



Linnaean Tercentenary Launch

December 7th 2006

The Tercentenary Launch takes place on the 7th December 2006 starting at 6.00pm in the Linnean Society rooms at Burlington House. This event formally marks the beginning of the Linnean Society celebrations for the tercentenary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) that will take place throughout 2007.

The event will give all our visitors, both Fellows and guests, an insight into the varied projects that the Linnean Society has identified as important in making the Linnaean legacy accessible to all.

Projects will be demonstrated by poster displays and presentations provided by those involved in their implementation. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the many exciting developments that the Society is undertaking and to ask any questions they may have. Successful projects now on the way to completion include:

- ✚ the conservation and digitisation of the Linnaean letters
- ✚ digitisation of the Linnaean Herbarium and insect collection
- ✚ conservation of the Smithian Herbarium
- ✚ the online Library Catalogue, and
- ✚ support for implementation of the Linnaeus Link Project.

The publication (May 2007) entitled 'Order Out of Chaos' by Dr. Charlie Jarvis brings together for the first time information on the on the typification of all Linnaeus' plant names. Co-published by the Linnean Society of London and London's Natural History museum, this landmark work is a result of 25 years research on the Linnaean Plant Name Typification Project.

Much more work still remains to be accomplished to make the Linnean Society's collections and premises fully accessible. Once further funding has been secured, the Society will undertake additional ventures. These include:

- ✚ the digitisation of the remaining zoological collections (shells, fish, and bryozoans)
- ✚ digitising the Smithian Herbarium

- ✚ supporting taxonomy through grants and scholarships, and
- ✚ providing online library resources, such as access to portraits, Fellowship records and certificates.

Last but not least, the Society will proceed with the building development of the Tower rooms, which will provide additional meeting rooms for the Society, and associated societies and, most importantly, a lift, which will provide a vital access facility to all floors of the main building.

Welcoming drinks will be followed by short opening speeches by:

- ✚ the President of the Society, Professor David Cutler
- ✚ our special guest, Mr Alan Titchmarsh
- ✚ Elaine Shaughnessy, Head of Development who will present highlights of the Tercentenary Programme for 2007, the Linnean Society Projects, and future development plans.

Guests will then have the chance to see the variety of displays and presentations during the reception. We hope the event will be an enjoyable sociable occasion and will mark the beginning of celebrations for Linnaeus and his tercentenary.

