

and let me know, in order that I might be able to make arrangements viewing or copying it.

Timothy P J Collins, The Library, University College, Galway, Eire.

20. EARLIER, EVER EARLIER. In the Guardian (20 January 1979, 8cd) William Condry has drawn attention to the recent publication by Blackstaff Press of Belfast of a new edition of Arthur Stringer's The experienced huntsman of 1714. Hidden behind this title, and mingled with the mass of information on hunting that one expects, lie the fruits of thirty-five years of acute observation of the habits of the mammals familiar to the author through a lifetime employed on a Northern Irish estate. "Obviously a first-class naturalist" his observations are "entirely free from accepted and probably erroneous beliefs". Apparently entirely overlooked till now by the natural history world, this book is thus not only an important addition to the early literature of British zoology, but also a jolting corrective to our notions of when the objective, painstaking study of behaviour in the field first began.

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21. APPEAL FOR INFORMATION RE JOHN TIMOTHY SWAINSON (1757-1824). In connection with current biographical research upon John Timothy Swainson (1757-1824), father of the better-known zoologist William Swainson (1789-1855) information is sought as to the present location of the many volumes of the journal kept by John Timothy. These are known to have been in the possession of his son Charles Litchfield Swainson (1797-1871), Rector of Crick, Northants, for many years, in whose house the widow of John Timothy spent the long years of her widowhood, and where she died in 1854. These journals have since been lost sight of and should be of much interest to social historians as well as to this Swainson biographer.

Any information as to the location of this journal (or of other Swainson material) would be most gratefully received and of course fully acknowledged by (Mrs) Nora F McMillan, Merseyside County Museums, William Brown Street, Liverpool.

→ 22. DATES OF BUFFON'S HISTOIRE NATURELLE. The many editions of Buffon & Daubenton's Histoire Naturelle, générale et particulière are an inexhaustible source of enjoyment for those who delight in bibliographic complexity. It is usually impossible to find a reference to some article in it without difficulty. The first complete edition appeared in Paris, vols 1-15 between 1749 and 1767 and the supplements 1-7 from 1774 to 1789. (Nissen no 672) In the copies I have seen, vol XI is dated 1754 (MDCCLIV) on the title-page. This date seems incorrect in the first place because it means that vol XI was published out of order after vol IV (1753). An 'Avant-propos' in vol VI (1756) discusses the dates of appearance of the first five parts but does not mention vol XI. Another reason for supposing the date 1754 to be wrong, I have implied in my paper in the Journal, 9 (1): 35, note 3. I would be tempted to change the date of vol XI into 1764, but does anyone know where I could find proof for this conjecture?

Another aberrantly dated volume is supplement 5 of the 'Nouvelle édition' published by J H Schneider in Amsterdam (Nissen no 678). It is dated on the title-page 1785. This supplement includes for the first time a number

of additions by the Leiden professor J N S Allamand. Many (but not all) of these were copied in the Paris edition (just mentioned) in its supplement 6 (1782). Buffon, in the accompanying remarks, writes three times about the date of the Amsterdam supplement 5: "... publiées à Amsterdam au commencement de cette année 1781" (p 68); "publiées cette année 1781, dans un supplément à l'édition de Hollande de mes ouvrages" (p 116) and "imprimée à Amsterdam cette année 1781" (p 135). The date 1785 therefore seems inexplicable and the suggestion that it must have been published in instalments is unsubstantiated. Any comments on this would be welcome.

Kees Rookmaker, 3e Helmersstraat 66, 1054 BK Amsterdam, Netherlands

23. **ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.** I am currently working for the Atlas of Australian Birds, a 5 year project organised by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union and funded by the Commonwealth Government. The Australian Atlas is attempting to determine historical as well as current distribution, and for this, valuable information could be obtained from early egg and skin collections of Australian birds in Britain that are not documented in Australia. I am aware that there are Australian skins and eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), the Royal Scottish Museum and also in the Cambridge University Museum. However, I have been unable to locate any others though I am sure that they must exist. I have written to Mr I Galbraith of the BM(NH) and Mrs Pat Hall but neither knew of any additional collections. I would be most grateful for information on archival material about early Australian ornithology and on the location of early Australian skin and egg collections in Britain and Europe, other than those I have mentioned.

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NEWS FROM LIBRARIES

24. **AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY LIBRARY.** "Volcanoes in Books" is the title of an exhibit of rare and modern books, manuscripts, newspaper clippings and vintage photographs on display in the Rare Book and Manuscript exhibit area from April 22 through September. This coincides with the American Museum's major exhibits "Pompeii 79 AD" and "Volcanoes".

BOOKSELLERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

25. CATALOGUES RECEIVED

P M Pollak, 29 Droridge, Dartington, Totnes, South Devon TQ9 6JQ. Tel 0803-862543

Catalogue 21, Science and Medicine. 293 items. £2-£185.

Wheldon and Wesley Ltd, Lytton Lodge, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts SG4 8TE. Tel Stevenage (0438) 820370

Catalogue 146, Books on Natural History. 1783 items. £2-£10,000.