

**A summary of the
entomology collections
in
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
2007**

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Introduction

Since the early 1990's museums have been aiming to completely inventory their collections on computer databases. This is allowing us to gather detail about the specimens we care for.

The aim of this document is to bring together summaries about the entomology and arachnid collections, as they are computer documented. Therefore, it excludes zoology, botany and 'associated' collections, which will be covered in other reports.

As such, this document will be an incomplete statement about the collections until the inventory of the whole collection is completed. Please make contact with the museum if you wish any further information.

The insect collections are an estimated 400,000 specimens, the strongest taxa are butterflies and moths (lepidoptera) and beetles (coleoptera).

The entomology collections mainly comprise of

- flies - diptera
- beetles - coleoptera
- butterflies and moths - lepidoptera
- bees, wasps and ants - hymenoptera

The collections now fill over 1544 drawers and 416 store boxes. Of these 821 drawers and 92 store boxes contain British lepidoptera. Some families of foreign lepidoptera have been merged into taxonomic series but for the most part the collections are still in their original collectors cabinets just as they were accessioned. This is convenient if you wish to view one person's collection, but for most visitors who are interested in all specimens of a certain species it can mean a long search through many cabinets. It was partly for this reason that we intend to re-house and amalgamate these collections into taxonomic runs.

The following report aims to list the main collections destroyed and extant and as such does not include individual specimen donations or groups of specimens numbered approx. less and 50.

Louis Felix Henri Audcent (1875 – 1951) (acc no. 3/1983)

Although the Bristol Museum collections are strongest in lepidoptera and coleoptera, they have been added to by the transfer of the Audcent collection of diptera from the University of Bristol. The collection fills more than 160 store boxes and contains around 3000 British and European specimens. A great many specimens are local to Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset and where the source material for the Audcent lists of diptera published in the Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists Society.

Charles Barlett (acc no. 9853)

This is one of the first collections given after the terrible destruction of the Blitz, given by his widow whilst the museum was still in ruins in 1941. This magnificent collection consists of 182 drawers of lepidoptera and coleoptera all set with data. There are many rarities including a series of 39 Scarce Hook tips from Leigh Woods, Avon and numerous Large Heaths from Shropshire. There are many distinctive aberrations and varieties including two and half drawers of named varieties of the Magpie Moth most bred by Raynor.

Stephen Barton F.E.S. (died 1898)

Luckily this collection of tropical beetles survived the second world war. Miss Barton-Johnson, who was Stephen Barton's niece, presented it to the museum in 1898. The collection contains TYPE specimens of buprestid beetles. This collection has been absorbed into the museum general collection for world coleoptera. This collection was later 'reinforced' by **Hudd**.

Rev AJ Begbie

Collection world lepidoptera given after his death in 1957 about 150 specimens. This collection was absorbed into the museum general collection for world lepidoptera.

Dr J.V. Blatchford

A collection of 60 drawers of British lepidoptera. Some lack data. The collection includes specimens from the collections of R. Mayes, JW Norgrove, C Down, Mr Bolt, WG Nash, CJ Perrens and Dr B White. Blatchford died in 1957 in his 80s or 90s. His cabinet of Tortrices went to a collector.

Dr J.V. Blatchford and J. Baxter coll. (acc no 41/1993)

This collection of British beetles was donated by the University of Bath in 1993. It is the combined collection of Blatchford and Baxter.

Charles Stephen Hare Blathwayt (1916-1991)

Blathwayt was a moth recorder for the Bristol Naturalists Society from 1949 to 1963 and he left his collection to the museum in his will. He was a member of the family that once lived in the National Trust's Dyrham House. The collection comprises of 160 drawers containing an estimated 30,000 local specimens with data. The collections includes the scarce Hook-tip moth and the rare Silky Wave moth.

George Weare Braikenridge (1815-1882)

Braikenridge's collection of British lepidoptera and 76 cases mounted birds, donated by Mssrs. W.M. and A.M. Hale in 1913, survived the Blitz. There are about 5000 specimens housed in a fine 60 drawer cabinet made by Standish. The

cabinet was purchased at Stevens auction rooms in 1858 and had belonged to Mr George Brownell of Liverpool. At this same sale Braikenridge bought a Camberwell Beauty, 3 British Large Coppers (making his number up to 12), 3 Mazarine Blues and a number of rare Hawkmoths. He of course added his own collection to the cabinet and being of this age it contains a good many British examples of species like the Large Blue, Black-veined White, Gypsy Moth, Speckled Beauty and Reed Tussock Moth. Two specimens of a hybrid between the Eyed Hawkmoth and the Poplar Hawkmoth bought at Brownell's sale in 1858 are claimed to be the first hybridisation of these species achieved.

British Museum

In 1903 presented 8000 of their insect duplicates. Presumably destroyed by fire in second world war.

Frank Buckland

In 1913 Mrs E. Roden presented a number of British and exotic insects, and an additional interest attaches to this gift in that most of the British specimens were collected by the well-known naturalist Frank Buckland. These specimens did not survive the Blitz.

W.L. Bullock

Died in 1955. Mostly British lepidoptera, some non British; thirty drawers, no data.

H.J. Charbonnier

Mr Charbonnier gave his collection in 1906. The collection consists of 23 drawers of British diptera given before 1904 and 8 drawers of British hymenoptera given before 1916. Includes voucher specimens for the lists in Victoria County History of Somerset.

Clifton College (acc no. 7956)

The collection consists of 20 drawers of British Coleoptera given before 1951. Few, if any, have data.

G.B. Coney (died 1945)

Another collection which added to the re-growth of the museums collections after the second world war. There are over 30,000 specimens of 1700 species of British lepidoptera, all with data, in 150 drawers. This collection included 'micros' of **A.R. Haywood** another well-known Somerset collector. Coney's collection is notable for the spectacular arrangement of its drawers with many good aberrations and varieties. Some, like the hermaphrodite Small Skipper have been figured in Frowhawk and were said to be unique. This collection already complete and rich in varieties was added to further after Coney's death by **B.W.Weddell**, a Wiltshire collector.

W. Beverley Davis

The collection consists of 20 drawers of insects and 16 drawers of lepidoptera mainly collected from Gloucestershire. Davis died before 1951 and the collection was given in 1929.

Dr John N. Duck

A lepidoptera collection noted in Griffith's paper as being part of the museums collections in 1918. Dr Duck write a book called the 'Natural History of Portishead'

in 1852, which contained an insect list based on his collection. This collection was presumably destroyed in the Blitz.

T. Bainbrigge – Fletcher (acc no. 55/1994)

Six stores boxes of butterflies and moths donated by Mr K. Brown in 1994.

Prof. B.K. Follett

Small collection, formerly housed at Bristol University, of British moths, water beetles and water bugs.

D.J. Foxwell (acc. no. 93/1979)

A small collection of butterflies and moths purchased in 1979.

D. Fullock (acc no. 21/1971)

Flying Officer D. Fullock offered his collection of 894 Malayan butterflies. The specimens were collected by himself and his wife in 1968/9. The collection was purchased.

General ‘Old’ Museum collection

A general collection of insects, dating from 19th and 20th century donations and staff collections. The collection consists of 12 drawers world orthoptera, 20 drawers British coleoptera, 12 drawers world dermaptera and orthoptera, 12 drawers British hemiptera, 84 drawers and 13 store boxes world coleoptera, 182 drawers and 45 store boxes world lepidoptera, 32 drawers British lepidoptera.

Douglas Gordon Gibb (1912-1970) (acc. no. 77/1994)

A collection of British lepidoptera donated by the collector’s son, Mr J.G.Gibb in 1994. The specimens, housed in 68 drawers, were collected between 1932 and 1969 mainly from Somerset and Gloucestershire. Mr Gibb worked for the BBC and was a member of the Bristol Naturalists Sociality and committee member on the entomological section.

C.H.W Griffiths

The collection consists of 42 drawers British lepidoptera given in 1950 when Griffiths was in his 60s.

George C. Griffiths (1852-1924)

Griffiths died in 1925 and his collection was 20 drawers of south and central American lepidoptera which was absorbed into the general museum collection. G.C Griffiths was a well-known local collector that worked at the museum under the directorship of Herbert Bolton (1863-1936), Griffiths described the museum entomology collections at that time in a paper in ‘The Entomologist’ in 1918. Sadly much of the material noted by him was destroyed in the Blitz. Much of Griffith’s own collection survived and also material added to it by a collaborator on that paper A.E. Hudd (1845-1920).

John Hugo Thurston Hadley

A.R. Haywood (1878-1939)

see Coney

I.R.P. Heslop (1904 – 1970) (acc. no. 226/1970 and 78/1995)

This is the most notable collection to come to the museum in recent years. It was donated by Mrs I.R.Heslop on 17/10/1970. It contains more than 150 Purple Emperors, the basis of many of the observations in his book Notes of Views of the Purple Emperor (1964). His collection also contains two British Large Coppers figured by Frohawk and the TYPES of a number of species and varieties of tropical butterflies. Heslop was also responsible for the much used Check List of the British Lepidoptera, now a standard work.

Hele

Prof. Hinton (acc. no. 33/1978)

10 store boxes of butterflies and moths; and 5 store boxes of beetles in 1978?

Alfred E. Hudd F.E.S, F.S.A (1845-1920)

His lepidoptera specimens were incorporated into the G.C. Griffiths collection. Hudd compiled a catalogue of the lepidoptera of the Bristol District in 1884 and an account of the lepidoptera in 'The Insects of Somerset' from the 'Victoria History' of the County in 1903. Both these lists referred to specimens in Bristol Museum. Hudd also 'reinforced' the Barton collection in 1912 by presenting 1300 beetle specimens.

Monsignor Hughes

Jones

Col. H.W. Kettlewell

His collection of 12 drawers of mainly world lepidoptera was absorbed in the general museum collection.

George E. Lodge (1860 – 1954)

Better known as one of the finest British Bird artists, Lodge was also an entomologist and his collections came to us when the British Museum turned them down for lack of space in 1954 when he had died 'at an advanced age'. His collection consists of 42 drawers and 3 store boxes of British lepidoptera and 20 drawers and 20 drawers of world lepidoptera. The world specimens were absorbed into the general museum collection.

Levy

Rev. John William Metcalfe (1872-1952)

In the same year as the Barlett donation, Rev Metcalfe offered to leave his 100-drawer collection to the museum in his will. The collection included a 30 drawer Brady cabinet of micros containing around 15000 specimens and 'as good as any in the country'. The micros eventually came to the museum in 1948 but the microlepidoptera were refused because the collections were by then once again very large. Unfortunately no record was made of where they went.

J.W. Norgrove

This collection was given in 1956 and was made by Norgrove, who had been a contemporary of Bartlett and whose collection is complementary to that one. The

collected was donated by Norgrove's sister Mrs Jeffery. The collection consists of 75 drawers of British and Irish lepidoptera.

Palmer

This collection of 25 drawers of British lepidoptera was acquired before 1960.

R.M Payne (acc. no. 15/1989)

A collection of 50 store boxes of diptera and one store box of hymenoptera purchased in 1989.

John Sircom

See PH Vaughan

Y.L. Smith

This 12-drawer collection consists of world lepidoptera, coleoptera and orthoptera. Smith died in the 1960s.

Sir Greville Smyth Bart.

In 1901 Lady Smyth presented the museum the entire collections, British and foreign, made by Sir Greville Smyth. It included a very large collection of British and exotic lepidoptera, many of which were captured in India and Ceylon by Sir Greville himself. This collection was mostly destroyed by the bombing in 1940; the residue was absorbed into the General museum lepidoptera collection.

F.L. Vanderplank (acc. no. 83/1947)

Phillip Henry Vaughan (died 1917 fl. 1846-1900)

This was one of the most important collections to come to the museum prior to the second world war. Vaughan's sister, Miss Lucy A. Vaughan, gave the collection in 1918. He was a specialist in microlepidoptera. His collection filled 258 drawers (c. 52,000 specimens) and included specimens collected by **John Sircom** who collected in the Brislington area of Bristol between 1840 and 1850. Both Sircom and Vaughan added numbers of species of 'micros' to the British list and they were contributors to the information in Stainton's manual. The type specimens of these were presumably in Vaughan's collection which was housed along with many other old entomological collections in the Greville Smyth room which opened to the public in 1909. They occupied a 60-foot run of cabinets, which along with much of the museum invertebrate collections and the Dame Emily Smyth Botany room was destroyed by fire during the Blitz of 1940. Only a single cabinet of Vaughan's 'mixed insects' has survived. Vaughan was a member of the Bristol Naturalists Society in 1913 and 1914. His birds were donated by Miss Vaughan in 1920.

Albert George Wain (acc. no. 256/1965 and 295/1965)

In 1965 Mrs Wain donated lantern slide of Charles Darwin, manuscript diary of A.G. Wain, various drawings by him and 5 store boxes of British lepidoptera and a kingfisher. One month later she also donated his main lepidoptera collection, which consisted of mainly foreign specimens.

W.H.L Walcott

Two glass topped boxes of British hymenoptera. Walcott died before 1952.

D.C. Walker

C.J. Watkins F.E.S

In 1907 the museum committee purchased this collection. A 38-drawer general entomology collection, containing approx. 13,000 insects from Gloucestershire.

B.W. Weddell

See Coney

G.C. White