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The interest of the catalogue is much increased by the biography of William Hutton which accompanies it. This tells the story not only of Hutton and his researches, but also introduces us to the various technical, philosophical and natural history societies active in the area. The authors note the importance of a metropolitan geologist, Roderick Murchison, in getting the great fossil flora under way, but leave us in no doubt that the chief credit for the jointly written work rests with William Hutton.

It is a pity that the opportunity was not taken to include an account of the Hutton manuscripts held at the Hancock Museum. Reference is given to a number of letters, but a complete handlist would have been welcome. The other area which could be expanded at a future date is the bibliography of the book itself. It was published in seven parts over a period of seven years, and includes 231 (not 230) aquatinted plates. Surely the dates of publication of the parts, at the very least, should have been included. Strangely, there is no mention of the supplement to "Lindley and Hutton", which was edited by G. A. Lebour in 1877.

J. C. THACKRAY

P. SMIT with the assistance of A. P. M. SANDERS and J. P. F. van der VEER (Eds.) *Hendrik Engel's alphabetical list of Dutch zoological cabinets and menageries*. Editions Rodopi B. V., Amsterdam: 1986. Pp x, 340; illustrated. Price: Hfl70. ISBN 90-6203-618-X.

This book is intended to be a reference guide to those persons and institutions in Holland that had a private or public collection of animal specimens, dead or alive, from early times until the present. There is a total of 1,749 entries. The persons are listed alphabetically, while the institutions are arranged according to the town where they are located. The result is an obvious mixture of large and small collections, of well-known and obscure names. This is unavoidable, because the available information especially about the earlier collectors often is quite vague. The compilers must have felt, quite rightly, that it is better to include such circumstantial evidence rather than to lose a potentially important link in somebody's research.

Professor Engel's list was originally published in 1939, as a 100-page essay in the *Bijdragen tot de Dierkunde* (Amsterdam). From that time until his death in 1981, Engel continued to add bits of information to his files from a large variety of sources. These notes formed the basis of this new compilation prepared by P. Smit and collaborators, then working at the Biohistorical Institute of the University of Utrecht. Many data were added and the details were checked. The present work is a most useful addition to the literature on Dutch zoological history. In research it is quite common to find a name which is not immediately clear. This list should be the first work to consult in such cases. One will then find the full name of the person, the dates of birth and death, a succinct indication of his or her profession and a short description of the content and size of the collection (birds, shells, fossils, etc.). This is followed by a varying number of references where further information may be obtained. Apart from the explanations at the beginning of each entry, one will need to study the list of references carefully for a proper understanding. Most of them are given in abbreviated form (author, date and page only) with a full bibliography at the end of the book. Some papers, however, are only mentioned in a few entries, where full reference is made to them.

Engel's publication has already proved its value to students of the history of zoology, and those of many related areas. The present edition is a much more complete list and it will become an even more important tool. The book is well-produced in a hard cover and it is well worth its price.

L. C. ROOKMAAKER

H. E. STACE, C. W. A. PETTIT and C. D. WATERSTON. *Natural science collections in Scotland*. National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh: 1987. Pp xxx, 373; 8 microfiches. Price: £25. ISBN 0-948636-08-4.

The aims of this remarkable publication are well set out in the first paragraph of the Introduction: "to list the natural science collections (botany, geology and zoology) known to exist in Scotland up to 1982. It has been carried out by the Natural Science Collections Research Unit in Scotland with the help of curators of the collections and is part of an effort to document such collections throughout the United Kingdom. The purposes of the listing have been (a) to inform all interested parties of the existence, nature and location of natural science collections and (b) to publicise the existence of important collections which are documented and so help in safeguarding them."

After the introduction, which lists previous attempts to compile comparable catalogues, the bulk of the book is devoted to a 373-page alphabetical listing of over 3,000 known collections. These vary greatly in size and importance, as one would expect, but the sheer number of them may come as a considerable surprise to even experienced research workers. A standard format is used for describing the collections, which is helpful to interested workers who wish to make a rapid comparison of contents.

The amount of work which has gone into producing such a useful catalogue has indeed been prodigious, and the authors have placed all other workers considerably in their debt. Only those who have tried their hands at such a task can truly realise both the enormity of the labour involved and just how well the authors have succeeded. Nevertheless, it must be stated that certain sources of important information were not consulted, and this has resulted in some omissions. The area of consultation was undoubtedly wide, but not wide enough. No doubt these oversights will be corrected when (hopefully) regular updating occurs, which is clearly the authors' intention. Despite this, what we are offered is the finest possible foundation on which to build, and it is to be hoped that anyone noticing an omission will immediately pass on the information.

The vast majority of the collections listed are housed in institutions, but a good many private collections are also included. It should be emphasized, however, that this is a catalogue of natural history collections held in Scotland, which are not always collections of Scottish material, and many of the private collections listed come from overseas. There is an alphabetical list of institutions surveyed, and a map showing the locations of the collections. As one would expect, the majority of the collections are concentrated in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and although there is a surprising amount in some other centres, there is very little north of the Highland line.