

EDWARD HOLT EASON: HIS ARCHIVES AND COLLECTION IN THE HOPE ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

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THE ARCHIVE

This archive (Figure 1) was acquired from the daughter of the late Dr. Eason in 2000. It mostly relates to the taxonomy of the Lithobiidae and is sorted into categories of general correspondence, and by notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence relating to particular published works, or by zoogeographic region. It comprises 25 boxes:



Figure 1. The complete archive

- Box 1:** A copy of Eason's obituary Correspondence 1948-1974.
- Box 2:** Correspondence 1975-1986.
- Box 3:** Correspondence 1987-1995.
- Box 4:** Correspondence 1996-1999 and collated letters from Turk, Matsakis and Blower.
- Box 5:** Manuscript for: *Centipedes of the British Isles*. London: Frederick Warne, 1964.
- Box 6:** Two proof copies of: *Centipedes of the British Isles* (one annotated)
- Box 7:** Myriapoda of the British Isles: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 8:** British Myriapod Group; British Myriapod Survey: Notes and correspondence.
- Boxes 9-11:** Lithobiidae: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 12:** Lithobiidae of Europe and NW Europe in particular: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 13:** Lithobiidae of Southern Europe: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 14:** Lithobiidae of the Canary Islands, Madeira, the Azores and the Cape Verde Islands (Macaronesia): Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 15:** Lithobiidae of Siberia, Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence.
- Box 16:** Lithobiidae of Nepal: Notes, manuscripts, and correspondence.
- Box 17:** Lithobiidae of Oceania, Tasmania, Thailand, the Falkland Islands and the Nearctic Region, etc.: Notes, manuscripts, illustrations and correspondence; and printed items for international congresses.
- Boxes 18-21:** Notebooks.
- Box 22:** Sorribes, Antoni Serra (1980) *Contribución de conocimiento de los Lithobiomorpha (Chilopoda) de la Península Ibérica*. [PhD. thesis], Universidad de Barcelona. Facultad de Biología.
- Boxes 23-25:** Illustrations for published papers, mostly for: *Centipedes of the British Isles*. London: Frederick Warne, 1964.

The archive contains many examples of Easons' work from start to finish. For example a series of correspondence and drafts shows the original contact of Zumeta to Eason, through the early draft text and figures, to the resulting paper.

It archive also contains many notes on odd bits of paper such as a scrap of paper from the British Horse Society, giving a glimpse of Easons' passion for horse riding.

THE COLLECTION

His daughter, Marian Waters presented the E. H. Eason collection (Figure 2) to The Hope Entomological Collections (HEC) in 2000. The collection is preserved in 75% alcohol, and is contained in some 60 jars. The collection remains in Easons' original arrangement, and although it has been conserved, the collection has as yet not been completely catalogued and checked. The majority of the material held in the HEC is British, with some mainland European specimens, mostly of *Lithobius* species. The vast majority of the non-British material of Eason was presented to the Natural History Museum, London during his lifetime, with material also being presented to various other institutions.

A tentative list of the British species contained in the collection is given below:



Figure 2. The Eason collection

Chilopoda:

Geophilomorpha: *Haplophilus subterraneus* (Shaw); *Hydroschendyla submarina* (Grube); *Schendyla nemorensis* (C.L. Koch); *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* Brolemann & Ribaut; *Strigamia crassipes* (C.L. Koch); *Strigamia acuminata* (Leach); *Geophilus electricus* (Linné); *Geophilus carpophagus* Leach; *Geophilus proximus* C.L. Koch; *Geophilus insculptus* Attems; *Geophilus osquidatum* Brolemann; *Necrophloeophagus flavus* (De Geer); *Brachygeophilus truncorum* (Bergsö & Meinert); *Chalandea pinguis* (Brolemann)

Scolopendromorpha: *Cryptops anomalans* Newport; *Cryptops hortensis* (Donovan)

Lithobiomorpha: *Lithobius variegatus* Leach; *Lithobius forficatus* (Linné); *Lithobius peregrinus* Latzel; *Lithobius macilentus* L. Koch; *Lithobius erythrocephalus* C.L. Koch; *Lithobius lapidicola* Meinert; *Lithobius pilicornis* Newport; *Lithobius calcaratus* C.L. Koch; *Lithobius crassipes* C. L. Koch; *Lithobius curtipes* C.L. Koch; *Lithobius microps* Meinert; *Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert

Diplopoda:

Polyxenus lagurus (Linné); *Glomeris marginata* (Villers); *Nanogona polydesmoides* (Leach); *Melogona scutellare* (Ribaut); *Nemasoma varicorne* C.L. Koch; *Bianiulus guttulatus* (Fabricius); *Archiboreoiulus pallidus* (Brade-Birks); *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* (Linné); *Tachypodoiulus niger* (Leach); *Cylindroiulus punctatus* (Leach); *Cylindroiulus latestriatus* (Curtis); *Cylindroiulus britannicus* (Verhoeff); *Julus scandinavus* Latzel; *Brachyiulus pusillus* (Leach); *Unciger foetidus* (C.L. Koch); *Polydesmus angustus* Latzel; *Polydesmus gallicus* Latzel; *Polydesmus denticulatus* C.L. Koch; *Brachydesmus superus* Latzel; *Macrosternodesmus palicola* Brölemann; *Ophiodesmus albanus* (Latzel); *Stosatea italica* (Latzel)

The collection contains a few specimens of non-British material as below:

Chaetechylene vesuviana ?; *Clinopodes linearis* Koch; *Lithobius ?stramineus* ; *Lithobius ?toruanue* ; *Lithobius erythrocephalus* Koch; *Lithobius forficatus* (Linn); *Lithobius fulvicornis* Meinert; *Lithobius hispanicus* Meinert; *Lithobius lapidicola* Meinert; *Lithobius lucifugus* Koch; *Lithobius lusitanus valesiacus* Verhoeff; *Lithobius melanops* Newport; *Lithobius mutabilis* Koch; *Lithobius pelidnus* Haase; *Lithobius tylopus* Latzel; *Lithobius variegatus* Leach; *Scolopendra canidens oraniensis* Lucas; *Scutigera coleoptrata* (Linné)

ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVES AND COLLECTION

For access to the archives contact: Stella Brecknell, Librarian, Hope Entomological Library, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW Tel:+44 (0)1865 272982, Fax: +44 (0)1865 272970, E-mail: stella.brecknell@oum.ox.ac.uk

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Figure 3. Lord Zuckerman presenting Ted Eason with the Stamford Raffles award for 1980. (Courtesy of Mrs M. Waters).



Figure 4. Ted Eason in his study, at home in Moreton-in-the-Marsh. (Courtesy of Mrs. M. Waters).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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