

Appendix 1

Summary of Portsmouth's Natural History Collections

Introduction

Many of Portsmouth's Museums' collections were destroyed during the bombing of the city in 1941, which left only a handful of artefacts. Between 1945 – 1970s there were focussed efforts to rebuild the city's natural history collections.

In the 1970s Bognor Regis Museum transferred most of its natural history collections, which included the extensive Guermonprez Collection, to Portsmouth Museum. Most of Guermonprez's material was collected mainly from West Sussex and has full provenance data.

This report provides an analysis of Portsmouth's natural history collections based on work carried out to date (June 2020)

Taxidermy

There are c 2400 specimens in the taxidermy collection. Over 560 were collected locally in Portsmouth and the surrounding area between 1945 and 1987. Most (c1600) came from Bognor Regis Museum, along with the Guermonprez Collection in the 1970s. The collection contains many taxidermy examples by HLF Guermonprez and EM Venables (Bognor Regis Museum) as well as the work of several Sussex taxidermists.

There are a few nationally known taxidermists in the collection including: Rowland Ward, Henry Ward, James Gardner, and Peter Spicer. There are two examples of local taxidermists – Richardson from Southsea and Francis Artlett who was based in Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

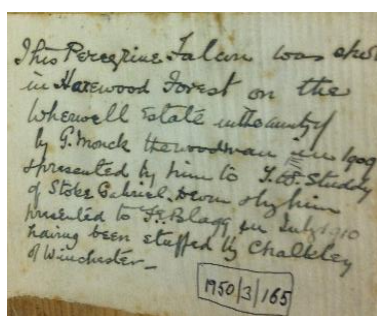


Water rail by Portsmouth taxidermist, Francis Artlett (left) and extinct Huia birds from New Zealand (right)

There are cases of exotics including birds from Guiana, Kiwi birds, case of birds from New Zealand, a case of the extinct Huia, birds from the Southern Hemisphere (H Ward) and an Albatross.

Other collections identified in the taxidermy collection to date:

- I. **Knight Collection** – c120 bird specimens c1849-1860. This collection was purchased by Guermonprez in 1899. Most are thought to have been collected in the Chichester area, some have data. R George, Naturalist based at Chichester is thought to have preserved most of the birds. Many have been remounted by Guermonprez.
- II. **S J Woodland Collection** – 14 bird specimens, 7 from Sidlesham, West Sussex. Mid-19th century. Some preserved by H George, Chichester. Purchased by Guermonprez 1898.
- III. **F E Blagg Collection** – c100 bird specimens, mostly collected in Hampshire and Norfolk between c1905 – 1915. There are two taxidermists associated with this collection – HN Pashley of Cley, Norfolk and William Chalkley of Winchester, Hampshire. Bequest.



Hooded Crow from the Knight Collection (left) and Peregrine Falcon and label from the F E Blagg Collection (middle and right)

- IV. **P J Mountney Collection** – 17 birds specimens purchased from this taxidermist from Godalming in 1960.
- V. **D Jeffrey Collection** – c130 bird specimens purchased from this taxidermist from Dorchester in 1965.
- VI. **Winchester Museum Collection** – 19 specimens of birds and exotic fish transferred in 1971.
- VII. **Edwin Cohen Collection** – 12 specimens of birds collected by the author of 'The Birds of Hampshire' (1963)

2. Study skins

There are c300 skins in the study skin collection. Over half of the were prepared by HLF Guermonprez.

- I. 57 birds and mammals were collected in the Portsmouth area.
- II. c70 birds were collected from the Malay Peninsula (no date) and purchased at auction by HLG Guermonprez.
- III. Other exotic material includes a Kakapo and two Kea.



Mammal study skins from the Portsmouth area (left) and bird skins from the Malay Peninsula (right)

3. Eggs

- I. **Cook Collection** – small collection of British birds' eggs collected in Portsmouth and Chichester area in the 1940s.
- II. **Littlejohn Collection** – small collection of British birds' eggs, no data but thought to have been collected in Hampshire.
- III. **Mrs Tibbet Collection** – British birds, 160 individual egg and clutches donated in the 1960s.
- IV. **Worthing Museum Collection** – c400 of mainly British Birds' eggs, donated in 1963. Very few with data
- V. **Bognor Regis Museum Collection** – British and foreign birds' eggs.
- VI. **Maclure Collection** – Cabinet of British birds' eggs, mainly collected in Hampshire in the 1930s-1940s, with full data and accompanying notebooks.

The collection also includes three Gentoo Penguin eggs, collected during survey work of RSS Discovery II from Falkland Islands, and decorated with illustrations of the Discovery II at Port Stanley, ship's crew in a tender at Port Stanley and Chinstrap and Adelie penguins.



Eggs from the Maclure Collection (left) and gentoo penguin eggs from the Discovery II Expedition (right)

4. Osteology

There are c200 sets of bones in the Osteology collection, mainly amassed by Guernonprez, but also some previous staff finds. Most are British mammals, with some birds. There are a few assemblages, from small rodents up to carnivores and a Roe Deer.

A few marine species are represented in the form of vertebrae (whale and dolphin), a complete porpoise skeleton, a whale rib, teeth of a sperm whale, sawfish rostra and shark jaws.

The collection also holds some elephant material (molars and tusk) and a tibiotarsus (shin bone) of a giant moa.

Tibiotarsus from a Giant Moa



5. Nests

There are just over 150 birds' nests, mainly British birds, but also some foreign birds and small mammal nests. Forty nests were collected in Hampshire (VC 11) between 1940 – 1960. Ninety-five are from the Guernonprez collection and collected mainly in West Sussex between 1890 and 1915.

6. Spirit Collections

There are 121 vertebrates in the spirit collections. Most of the collection was collected by Guernonprez from West Sussex and Kent. Until recently they were thought to have little data. Most of the vertebrates are fish, bats, and reptiles. Amphibians, which do not preserve well in other forms, are also found in this collection.

Detail of the Spirit Collection



Plants

1. Vascular Plants

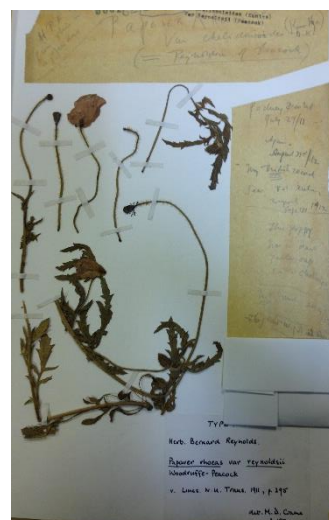
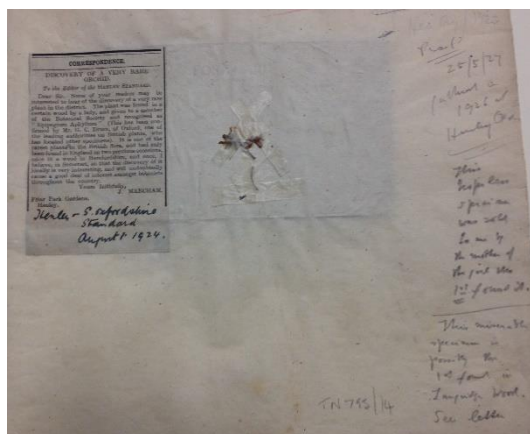
The Vascular Plant Herbarium comprises nearly 20,000 plants. Nearly half of the plants were collected by Guermonprez and members of his family from West Sussex, between late 19 – early 20 century. There are several collectors associated with Guermonprez's plant collection including some of the well-known botanists of the early 20th century - AH Wolley-Dod and C Claridge Druce.



Plant from the Guermonprez Herbarium

Other collections identified in the vascular plant collection to date:

- I. **Bernard Reynolds Herbarium** – c4250 specimens, including 53 *Rubus* specimens, a Ghost Orchid (see above), and a possible type specimen *Papaver rhoeas* var *reynoldsii* Mihi, found Lincolnshire 12.7.1911.



Very rare ghost orchid (left) and possible type specimen (right) from the Reynolds Herbarium

- II. **John Jenkins Herbarium** – c700 specimens (Sussex, Kent, Surrey, North Wales, and Dorset).
- III. **Rev Harry Joseph Riddelsdell Herbarium**– c150 *Rubus* (bramble) specimens.
- IV. **AW Westrup Herbarium** - 1150 British plants (apart from Hampshire which are housed in Winchester), also Alpine plants.
- V. **Charlotte Ellen Palmer Herbarium** – late 19 century plants collected in Odiham and the New Forest, Hampshire. Collected with her nephew Bolton King.

- VI. **Mrs Tate Herbarium** – 120 plants collected mainly on Portsea Island, Portsmouth in 1832.
VII. **John Gisborne Herbarium** - an 18th century collection of British plants.



Plants from the Jenkins Herbarium (left) and the Tate Herbarium (right)

2. Mosses

There are c110 mosses held in newspaper packets, collected by or for HLF Guermonprez from Hampshire (VC 11), West Sussex and Derbyshire between c1880 – 1922. These have been loaned for identifying, photographing, and cataloguing by Brad Scott and Sue Rubinstein.

3. Lichens

A cabinet of 19 century lichens in 18 drawers was located during the NHM collections survey. There are several specimens identified as collected by Reverend William Allport Leighton (1805 – 1889) who wrote the Flora of Shropshire.

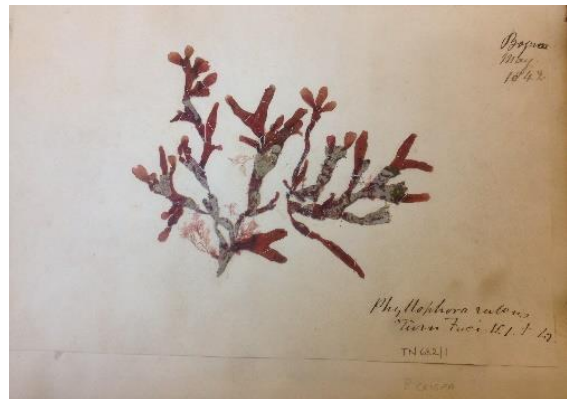
Drawer from the Lichen Collection



4. Marine algae

There are 1600 mounted marine algae collected by HLF Guermonprez from Hampshire (VC 11) and West Sussex between c1890 and 1922. There is also an album of 44 marine algae collected at Bognor Regis in 1842.

Seaweed collected from Bognor
Regis in 1842



Insects

The entomology collections comprise c50,000 insects.

I. Lepidoptera

The Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) collection is the largest collection, with c 25,000 specimens. The largest collection is the HLF Guermonprez Collection with c9000 specimens collected mainly from West Sussex c1890 – 1922. This collection has been catalogued except for a few drawers and Sussex records forwarded to the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

Other collections identified in the Lepidoptera collection to date:

- I. **D J Clark Collection** - c1000 specimens of butterflies collected at various sites in Hampshire (VC11), Isle of Wight, Dorset, counties in south east England, County Durham, and Glasgow between c 1949 – 1960. Some older material collected by other collectors.
- II. **W E Waller Collection** - c2000 specimens, c1500 moths and c500 butterflies. Collected mainly in West Sussex c1930 – 1950. Includes older material from other collectors.
- III. **C Ash Collection** – c300 specimens held in three stores boxes with W E Waller specimens. There are also specimens collected by Ash in the Waller Collection.
- IV. **Stanley Morris Collection** c 1200 Butterflies from West Sussex (Diaries and notebooks held at NHM).
- V. **Downer Butterfly Collection** c600 butterflies collected from around Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and Hampshire (VC 11) in the 1980s.
- VI. **Dr J Malpas Collection** – Butterflies and moths originally held in two cabinets. Collected by a local Southsea doctor James Malpas.
- VII. **A W Westrup Collection** – originally stored in 8 boxes. Collected mainly from Hampshire c1930s – 1950s.
- VIII. **A H Sperring Collection** – moth collection, c500 specimens collected mainly from Hampshire (VC 11), mid 1940s – early 1950.
- IX. **Baker Collection** – c200 specimens of British butterflies bred by the donor. No data.
- X. **Heppell Collection** – c150 butterflies and 100 moths collected from Winchester, the New Forest, Gosport, and the Portsmouth area, 1940s -1950s. Amalgamated with other smaller collections.
- XI. **Dr Stone Collection** – Lepidoptera collection from the UK with an emphasis on the Portsmouth locality, c1900 - 1920
- XII. **A H Sperring Collection** – c 500 specimens of Lepidoptera collected from south Hampshire, including Portsmouth in the 1950s



Moth from the Guermonprez Collection (top left), butterflies from the Stanley Morris Collection (top right) and Waller Collection (left)

2. Coleoptera

The Coleoptera (beetles) collection contains c3000 specimens. The Guermonprez Collection of c2000 specimens collected mainly from West Sussex is the largest collection.

Other collections identified in the Coleoptera collection to date:

- I. **D J Clark Collection** c1000 collected at various sites in Hampshire (VC11), Isle of Wight, Dorset, counties in south east England, County Durham, and Glasgow between c 1949 – 1960. Some older material collected by other collectors.

There are also several drawers of foreign beetles, mostly with no data.



Drawers of beetles from the Guermonprez Collection (left) and the D J Clark Collection (right)

3. Hymenoptera

The Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants) collection contains c1500 specimens amassed by Guermonprez and collected in the main from West Sussex.

There are several species in the collection which are now considered uncommon or rare. One example is the shrill carder bee (12 specimens), was once found over much of England and Wales is now one of the rarest bumblebees in the UK.



Drawer of Bees (left) and shrill carder bee (right) from the Guermonprez Collection

4. Diptera

The Diptera (true flies) collection is held in 2 cabinets (20 drawers in total) and was amassed by Guermonprez. Families include Dolichopodidae, Pipunculidae, Syrphidae, Lonchopteridae and Tipulidae.

5. Orthoptera

There are five drawers of Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets, and allies), collected from Sussex (mainly West Sussex between 1872 and 1912. This collection has not been catalogued but records from this collection can be found in:

Haes, ECM. 1976. Orthoptera in Sussex. Entomologists Gazette. Vol 27, pp181-202



Drawer of grasshoppers from the Guermonprez Collection

6. Other insect orders

Other insect orders in the collection include five drawers Odonata (dragonflies) and Psocoptera (booklice or barklice) collected by Guermonprez.

Other Invertebrates

1. Molluscs

The Mollusc collection has recently been assembled in one place.

The largest collection is the Guermonprez collection which comprises c2500 unit trays of molluscs collected mainly in West Sussex and other counties in southern England between 1830 – 1927 by Guermonprez and others. There are some molluscs in the spirit collection.

Other collections identified in the Mollusc collection to date

1. **Penning Collection** – 127 class topped boxes of land and freshwater molluscs (mainly gastropods), from northern France, Hampshire (VC 11), Isle of Wight, West Sussex, and Wiltshire, 1916 -1925.
2. **C G Benson Collection** – c 1500 land and freshwater gastropods and some freshwater bivalves collected from various English counties, mainly from southern England, 1902 – 1921.



Molluscs from the Guermonprez Collection (top left), and Benson Collection (top right) and Penning Collection (left))

3. **Joseph G Turner Collection** – c800 unit trays of molluscs collected from Turner’s ‘World Tour’ in the 1930s.
4. **Gunyon Collection** – 45 marine and freshwater molluscs from the Isle of Wight.
5. **T A Getty Collection** – c1000 marine and freshwater molluscs from Hampshire (VC 11), Isle of Wight, Sussex, and Yorkshire by former member of staff.
6. **R B Gardner Collection** – cabinet of shells from Australia collected in 1866.

2. Crustacea (crabs, lobsters, shrimps etc)

Apart from a few specimens, the Crustacean specimens are all from the Guermonprez Collection. Some (c80) are stored in spirit the others are dried specimens.

I. Decapods

- a. Crabs – c850 crabs, mainly collected within 5 miles of Bognor Regis; Herne Bay, Kent, and other southern counties, c1887 – 1901 by Guermonprez.
- b. Other Decapods – small collection of other orders, similar localities and dates as above.



Crabs collected from Bognor Regis area in the Guermonprez Collection

3. Echinodermata (starfish and their relatives)

Apart from a few specimens, the Echinodermata specimens are all from the Guermonprez Collection. They are mainly stored in the spirit collection.

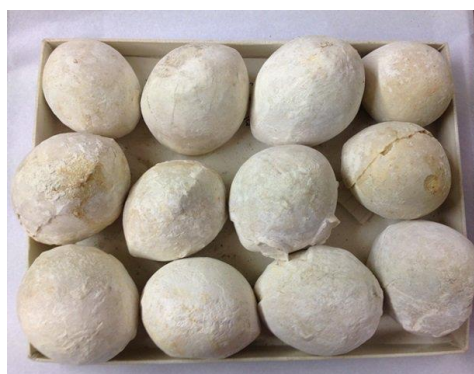
- I. **Ophurida (brittle stars)**
c40 brittle stars mainly collected from Bognor Regis and surrounds 1889- 1895.
- II. **Asteroidea (starfish)**
c80 seastars mainly collected from Kent and Aberdeen 1846 – 1895.
- III. **Echinoidea (sea urchins)**
c50 sea urchins mainly collected from southern counties 1890-1895.

Palaeontology

The palaeontology collection comprises c10,000 fossils. Many were collected by members of the museum staff in the 1970s. The largest collection is the Theo Getty Collection of c1300 from Hampshire (VC 11), West Sussex and Yorkshire.

Most of the palaeontology collections are from the Hampshire Basin, with a strong emphasis on the Hampshire coast, Isle of Wight, and West Sussex.

There are some Jurassic fossils, mainly molluscs but very few predating this period. There are small collections of fossils from Downend Quarry, Fareham (Campanian Stage, Cretaceous) and the 1957 Hole extension at Lower Swanwick (Ypresian Stage, Eocene).



Fossils from the Theo Getty Collection (left) Echinoderms from Downend Quarry (right)

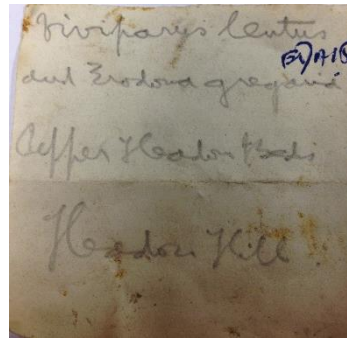
Other collections identified in the palaeontology collection to date:

1. **Guermoprez Collection** – c1000 unit trays of mainly Eocene fossils (mainly molluscs and brachiopods) from West Sussex, Hampshire (VC 11), Isle of Wight, southern counties and a few other British sites.



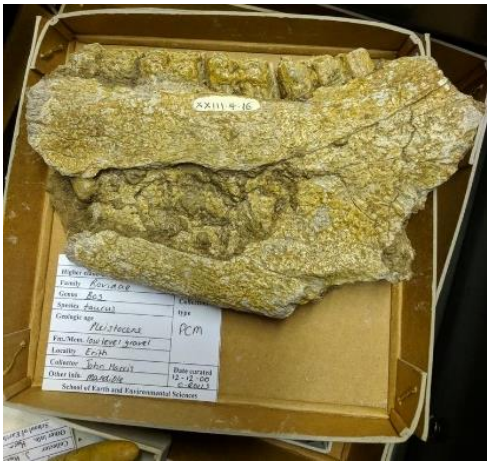
Eocene fossils from the Guermoprez Collection

2. **James F Jackson Collection** – a collection of assemblages of Eocene fossils in matrix from the Isle of Wight. Jackson collected fossils for Cumberland House for nearly 20 years. Most were destroyed in the Blitz along with most of Portsmouth's collections. To date about 100 have identified which were in the basement of Cumberland House.



One of the fossils (and label) from the recently re-identified James F Jackson Collection

3. **John Harris Collection** – collection of c55 post glacial mammal fossils from Erith, Kent, collected 1880 and purchased by Guérmonprez in 1924.



Pleistocene *Bos* sp., from Erith, Harris Collection (left) and drawer from the M Draper Collection (right)

4. **M Draper Collection** – c300 unit trays of Eocene molluscs from Barton, Hampshire (Barton Beds), Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex (Bracklesham Beds), Hillhead, Hampshire (Bracklesham Beds), Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire (Bracklesham Beds).
5. **Overton Collection** – 77 unit trays have been identified to date. Mainly molluscs from Red, Crag Formation, also from Cambridge and Barton on Sea. There is also a small collection of correspondence including letters from J R Le B Tomlin and manuscript of a paper on *Anodonta* co-authored with HH Bloomer.
6. **Joseph G Turner Collection** – c650 unit trays of mainly Eocene molluscs. About 100 are from Gironde, France, and other French localities. The remainder are from Barton on Sea, Hampshire (Barton Beds, Eocene), Southampton, Isle of Wight, West Sussex, and Kent. A note with this collection stated that this is the residue of the collection, the remainder being at the NHM, London.

Minerals and Rocks

This collection stills needs working on as data has become disassociated over time.

Three collections of minerals (size unknown) were donated in the 1940s and another in the 1950s. The minerals are held in 18 drawers.



Drawer of rocks and minerals. First stage of re-associated specimen with their data cards has been completed.

Over 100 minerals have been identified from the Guernonprez collection and c90 rocks from the Isle of Wight collected by James G Jackson have been identified.

Most of the rocks are sedimentary and local samples, there are some metamorphic and igneous rocks. Many were put into a school loan collection which is currently under review.

There are two series of bore hole samples taken from bore hole 1 Portsmouth Water Company (19 samples taken at 5 - 10 feet intervals to a depth of 151 feet 6 inches) and from bore hole Walderton Pumping Station, West Sussex (52 samples taken at intervals to a depth of 430 feet).