nominations is 31 October, 1994.

Please suggest SPNHC members who could serve our society in these offices. Write or send a facsimile to Judith Price, Chair, Elections Committee, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station "D", Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4, Canada; Fax: 613-954-7675. The Nominations Subcommittee will verify membership in good standing and contact candidates to ask if they are willing to stand for office.

## CALL FOR 1995 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The awards and Recognition Committee is accepting nominations for the SPNHC Award and the President's Award. These awards are given only when an appropriate candidate is identified. Final decisions are based on documentary information and approval from the SPNHC Council.

The SPNHC Award is given in recognition of an individual's significant contribution to the objectives of the Society. Normally, a nominee's lifetime achievements are considered. In addition to the general information required, each nomination should include at least two letters of recommendation from members or non-members.

The Presidents Award is given in recognition of a SPNHC member's distinguished service to the development and continued success of SPNHC. Nominees must have performed significant service to the Society, outside of Presidential positions. Normally this would involve exceptional service to offices, committees, and/or ongoing activities of SPNHC. Nominees must be a current or previous SPNHC member.

For both awards, multiple nominations for the same individual are encouraged. Nominations must include the name of the nominee, name of the award proposed, a description of important contributions of the nominee, and other information supporting consideration of the nominee for the award in question. Nominations should be sent by 30 November 1994 to Stephen Williams, Chair, SPNHC Awards and Recognition Committee, Museum of Texas Tech University, Box 43191, Lubbock, Texas 79409-3191.

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SPNHC FABER AWARD**

At the 1994 Annual Meeting, the SPNHC Council activated the Faber Award by setting up a \$500 cash award for the best research proposal involving management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections. This award has been established to further promote the objectives of the Society.

Applicants for the Faber Award must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the award date. The successful applicant will be expected to present a final or interim report at the 1996 Annual Meeting. Also, the successful applicant will be expected to publish the results, with the understanding that the manuscript will be sent first to the SPNHC Editorial Committee for publication consideration.

Each applicant may submit only one proposal. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, and phone/fax number), and a single spaced, 100-word abstract describing the proposed project. The proposal text should include a statement of purpose, project plan (e.g. participants, methods, materials, schedule of events, etc.), supporting information (e.g. matching resources, prior experience, ability to complete project, etc.), and proposed use of funds. The text of acceptable proposals will have double-spacing, 10 or 12 point print, one-inch margins, and not exceed 10 pages. References and appendices (e.g., itemized budget, curriculum vitae, letters of commitment) may be single space.

Questions regarding proposals should be directed to members of the Awards and Recognition Committee. Proposals should be sent no later than 31 January 1995 to Stephen Williams, Chair, SPNHC Awards and Recognition Committee, Museum of Texas Tech University, Box 43191, Lubbock, Texas 79409-3191.

#### **SPNHC CANADA**

Legal and financial arrangements for the "Canadian Corporation" of SPNHC have been completed. SPNHC Canada Corporation is an independent charitable corporation with the objective of promoting the goals of SPNHC. It will be able to apply for grants to support activities such as training workshops in Canada and will provide a mechanism for residents of Canada to make charitable donations for which they can receive a tax credit.

Membership in the Canadian Corporation is not an alternative to regular membership in SPNHC, which must be sent as usual to Julia Golden. Membership fees are NOT tax deductible in Canada and tax receipts cannot be issued for regular SPNHC membership fees.

Any resident of Canada wishing to make a donation for which they can receive a tax receipt should send it to: G.R. Fitzgerald, Secretary-Treasurer, SPNHC Canada, P.O. Box 3443, Station "D", Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4. The Board has decided that money donated in 1994 will be used to support the training workshop in Toronto. There is no requirement to be a member in order to make a donation.

At the present time the membership of SPNHC Canada Corporation is quite small, consisting of the present council members of SPNHC and the Board of the Canadian corporation. The Board, elected in St. Louis, is as follows: Chair, Janet Waddington; Vice Chair, Judith Price; Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry Fitzgerald; Member at Large, Elizabeth Taylor. Any person wishing membership in the SPNHC Canada Corporation should send a letter of application to Jerry at the above address for acceptance by the Board. At the present time there are no membership fees and no benefits; however, if numbers increase substantially an annual membership fee to cover administration will be required.

The Canadian Corporation will in no way affect the operations of SPNHC or the services that the members have come to expect.

#### **REPORT OF THE 1994 ANNUAL MEETING**

By Janet Waddington, Department of Invertebrate Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6

The joint annual meeting of SPNHC and ASC was held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, from May 11 to 15. The format was very different from that of previous SPNHC meetings. Although registration included the whole meeting, the program was definitely in two parts, emphasizing the different mandates of ASC and SPNHC. Two full day symposia organized by ASC were followed by the SPNHC training workshop and one day of presented papers, organized by SPNHC. Posters and vendor displays ran for the full four days.

The first ASC symposium was on collections care initiatives. The keynote speaker was Dr. Peter Raven,

Director of MBG. He noted the complementary roles of ASC and SPNHC and stressed the importance of collections in defining and documenting the biodiversity crisis. We have an obligation to bring concerns about the extinction of biological diversity to the attention of world leaders. Peter Raven's address was followed by representatives of various support organizations outlining their programs in support of systematics collections. These included the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC); the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI).

The recently published NIC report (*Preserving Natural Science Collections: Chronicle of our Environmental Heritage, 1993*) made recommendations for actions to improve collection care. These recommendations must now be acted upon, with the appropriate organizations taking on the responsibility of addressing each one. NIC has gone to Congress to request funding for research, training programs, and collections care.

Afternoon breakout groups were charged with addressing different aspects of the recommendations in the NIC report. Topics included education and training, research on collections care, technology transfer, educating the public, and strategies and alliances to develop resources.

The NIC report has identified a long list of recommended research initiatives in collections care and conservation. Rather than look at specific topics, the discussion group looked at the scale of the projects, and rated them as major, moderate, and small in terms of the funding, time, and training required to carry them out. We then considered how each scale of project might be accomplished.

The second day of the ASC program opened with a panel discussion concerning the need for and development of a mission statement; long range planning; collection policies; and data policies. The workshop was the final stage of an ASC project, funded by an Institute of Museum Services grant, to develop institutional policy guidelines in response to the recommendations of the NIC report. Prior to the workshop, draft documents had been printed in the ASC newsletters.

Breakout groups discussed mission statements, accessions policies, and documentation; information management; repatriation and other legal issues; deaccession and disowned collections ("orphaned collections"); care, use, and destructive sampling; and health, safety, and emergency preparedness. The results of the project are scheduled to be published by ASC at the end of August, 1995.

A full day SPNHC workshop on risk assessment in collections was led by Rob Waller and Sylvie Marcil, both from the Canadian Museum of Nature. In addition to identifying different agents of deterioration, risks may be categorized along a scale from catastrophic to mild

considering their order of magnitude, and occurring at a frequency from constant to rarely. Three types of risk were recognized: "type 1", rare but catastrophic, such as a major earthquake; "type 2", sporadic but severe, such as dropping a drawer of specimens; and "type 3", constant and mild, such as distortion of an improperly supported specimen. Using a fictitious scenario, the group worked through the exercise of identifying and quantifying the possible risks to a collection.

The magnitude of a given risk (for example, elevated relative humidity due to lack of environmental control) may be calculated as the product of three variables: the fraction of the collection that is susceptible to that particular risk; the resultant loss in the value of a collection for its intended purpose; and the probability of an event of a given severity occurring over a given period, in this case 100 years. For type 3 risks, the probability is replaced by an estimate of the extent to which the process occurs. This exercise makes it possible to actually quantify and rank risks to the collection as the first step in determining where to allocate resources for risk mitigation. In some instances it may be more practical to look at particularly sensitive parts of a collection as the whole, rather than as a small fraction of the collection. For example, the magnitude of risk to an entire collection due to increased relative humidity may be very low because only a small portion of the collection is susceptible; however, if that small portion is considered alone, the magnitude of risk becomes extremely high.

In addition to the study groups and workshop, there were a poster session and twelve presented papers sponsored by SPNHC on various topics related to collections care. Not surprisingly, six of the papers or posters dealt directly with botanical collections. Other presentations included: conservation of a palaeobotany collection; practical considerations in the design of storage trays; computer conversion methods for hard copy records; and a description of a program to locate old palaeontological collections.

The meeting took place in the context of the excellent facilities and beautiful surroundings of the Missouri Botanical Garden, pleasant social events (two receptions and a banquet), and weather that mostly cooperated. My travel to the meeting was funded in part by a grant from the Museums Assistance Program and the Canadian Museums Association for which I am very grateful.

### 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

SPNHC 1995 Annual Meeting, 2-6 June, 1995 Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

The Royal Ontario Museum is pleased to invite members of the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections to attend the tenth annual meeting of SPNHC from June 2-6, 1995 in Toronto. The program will include a day of council and committee meetings on June 2, with

the presented papers and posters on June 3-4. The 1995 training workshop June 5-6 is on Managing the Modern Herbarium.

SPNHC members will automatically receive the second circular with details about accommodation and registration and further information on the program.

For further information please contact:

Janet Waddington, SPNHC'95 Organizing Committee, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5S 2C6 Phone: (416) 586-5593 or FAX (416) 586-5863

#### 1996 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1996 Annual Meeting of SPNHC is scheduled for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA. The tentative dates for the meeting are June 11-15, 1996. Check future newsletters for more information.

#### MEMBER NEWS

From Elizabeth Merritt:

As many of you know, my father died unexpectedly shortly after my arrival at the annual meeting in St. Louis, and I left immediately to join my family. I would like to thank all my friends in SPNHC who sent notes and thoughts. I appreciate your support very much.

Mary-Lou Florian is seeking information on pests and pest infestations in museums, especially natural history museums. This information will be compiled for an analysis of museum pest problems for presentation at an upcoming meeting. If you have experienced pest infestations or found pests in your collections in storage, I would appreciate receiving information on the type of pest, the specimens affected, and the nature of the infestation. I may be reached by FAX at 604-385-3263 or by mail at the following address:

Mary-Lou Florian  
Royal British Columbia Museum  
675 Belleville Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4  
CANADA

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

#### PRODUCTS/SERVICES

Custom cotton for research collections, specimen preparation or nesting is now available in bulk packages or by the roll. Custom Hospital Products, Inc. welcomes any size order to meet your needs.

The custom cotton is 70% cotton and 30% polyester. Bulk rolls of 10 pounds are \$48.90 per roll. A 12-roll case of 14 ounce rolls is \$66.95.

For same day shipping call Custom Hospital

Products toll free at 1-800-426-2780 or fax your order to 503-238-2926. Custom Hospital Products is located at P.O. Box 14606, Portland, OR 97214.

Interior Steel Equipment Co. provides museum quality storage cabinets. Please call Linda at 1-800-776-7767 for more information regarding GSA supply contract.

#### NEW BOOKS AND SOFTWARE

Conservation of Geological Collections: proceedings of a conference held at the Welsh Folk Museum, National Museum of Wales on Thursday, November 4, 1993, edited by R.E. Child, published in the Conservation Monograph Series. Distributed by Archetype Publications, 31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PY, UK.

A new MDA Book Catalogue has just been produced. Included is a wide range of material on museum, library and archive collections management, computerization and conservation. If you would like a free copy, please contact: Museum Documentation Association, Lincoln House, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DH, United Kingdom, Tel: +44 223 242848, Fax: +44 223 213575, email: mdocassn.demon.co.uk.

Also from MDA: Spectrum: The UK Museum Documentation Standard is now available. Contact MDA for information on cost and shipping.

The IPI Storage Guide for Acetate Film is available from: Rochester Institute of Technology, Image Permanence Institute, 70 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-5604. The cost is \$25.00.

Announcing the publication of Contributions in Marine Mammal Paleontology honoring Frank C. Whitmore, Jr. edited by A. Berta and T. Demere, San Diego Society of Natural History Proceedings 29, 268 pp., 1994 Symposium proceedings Price: \$35.00 US; shipping \$2.00 domestic, \$3.50 foreign (surface) CA sales tax \$2.44. Orders to San Diego Natural History Museum Library, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112, email libsdnhm@class.org, attention Tom Demere.

Danilov, Victor J. MUSEUM CAREERS AND TRAINING: A PROFESSIONAL GUIDE (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994). ISBN 0-313-28105-x. \$79.50.

#### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

The Education and Training Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is offering a discipline-specific workshop entitled *Managing the Modern Herbarium: June 5 and 6, 1995* in Toronto.

The workshop will immediately follow the SPNHC 10th anniversary annual conference, which is being held at

the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 3-4, 1995. This workshop is designed for all those concerned with the maintenance of botanical or mycological collections. Through instruction, focused discussion, hands-on participation, and publications, the program will strive to:

- promote dialogue on conservation and collection management issues, solutions and resources;
- establish a discipline consensus on policies and procedures for the use of collections in molecular research, with emphasis on extant collections and the making of new collections;
- exhibit and demonstrate a range of specimen preparation and field techniques;
- facilitate communication among institutions and professional societies.

A preliminary list of topics includes: adhesives, bar-coding, care of botanical prints and illustrations, collecting techniques, cryo-preservation, destructive sampling, papers, pest management, specimen preparation, and storage.

For more information or input contact: Deborah Metsger, Department of Botany, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6 email: dmetsger@botany.utoronto.ca fax: (416) 586-5516.

**9th Annual Meeting: Society for Conservation Biology, 7-11 June, 1995, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.**

The meeting will include scientific presentations, posters, symposia, and round-table discussions. A call for papers and registration information will be mailed in December 1994. For more information contact Richard L. Knight, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

**Information: The Hidden Resource: The Seventh International Conference of the MDA, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 6-19 November, 1995.**

This conference starts from the premise that museums have four kinds of resources: collections, buildings, staff, and information. From this perspective, information becomes a key resource to be considered from a strategic perspective. At the same time, information technology is gradually transforming our whole understanding of access.

This conference will bring together experts, users and providers of information to share their knowledge and experience to the mutual benefit of all. For more information contact the Museum Documentation Association, Lincoln House, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DH, United Kingdom.

**International Conference on the Value and Valuation of Natural Science Collections, Manchester University, UK, 19-24 April, 1995.**

Natural science collections have scientific, cultural and monetary values. The conference will explore the

nature of these various values and will reflect the experience of those involved in the care and use of such collections. It is often said that natural science collections are undervalued (in all senses of the word) when compared with humanities-based collections, particularly those of fine art objects. Is this true? If so, is it a consequence of the way society views the arts and the sciences? Or is it because art collections can have such high financial values? What can be done to increase society's appreciation of the many values of natural science collections? What pressures are there upon museums to put financial values on their natural science collections, and should such pressures be welcomed or resisted? In responding to such pressures, is there a risk that the intrinsic scientific and cultural value of natural science collections is at best undermined, and at worst sold out? The publication resulting from the conference will help to answer some of these questions, and inform future policy decisions about natural science collections.

**Scientific Programme.** Reflecting the aims of the Conference, three major themes will be pursued during the various scientific sessions. These sessions will examine the scientific value and cultural impact of natural history collections, and address the question of the financial value and valuation of these collections. The latter theme presents four aspects - what pressures are there to provide financial valuations for natural history collections, what commercial valuations are de facto in existence already, what are the arguments for and against assessing such monetary values and, if we have to value, how best should it be done to minimize the inherent risks to the collection? The final debate session will endeavor to draw together all these disparate threads, and to attempt the formulation of a concord that will inform future policy decisions about natural history collections.

For more information contact the Valuation Conference Secretariat, The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK.

#### **ICHIM 95 - MCN 95**

**Hypermedia and Interactivity in Museums: ICHIM '95,** the third international conference devoted entirely to the exploration of hypermedia and interactivity in museums, will convene in San Diego, California on October 9-13, 1995, in conjunction with MCN '95, the Annual Conference of the Museum Computer Network.

The focus is on museums. Technology, legal and economic issues, design concerns and commercial implications will all be discussed from the perspective of museum applications. Museum educators and exhibit designers, commercial designers involved with museums, and researchers concerned with the presentation of hypermedia and interactive products in public, mixed audience settings such as museums will comprise the majority of the audience. They will be joined by hypermedia researchers, software engineers, publishers, archivists, and librarians.

All proposals will be refereed. All papers will be due in publishable form in English no later than July 1, 1995, and will be published in the proceedings distributed to all participants at the conference.

For more information, write ICHIM '95 - MCN '95, Archives and Museum Informatics, 5501 Walnut St, Suite 203, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-2311; phone: 412-985-9775; Fax: 412-683-7366.

**Ethics in Conservation: The Dilemmas Posed - 23rd Annual Conference of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), St. Paul, Minnesota; June 6-10, 1995.**

An examination of ethical issues confronting conservators and how to resolve them will highlight the 23rd AIC annual conference to be held at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. Among the questions conservators from around the world will address are: How does one determine the degree of appropriate intervention in treatments? What are the various approaches to the treatment of large collections or large-scale projects in the public domain?

The conference will be preceded by a symposium, *Guided Metal Surfaces*, on June 4-6. The two and one-half day symposium will focus on historical, technical, aesthetic, and conservation issues of guided metal surfaces and imitation gilding on archaeological and ethnographic objects, historical and decorative art objects, furniture, sculpture, functional objects, outdoor sculpture and monuments, and architectural elements.

For additional information and registration materials, contact: AIC, 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20006; phone: 202-452-9545; Fax: 202-452-9328.

**Cancellation Notice:**

**The Conservation of Ethnographic Materials**, Field Museum of Natural History - Chicago, IL, April 1995. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we regret to have to cancel the Ethnographic Conservation Conference planned for April 1995 at the Field Museum in Chicago. We apologize for the inconvenience to one and all, and thank you for your interest.

--Catherine Sease and Christine Del Re

**Museum Training:** Office of Museum Programs Smithsonian Institution. A new series of workshops in basic museum operations designed for small, emerging, minority and rural museums in the United States.

**Introduction to Exhibition Design and Production**, March 6-10, 1995. Through a concentrated program of hands-on activities, this workshop will lead participants through the process of creating and making an exhibit. Participants will learn specific techniques and be able to make informed decisions regarding the purchase of materials and services from commercial sources. Application deadline - December 1, 1994. Enrollment limit

- 10 participants. Fee-\$300.00.

**Introduction to Managing Museum Collections**, April 24-28, 1995. This course introduces participants to the general principles and procedures concerning collections management and registration methods. Topics include policy development and implementation, documentation, object handling, storage, packing and shipping, environmental conditions and precautions necessary to maintain collections. Application Deadline - January 13, 1995. Enrollment Limit - 18 participants. Fee - \$250.00

For additional information please contact the Office of Museum Programs; Arts and Industries Building, Suite 2235 - MRC 427, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

**RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET**

Smithsonian Institution's Natural History Gopher Update

The Smithsonian Natural History Gopher Server has added several new information resources. A new section on Smithsonian Biodiversity Programs and Data has been added to the root menu. Documents describing the biodiversity programs at the Smithsonian and a request for comment on a Proposed National Biodiversity Information Center are available.

The Department of Paleobiology is making its Fossil Plant and Algae Type Register available. The Register includes the type specimens catalogued to date and presents the data either in a short form with specimen cataloging information or a long form that includes locality and stratigraphic data.

An annotated bibliography on freshwater crayfishes of the World can now be searched under the Invertebrate Zoology/Crustaceans menu. The 13,000-reference list, compiled by C. W. Hart, Jr. and Janice Clark, was published in paper form in 1989 and released on CD ROM in 1990.

Along with the ASPT Newsletter (Department of Botany menu), the American Society of Plant Taxonomists is pleased to present a copy of the current membership directory. The list includes research interests of many members so it can be searched by taxonomic specialty as well as by members' names.

Another addition to the Department of Botany section is an annotated bibliography of the Gesneriaceae based on a publication by L. E. Skog and L. Brothers. The bibliography includes 1630 references. Papers are mainly in the field of taxonomy of the Gesneriaceae, but references from the fields of horticulture, genetics, anatomy, morphology, and chemistry appear as well. Literature up to 1 May 1990 is covered.

Hostname: nmnhgoph.si.edu (currently at 160.111.64.84), Port Number: 70 Administrative contact: Don Gourley (don@smithson.si.edu), Place in the Gophers of the World Hierarchy: North America / USA / Washington DC.

CMO is an alphabetical listing/directory of Collection Managers in all areas of Natural History collections. If you are interested in being included in the CMO please send your name, e-mail, snail-mail, phone & fax numbers. Everyone on the list is sent a monthly update. The CMO is available on the University of New Mexico Gopher. For more information contact Jane Mygatt, UNM Herbarium, [jmygatt@bootes.unm.edu](mailto:jmygatt@bootes.unm.edu).

An "INBio WWW Server" is now available for all those wanting to obtain information on Costa Rican biological diversity.

On this first implementation phase, the server contains general information about INBio and a publication on Lamellicornios, including an on-line identification key. Currently, other INBio publications are being processed for retrieval in the coming months. The server's Internet address is: "[www.inbio.ac.cr](http://www.inbio.ac.cr)" (163.178.202.2)

Honolulu's Bishop Museum has established an on-line system to access the museum's archives and library database through the University of Hawaii's statewide catalog. Included is the mele (Hawaiian chant and song) index, manuscripts relating to early Hawaiian culture and the Museum's research in anthropology, botany, entomology and zoology. For more information contact Lynn Davis, Bishop Museum, P.O. Box 19000A, Honolulu, HI 96817-0916; Phone: 808-848-4147, Fax: 808-841-8968.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia announces the beginning of a new online exhibit. This is a Mosaic document available over the World Wide Web. The URL is: <http://www.cc.emory.edu/CARLOS/carlos.html> Your feedback will be most appreciated. For more information contact: [rdw@george.peabody.yale.edu](mailto:rdw@george.peabody.yale.edu)

The Biodiversity and Biological Collections Gopher has moved to Cornell University. It can be accessed there now on the computer: [MUSE.BIO.CORNELL.EDU](http://MUSE.BIO.CORNELL.EDU). The scope of the BBC Gopher will be the same with exciting extensions planned for the near future! The Taxacom Anonymous FTP Server has also moved to the above machine and can be accessed there now.

The Gopher and FTP Servers are managed as a collaboration between the MUSE Project of Cornell University and the Museum Informatics Project of the University of California, Berkeley.

The Taxacom Listserv mailing list is moving to UC Berkeley later in the summer. Until then it will function normally from its current home.

Huh.harvard.edu will run a Gopher server for the biological museums of Harvard University and it will be the home of Harvard's collection catalogs and authority files such as the Gray Herbarium Index of New World Plant Names. Jim Beach ([beach@huh.harvard.edu](mailto:beach@huh.harvard.edu)), Julian Humphries ([jmh3@cornell.edu](mailto:jmh3@cornell.edu))

## INTERNET RESOURCES OF INTEREST TO ANTHROPOLOGISTS

by Allen H. Lutins ([al2032@thor.albany.edu](mailto:al2032@thor.albany.edu))  
is archived at: Gopher: ArchNet; Archaeology Information & Software and available by anonymous ftp from <ftp.neosoft.com> (in directory [pub/users/claird/sci.anthropology/Anthropology\\_network\\_FAQ](ftp://pub/users/claird/sci.anthropology/Anthropology_network_FAQ)) and [lucy.ukc.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.ukc.ac.uk). This list is intended for those who already have a grasp of how to use such net tools as listserv, ftp, telnet, gopher, and World Wide Web.

The Carlos Museum of Emory University has a permanent collection of over 13,000 objects spanning nearly 9,000 years. The online exhibit displays a sampling of the museum's objects from Greece and Rome, Asia, the Ancient Near East, the Ancient Americas, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, and has many examples of the collection of works on paper. The Works on Paper are quite varied and include twentieth century works (Paul Klee and Man Ray, for example).

The online exhibit has over seventy gif images that can also be seen in a larger, jpeg format. We hope to continue to add text as well as more images to this exhibit as the information becomes available.

The URL is: <http://www.cc.emory.edu/CARLOS/carlos.html>  
My email address is: [gt8850b@prism.gatech.edu](mailto:gt8850b@prism.gatech.edu)

Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) proudly announces its new World Wide Web server. The site includes a tour of the Garden, a brief history lesson, the Flora of North America project, information about educational programs, a gateway to other biological Web sites, and access to our database. Over 600,000 WAIS-indexed records reside in the taxonomic database, accessible to any Web or gopher user.

Visit the Missouri Botanical Garden Web at: <http://straylight.tamu.edu/MoBot/welcome.html>  
You can reach the dataset through the Web, or through gopher ([mobot.org](http://mobot.org)). Send comments to Alan Tucker ([tucker@mobot.org](mailto:tucker@mobot.org)).

MCN (Museum Computer Network) information is now available via gopher. Type [gopher world.std.com](gopher://world.std.com) Choose Professional Organizations from the 1st menu and take it from there.

John Muir Conservation Centre on the Internet (JMCCI): The general aims of the JMC project are to: promote a greater appreciation of John Muir as the Scottish pioneer of nature conservation; spread the global conservation philosophy of John Muir's love of wild land to a local, national and international audience; establish a physical centre in Muir's birthplace of Dunbar to further the above aims. A mailing list, [jmcci-pilot](mailto:jmcci-pilot), has been set up at [mailbase.ac.uk](mailto:mailbase.ac.uk). Non-subscribers can access the background files to the project and archives of the mailings. However, I would encourage and welcome everyone with

an interest in John Muir and/or conservation to subscribe to the list.

To join: Send an e-mail to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk with the following body: join jmcci-pilot <firstname(s)> <lastname> stop To retrieve an index: Send an e-mail to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk with the following body: index jmcci-pilot stop. To retrieve a file (for example, the introduction): Send an e-mail to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk with the following body: send jmcci-pilot introduction stop

#### BIODICEN-L Listserv

The Smithsonian Institution, in cooperation with the University of California at Berkeley, is pleased to announce the creation of a new listserv to discuss information management for the proposed U.S. National Biodiversity Information Center.

Welcome to Biodicen-L: This listserv is a forum for informal, open discussion of information management options and issues for the proposed U.S. National Biodiversity Information Center. Contributions and discussions in this list may help to shape the final proposal for the Center. This list may be of Readers can find a straw description of the Center concept in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's gopher, nmnhgoph.si.edu, under Biodiversity Programs.

The draft mission for the Center is: "to function as a clearinghouse to:

1. Provide awareness of available biodiversity data and information;
2. Enable access to such data and information;
- and 3. Facilitate the use and exchange of and collaborative discussions about the information -- in order to meet the needs of public and private customers for conservation, sustainable use, education, and scientific inquiry.

The objectives of the Center are to: promote the use of data and information to conserve our biodiversity and ecosystems; achieve sustainable development; understand our biodiversity resources, the goods and services they provide, and opportunities for sustainable use; and meet our obligations under U.S. and international laws and treaties; encourage the use of biodiversity data and information that are scientifically credible and of known, good quality; address the full scope of biodiversity, from genes through species through ecosystems, including terrestrial, aquatic, and marine, macroscopic and microscopic, obvious and cryptic, with a primary focus on the biodiversity of the United States and information about collections held in the U.S.; meet the needs of a wide range of customers, including researchers in academia, government, and other institutions and entities; industry and non-governmental organizations; private citizens, including land owners, managers, and users; and policy and decision-makers in all institutions and entities; and provide a forum for discussion and collaborative approaches to resolution of biodiversity issues." To subscribe, send the message: "SUBSCRIBE BIODICEN-L < f i r s t n a m e > < l a s t n a m e > " t o :

"listserv@ucjeps.berkeley.edu." To post to the list, e-mail your message to: "biodicen-l@ucjeps.berkeley.edu." To unsubscribe, send the message "UNSUBSCRIBE BIODICEN-L" to: "listserv@ucjeps.berkeley.edu"

For direct communication with a real person, e-mail to: "listserv-request@ucjeps.berkeley.edu"

The California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, has a dual mission of scientific research and education about the natural world. It is one of the ten largest natural history museums in the world and includes the Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison Planetarium.

With eight scientific research departments, the Academy's natural history collections are utilized by scientists from around the world.

The CAS Gopher Server is located at:  
Name=California Academy of Sciences Type=1 Port=70  
Path= Host=cas.calacademy.org

Information currently available from the Gopher includes:

1. California Academy of Sciences General Information/About the Museum, its Exhibits and Programs
2. California Academy of Sciences Information Resources/Information about the research departments ( Anthropology, Botany, Entomology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Invertebrate Zoology & Geology, Library, and Ornithology & Mammalogy ) and its Type Catalogs, newsletters, Genera of Fishes, and others.

The Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University is pleased to announce access to its collections data via gopher. You can find us at: gopher.peabody.yale.edu port 70

The initial gopher offering is 255,268 specimens/lots, which translates to a little under a million individual specimens. We will be updating the gopher data periodically; the last update times are posted in the "Welcome and Introduction" file on the main menu. Comments about the data (omissions, etc.) are most welcome, and are best aimed via email at the Collections Manager(s) in the respective curatorial discipline(s) of your interest. You can find their addresses in the "Staff Electronic Mail Addresses" file on the main menu.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Copyright: Electronic publishing and copyright protection. Keates, S., 1993. Museum Management and Curatorship, 12(3):331-332. Discusses the Copyright in Transmitted Electronic Documents (CITED) project established under the European Community's ESPRIT programme. The project is involved with finding ways of protecting intellectual property while facilitating access under controlled conditions.

Computers in the museum: A guide to information sources. Sledge, J., 1994. Museum International, No.



181:42-47. A summary of basic information sources. Headings include: conference proceedings, image technology, journals, philosophy of museum documentation and automation, planning, policy, surveys, tools, projects, and organizations.

Museum International, No. 181 (No. 1, 1994) This whole issue is devoted to computerization. It includes a few case studies of computer use in museums. With the exception of the article by Sledge (above) the articles are probably of more use in providing arguments for computerization to reluctant funding agencies than in actually setting up a system.

The value of natural history collections. Allman, W., 1994. *Curator*, 37(2):82-89. If natural history collections are to survive, those charged with their care will have to do more to broadcast their value as resources for both research and public education.

Risks and opportunities for natural history collections: Moving toward a unified policy. Hoagland, K. E., 1994. *Curator*, 37(2):129-132. While opportunities for collections to serve society are greater than ever, many institutions find that their ability to care for collections is diminishing. The Association of Systematics Collections provides programs and resources to help institutions meet the challenge of maintaining natural history collections.

Archeological and natural resource collections of the National Park Service: Opportunities and threats. Hitchcock, A., 1994. *Curator*, 37(2):122-130.

The National Park Service collections were growing at a rate far exceeding the rate at which they could be catalogued. In addition, many collections were stored in substandard conditions. NPS developed a strategy to identify the problem and estimate the cost for correction. From 1988 to 1994 Congress has greatly increased appropriations for collection management.

Zoological collections and collecting in Cuba during the twentieth century. Taboada, G. S., 1994. *Curator*, 37(2):90-98. An historical account of collecting in Cuba from 1902 to 1959, and from 1959 to the present. The paper includes a preliminary survey of the nature, size, and current state of these collections.

Facing up to budgetary challenges at the Biological Survey, New York State Museum. Miller, N. G., 1994. *Curator*, 37(2):108-121. The Museum Visiting Committee and Business and Industry Advisory Council were formed to help influence reversals in major proposed budget cuts. The advocacy emphasized the importance of a clear focus on actual and potential client needs in research and other programs, constantly advertising what they do, and broadly based collaborative projects that make good use of expertise existing in the state.

Dale, Peter (editor). *DIRECTORY OF MUSEUMS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM* (London: ASLIB [Association for Information Management], 1993).

Cooperrider, Miki and T.S. Cooperrider, 1994, *History and Computerization of the Kent State University*

*Herbarium*. The Ohio Journal of Science, v. 94 (1), pp 24-28.

At the joint SPNHC/ASC meeting in St. Louis, interest groups met to discuss draft ASC guidelines of institutional policies. For anyone who did not get the opportunity to participate in these discussions, these draft guidelines have been presented in ASC newsletters over the past several months.

Draft ASC guidelines for institutional database policies. 1993, *ASC Newsletter*, 21(6):65-71. The draft guidelines include: database definitions, users, ownership and stewardship, ethics and obligations, self evaluation, data sharing, professional recognition, relationship of data to collections, sensitive data, copyright, and data transfer agreements.

Draft ASC guidelines for disposition of orphaned collections. Hoagland, K.E., 1994. *ASC Newsletter*, 22(1):1,7-8. The guidelines are intended both for repository institutions and for non-repository institutions whose staff from time to time acquire and use biological collections.

Draft ASC documentation policy. Cato, P., G. Davis, and K. Haglund, 1994, *ASC Newsletter*, 22(1):1, 6. The stated purpose of the policy is to establish standards for the nature and quality of both the data collected for specimens and the information maintained as part of the collection record; and to establish standards for the management and care of all documentation, including libraries and archives.

Draft ASC archives and records policies for natural history museums and other institutions having natural history collections. Haglund, K.A., 1994. *ASC Newsletter*, 22(1):1-6. The policy guidelines consider archives legal authority and purpose, archives administration and staffing, collecting policies, preservation, arrangement and description, access, loans, exhibit, security, documentation, and reporting.

Draft policy on hazardous waste disposal. Hochberg, F.G., 1994. *ASC Newsletter*, 22(1):9-12. The policy lists the minimum steps which the author feels an institution must take to establish a hazardous waste disposal program which complies with federal, state, and local laws.

Draft ASC guidelines for personal ethics statements in natural history institutions. *ASC Newsletter*, 22(2):29-30. This short document suggests issues that might be included in an ethics statement and includes excerpts from the Bishop Museum Employee Handbook.

ASC Institutional Policies Committee Draft Guidelines: Health and safety policy for collections management. Makos, K.A., 1994. *ASC Newsletter*, 22(3):1, 36-40. The guidelines include hazard identification and evaluation, hazard elimination or control, and fire protection. A list of regulatory and professional organizations, technical resources, and additional texts is included.

**SPNHC Newsletter**

*A 23*  
**February 1994**

**SPNHC COUNCIL**

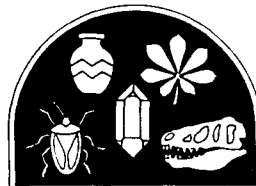
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SPNHC Newsletter  
Editor - Paula M. Sumpter

SPNHC Newsletter  
Paula M. Sumpter  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
800 W. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1478



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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

## Treasurer and Finance Committee

### 1995 Dues

At the Annual General Business Meeting, the membership voted to increase dues for 1995. Current expenses and anticipated increases in printing costs are just being met by the \$21.00 membership fee. In making this decision, the members considered the Society's basic commitments: 1) to publish and distribute Collection Forum and the Newsletter, 2) NIC membership and bulk-rate postage fees, 3) banking expenses, and 4) committee activities (Election, Membership and Resources) and how much this costs now. In the chart you can see that the average cost per member (considering a stable membership at 650) is just under \$21. This leaves very little extra money to provide for increases in postage and other services or to expand Society activities.

1994		\$ 18.76
1995	3% increase in printing costs	19.38
1995	add proposed new technical publication	20.38

In passing this increase Council hopes that dues will remain stable for three years.

Individual member*		25.00
Subscription (Library)		30.00
Associate* (Institution, Company)		50.00

\*A Late Fee (after February 15) of \$5.00 will be assessed to offset the cost of billing a second time.

### Life Membership

Council asked the Finance committee to evaluate the possibility of creating a new membership category, a Life Membership. A Life Member will have the same voting and membership privileges as an Individual Member but will be assessed a fee equal to 25 times the annual individual subscription. The funds from Life Membership fees will help create a stable asset base for the Society. Life Membership will be viable only if enough members feel that they are able to support the Society in this way. Therefore, Council asked the Finance Committee to poll the members to see how many might increase their support of the Society by taking advantage of this new category. If you think that you might renew your membership at this new level, please let the Treasurer know by telephone, mail or e-mail (see form in this Newsletter). Life Membership would be \$625 with the option to pay it in two installments (\$400 first year and \$225 second year).

### Back Issues

In order to reduce inventory and raise additional revenue, Council has approved a decrease in back issue prices. Unfortunately, several issues of Collection Forum and the Newsletter are out of print and so it is impossible to obtain a complete set. Issues that are missing are Collection Forum volumes 1(1985), 2(1)(1986), 4(1)(1988), and 8(1)(1992); and Newsletter, volumes 1(1987), 2(1988), 3(1)(1989), 4(1)(1990), and 6(1)(1992). A back issue packet containing all available issues (12 CF and 8 Newsletters) will cost \$ 60.00 including surface postage (or add \$10 extra for Air Mail). Individual issues will be available also at the following costs including surface postage: Newsletters 1989-1993 and Collection Forum 1986-1988, \$.50 each; Collection Forum 1989-1992, \$.50 each; 1993, \$10.00 each (see the order form in this Newsletter).

FIRST CIRCULAR

# SPNH C

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

10th ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 2 TO JUNE 6  
1995



**Royal Ontario Museum**

TORONTO, ONTARIO  
CANADA

**FIRST CIRCULAR - PLEASE POST OR CIRCULATE**

**SPNHC 1995 Annual Meeting 2-6 JUNE 1995  
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO**

The Royal Ontario Museum is pleased to invite members of the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections and others interested in collections management and preservation to attend the tenth annual meeting of SPNHC from June 2-6, 1995 in Toronto.

The Royal Ontario Museum is Canada's largest museum displaying "The record of nature through countless ages" and "The arts of Man through all the years" under one roof. Following a major renovation in 1982, the ROM offers new permanent galleries and improved collection care facilities. In addition to the ROM, Toronto offers a wide range of tourist attractions. Relatively inexpensive accommodation is available in hotels and university residences within easy walking distance of the Museum. Toronto is easily accessible by air, train, bus, or car.

**Programme:**

- Friday, June 2    -Committee and Council meetings  
                      -Field trips  
                      -Evening icebreaker
- Saturday, June 3    -Technical sessions  
                      -Evening dinner and dance
- Sunday, June 4    -Technical sessions  
                      -Annual general business meeting
- Monday, June 5    -Tours and discipline discussion groups

**Training Workshop:**

- June 5 & 6    -Managing the Modern Herbarium

This workshop is designed for all those concerned with the maintenance of botanical or mycological collections. Registration for the workshop will be separate from the regular SPNHC meeting.

**Please contact:**    Janet Waddington, SPNHC'95 Organizing Committee  
                          Royal Ontario Museum  
                          100 Queen's Park  
                          Toronto, Ontario  
                          CANADA M5S 2C6  
                          (416) 586-5593 or FAX (416) 586-5863  
                          (SPNC members will receive second circular)