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Note on the 'Museum Humfredianum,' 1779

C. Davies Sherborn & S. S. Buckman^a

^a Westfield, Thame, Oxon

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excite the love of nature or the spirit of enquiry than a printed list of the Kings of England with dates." The introduction, indeed, to this volume forms an admirable dissertation on the teaching of this much-abused subject, and should be carefully studied by all those for whom it is written. The present demand for books on Nature Study has unfortunately produced an abundant crop of most pernicious rubbish, which, strange as it may appear, has been greedily absorbed by those responsible for the education of our children. Professor Miall's book is therefore to be welcomed as an antidote to this poisonous stuff.

We cannot do more here, by way of indicating the nature of these essays, than particularize one or two. As especially helpful we may mention that on "A School Course on the Structure and Life of Insects." Though short, it is altogether admirable; and his hints on methods of displaying insect-structures to many people at once will doubtless be gladly adopted. School Museums; Buttercups—a Study of Species; Vacation Rambles; The Summer droop of Boughs; The Rock-Barnacle; and The Natural History Excursion, are all essays of real excellence and full of helpful suggestions.

In short, this is a book which we most cordially recommend—not only to teachers, but to dwellers alike in town and country who have a love of Nature and but little training or practice in the way to observe.

The illustrations are numerous and good, and the size of the volume is sufficiently small to be carried conveniently as a guide to practical work out of doors.

W. P. P.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on the 'Museum Humfredianum,' 1779.

By C. DAVIES SHERBORN.

THE rarity of sale-catalogues of the early collections in which zoological specimens were preserved is well-known. After diligent search during the time I was compiling my 'Index Animalium,' one by one fell into my hands, until at last the 'Museum Humfredianum' was the only one to escape me.

Mentioned first by Cobres in his 'Deliciae Cobresianae,' 1782, p. 148; then by Fox in his 'Synopsis Newcastle Museum,' 1827, p. 179; it was again listed by Engelmann in 'Bibl. Hist. Nat.' 1846, p. 11. These, so far as I know, are the only references to the Catalogue, though the Museum itself has been referred to many times (see Murray, 'Museums,' 1904, ii. p. 293 *etc.*). There is no doubt that Cobres actually saw the tract, for he gives the pagination correctly, although he is in error as to the size; but it is highly probable that Engelmann copied from Cobres. Fox, too,

must have handled the book, though he misspells the name, 'Humphredianum.'

The reference to Fox and subsequent recovery of the tract I owe to Dr. David Murray, whose excellent book on 'Museums,' published in 1904, I eagerly perused on its appearance as likely to give me a clue. A letter from Dr. Murray further assisted me, and I found the Catalogue still preserved in the Hancock Museum, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was no doubt the copy marked by George Allan himself when purchasing from Humphrey's Museum, as there are lines in the margin as mentioned by Mr. Fox.

I much regret that I had not found Fox's reference to this Catalogue before, as the 'Mus. Humf.' has been my "old man of the sea" for fifteen years, and I am exceedingly thankful to be able to shake him off. It is also a somewhat remarkable circumstance that no one has informed me of the existence of this copy at Newcastle, more especially as I advertised every week for nearly three years for the loan of a copy in a publication which is, or should be, in every library or museum of importance.

Considering that I could not see this tract before publishing my 'Index Animalium,' it now gives me peculiar satisfaction to announce to zoologists that the 'Museum Humphredianum' has no zoological value whatsoever. It is merely an auction sale-catalogue of a general collection of curiosities, without systematic arrangement of the zoological portion, and without generic headings or binominal nomenclature of any sort or description.

Indeed, it is now certain that George Humphrey did not employ definite terms in print until he published his 'Museum Calounianum' in 1797, and this fact alone will account for the rarity of the 'Mus. Humf.' and the comparative abundance of the 'Mus. Caloun.' The former was useless the day after the sale, the latter, being full of new names, became at once a book of reference.

As the Catalogue has never been properly described, I give the following as the full text of the title:—

(No. 9, 1779.) | MUSEUM HUMFREDIANUM: | [a line] | A |
CATALOGUE | Of the LARGE and VALUABLE | MUSEUM | of |
Mr. GEORGE HUMPHREY; | Which is presumed to be the most
capital of the kind | ever offered to public Sale in this King-
dom: | Comprehending many Thousand curious Subjects in
NATURAL | HISTORY, collected with great Judgment and Expence,
from most | Parts of the known World, during a Course of upwards
of thirty | Years: particularly Shells, Corals, and other beautiful
Marine Pro- | ductions; Reptiles, Insects, and other Animals, both
dried and in | Spirits; most of the Species in the Fossil Kingdom;
among them | many rare and elegant Spars, Crystals (some of them
matchless) | Marbles, Agates, and other Stones; Ores and Minerals;
a great | Variety of uncommon Petrefactions of Animals and
Vegetables; | some elegant Compositions in Shell-work, consisting
of Vases with | Flowers, Temples, &c. the best and most extensive
Collection of the | Cloths, Garments, Ornaments, Weapons of War,

Fishing Tackle, and | other singular Inventions of the Natives of
Otaheite, New Zealand, | and other new discovered Islands in the
 South Seas; A Variety of | Mahogany and other Cabinets, adapted
 for containing Subjects in | Natural History; a large Range of
 elegant Mahogany Cases of the best | Jamaica Wood, nine Feet
 high, glazed with large Panes, and might | easily be altered to
 Library Cases; a Mahogany Table, near thirty | Feet long, with
 large Show Glasses on the Top, and near 300 Drawers | beneath,
 all glazed; a Range of Mahogany Shelves with Cabinets, | con-
 taining 128 Drawers, glazed; a perpetual Motion, an artificial
 Hail | Storm; sundry Books in Natural History, a Set of six
 Columns four- | teen Feet high, and a great Number of other
 Articles. | Which will be sold by Auction, | By Mr. PATERSON, |
 On the PREMISES, | No. 70. *St. Martin's Lane*, opposite *Slaughter's* |
 Coffee House, | (By Order of the ASSISTANTS,) | On *Monday, April 5,*
 1779, and the Twenty-nine | following Days, | To be viewed on
Monday, March the 29th, and to the | Time of Sale. | Catalogues
 may be had (Price ONE SHILLING), at | *Mr. Paterson's, No. 6 King-*
Street, Covent Garden; | and at the *Museum* aforesaid. |

The Catalogue is printed in quarto (not octavo, as invariably stated), measures $9 \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, has a Titlepage with "conditions of sale" on back, and pp. 1-168. The sale occupied the thirty-six days for which it was catalogued (the titlepage being incorrect on this point), the last day taking books, of which Humphrey had a poor lot, the only rarities being seven copies of his own 'Conchologic,' of which Allan seems to have purchased one. As this book is stated in the 'Mus. Humf.' itself to be "Humphrey's Conchologic," it confirms the opinion expressed in my 'Index Animalium,' 1902, p. xxx, that Humphrey, and not E. M. Da Costa, was the author of the book.

The Council of the Hancock Museum has generously agreed to an exchange with me for this tract, feeling, with me, that so interesting a curiosity should be in a more accessible position. I have therefore arranged to deposit the 'Mus. Humf.' in the General Library of the British Museum (Natural History), where it can be seen by anyone interested.

Where are the Types?

GENTLEMEN,—May I ask if any of your readers can kindly give me information as to where may be found the types of S. P. Pratt (Kelloway Ammonites from Christian Malford) and Young and Bird (Lias fossils in 'Geol. of Yorkshire')? The information is required for the purposes of the 'Palæontologia Universalis.'

S. S. BUCKMAN.

Westfield, Thame, Oxon.