

The BMS Travelling Exhibition of Fungus Models: A Brief History

Henry Tribe

In 1987 the British Mycological Society arranged a Fungus Modelling Workshop in Pershore, Worcs. given by Dr S. Diamandis from Greece who specialised in latex moulding techniques. One of the participants was Mrs Eileen Chattaway of Charmouth, Dorset and by 1996 she had made some 35 models of fungi. These she kept at her home but she thought that they would be more useful if she loaned the majority of them to the Society for the purposes of a Travelling Exhibition to the general public. As Publicity Secretary of the BMS at the time, arrangements fell to me.

The first exhibition was at the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution in Bath. Eileen herself brought her models to Bath, carefully wrapped for transit, but we realized following the exhibition that individual boxes for each model were needed for transit purposes.

The President, Steve Moss, agreed that this was necessary and 29 individual boxes were ordered from Dauphin Display Ltd of Oxford. Their Managing Director went to Charmouth to measure the models and found that four standard box sizes sufficed to fit them. Each box was made of acrylic sheet on a medium density fibre (MDF) base and could serve as an exhibition container inside a museum cabinet. The cost was £ 949 plus delivery (£ 94) and included four large hardboard boxes inside which the acrylic boxes fitted. A further charge of £ 88 was made for the visit to Dorset. Total cost = £ 1131.

Steve Moss also asked Eileen Chattaway to value the models for insurance purposes and this came to £ 2825. The Society would underwrite them itself until "a valuation had been obtained and the additional premium for their insurance known" (F&GP 4/6/97). This formal valuation was never made.

For Chelsea 2002 some extra models were needed. These, of 11 species, were made by Shirley Talboys. Whereas Eileen's models are each mounted, often with several growth stages, on a cork plate which bears appropriate leaf litter or grass to form a small tableau, Shirley's models are mostly unmounted, though a few bear a ceramic base. All are ceramic and mostly very robust, so that perspex travelling boxes are unnecessary. After Chelsea 2002, Shirley kindly added these models to the loan of Eileen. Their monetary value approximated £ 220.

For our exhibit in Kew Gardens' Autumn Cornucopia in 2002 four panels of artificial grass were purchased from Derek Frampton for £ 120.

For Chelsea 2003, two more species to go with the mycorrhizal exhibit arranged by Steve and Margaret Kelly and myself were bought from Shirley Talboys (£40). An excellent giant puffball, made by Derek Frampton, was added to the collection in late 2003: it cost £185 which was granted by Council following my special appeal.

In 2002, David Moore had ordered 23 models from Adam Rouilly, the English agents for Somso Models, a family firm founded in Sonnenburg in Thuringia, Germany, in 1886. This was primarily for the purposes of his intended Roadshow. The cost of these, two of which were large and complex models showing development and structure of the agaric, was £ 1631. Excepting these, the average model cost was about £ 36. Six of them were used at Chelsea and I had understood that they were available for the Travelling Exhibition but in the event David needed them for the Roadshow. This collection is separate from the Travelling Exhibition. It is administered by David Moore. Six species replacements were therefore bought from Shirley Talboys in 2003-4. Four species of woodchip fungi were made at the same time: total cost £ 200.

In December 2003 I was allotted £ 1000 by Council for increasing the number of species in the collection. Twenty-two species were made by Shirley Talboys during the summer of 2004. These totalled £ 450, and four more panels of artificial grass were bought from Derek Frampton for £ 160. Steve Kelly, who specializes in modelling earthstars, loaned eight models in summer 2004.

For the intended display at Chelsea 2005 I ordered another sixteen models from Shirley Talboys. Some of these were additional species and some were further models of species already in the collection, for it was becoming apparent that for realistic displays multiple numbers of given species are necessary. When Chelsea 2005 was cancelled I decided to retain these models myself, paying their £ 424 cost, and have loaned them to the Society for subsequent exhibitions. This freed up £ 390 for the purchase of more models by the Society.

I ordered three sets of models from Shirley Talboys including a group of large *Armillaria mellea* fruit bodies set on a

log in 2006 for £80. This left £310, and further models were ordered in the New Year 2007 to the value of £217.75 - still leaving a balance of £92.25.

The List of Species, set out in sections in order of incorporation into the Exhibition, together with their status, (whether loaned to or property of the British Mycological Society) follows in Appendix 1. Assets with costs and valuations are set out in Appendix 2, and the 28 venues at which part or all of the Exhibition has been shown are listed in Appendix 3. To these venues is added the forthcoming exhibition in Edinburgh.

Digital photographs were taken of the first 40 species and were put on to the BMS Website in 2003, where they maybe found under 'Resources'. Four sets of prints were also purchased. One set went to the modellers, another went either to George Sharples or Royall Moore and I retain two sets.

I wrote a short account of the Travelling Exhibition in February 2004 (*Mycologist* **18**, 27-8). At the time it consisted of 43 sets of models: sufficiently large to put on concurrent displays in the high season (autumn) of 2005, 28 species being sufficient for the case available at the Horniman Museum and 71 for the larger display at the Hereford Museum in connection with the Hereford Festival of Fungi. There are now sufficient copies of some common species to display them in more than one exhibition.

In 2006 almost the whole Exhibition went to the Aylesbury Museum on 3 September, where it remained until 4 March 2007. This display was masterminded by Mike Palmer, Keeper of Natural History at the Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury. I have a set of label texts which I prepared for Hereford to go with the whole collection. These are general rather than specific to locality, and for Aylesbury the Bucks Fungus Group modified them to emphasize the relevance of each fungus to Buckinghamshire. I see such local input as a highly desirable factor in an exhibition. In 2008 another large display went to the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst.

By 2008 the exhibition had grown to 108 sets of models representing 101 species and the 2004 account noted above was updated in *Mycologist News*, Part 4, pp.9-11, 2008.

A serious updating is needed on the Society's website. The present Travelling Exhibition entry on the website (to be found there none too easily under 'BMS Resources') was prepared in 2003, with photographs of the first 40 models.

The whole collection went to Edinburgh in March 2010 in connection with a BMS – RBGE display planned for August 2010 to include the period of the International Mycological Congress.

Henry Tribe, Curator of the Travelling Exhibition 3/9/08, revised 4/5/10

Recent Developments.

Much of the Travelling Exhibition (TE), merged with an elaborate general mycological display, went from Edinburgh to the Welsh Botanic Garden at Llanarthne following its use in Edinburgh. This is the 'From Another Kingdom' (FAK) Exhibition and it is still there. (HT 8/1/14)

Some of the TE, some 30 models, never left Scotland. These were returned to Kew in November 2013 after being used by the BBC as background to a Programme for Channel 4 on 'Fungi - the Secret Kingdom' with Richard Fortey. These models were displayed to the BMS at the Fungus Geography Meeting on 30 November. 5/8/14

A small selection of these went to Surrey Wildlife Trust Recorder's meeting, East Horsley, Surrey (Mariko Parslow and Brian Spooner)
1 March 2014

All these models were kept in storage in Kew until 2015. Displayed to BMS at the Open Meeting, Kew, on Conservation of Fungi, 29 Nov. 2014.

Today's date 29 May 2015

THE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION. COMPLETE LIST MAY 2010 (2015)

Model No.	Species	English name(s)	Storage
(photos 1-40)		where applicable	Box No.

[Box Nos no longer correct, 2014]

Eileen Chattaway's Models. Long-term loan to BMS 1-4

1.	Clavariadelphus pistillaris	Giant Club	3
2.	Boletus edulis	Cep; Penny Bun, Porcini	4
3.	Mutinus caninus	Dog Stinkhorn	1
4.	Phallus impudicus	Common Stinkhorn	3
5.	Mycena pura	Lilac Bonnets	1
6.	Boletus badius	Bay Bolete	4
7.	Amanita muscaria	Fly Agaric	3
8A.	Russula nigricans &	Blackening Russula	4
8B.	& Asterophora lycoperdoides		
9.	Laccaria amethystina	Amethyst Deceiver	4
10A.	Boletus parasiticus		
10B.	on Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball	4
11.	Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	False Chanterelle	2
12.	Aleuria auriantia	Orange peel Fungus	4
13.	Sarcoscypha coccinea	Moss Cups; Scarlet Elf Cups	1
14A.	Lycoperdon perlatum	Common Puffball	
14B.	& Chlorociboria (Chlorosplenium) aeruginascens	Green Elf Cups	2
15.	Hygrocybe pratensis	Meadow Waxcap	4
16.	Inocybe geophylla var lilacina		1
17.	Clavulinopsis fusiformis	Golden Spindles	4
18.	Calocybe gambosa	St. George's Mushroom	4
19.	Coprinus comatus	Shaggy Inkcap; Lawyer's Wig	3
20.	Hygrocybe punicea	Crimson Waxcap	2
21A.	Helvella lacunosa	Satanic Candles*; Black Saddle Fungus	4
21B.	& Leotia lubrica	Jelly Babies	
22.	Helvella crispa	Spluttered Candle; White Saddle Fungus	2
23.	Cantharellus cibarius	Chanterelle	4
24.	Hygrocybe calyptriformis	Pink Waxcap	1
25.	Tricholoma sulphureum	Gasworks Tricholoma	4
26.	Psilocybe semilanceata	Liberty Caps; Magic Mushrooms	1
27.	Morchella esculenta	Common Morel	4
28.	Suillus granulatus		1
29.	Amanita citrina	False Death Cap	1

29 models, 33 species

* Revett, Field Myc. 2002 p.72

Shirley Talboys' Models. Long-term loan to BMS 5 (some exceptions)

	(Amanita phalloides)	Death Cap	REPLACED BY No.86, Box 13
31.	Coprinus atramentarius (3 pieces)	Common Inkcap	5
32.	Panaeolus foenisecii (9 pieces)	Hay Caps	5
33.	Agaricus campestris (2 pieces)	Field Mushroom	5
34.	Agaricus xanthoderma (2 fruit bodies**)	Yellow Stainer	5
35.	Armillaria mellea (tuft of 8 f.b. on wood)	Honey Fungus	13
36.	Macrolepiota procera	Parasol Mushroom	5
37.	Macrolepiota rhacodes	Shaggy Parasol	5
38.	Marasmius oreades (9 pieces)	Fairy Ring Champignon	14
39.	Amanita muscaria (2 fruit bodies**)	Fly Agaric	5
40.	Cantharellus cibarius (3 fruit bodies**)	Chanterelle	5

40 models, 41 species

Pieces = separate fruit bodies, unmounted

** Fruit bodies = mounted on one integral stand

Derek Frampton Model.		BMS property	No.	Box
41.	Calvatia gigantea	Giant Puffball		6
Shirley Talboys' Models for Chelsea 2003.		BMS Property		
42.	Lactarius pubescens (3 pieces)	Downy Milk-cap		7
43.	Laccaria laccata (3 pieces)	The Deceiver	7	
Shirley Talboys' replacements for Somso Models: Winter 2003-4		BMS Property		Box 7
44.	Tuber aestivum (2 pieces)	Summer Truffle		7
45.	Paxillus involutus	Roll Rim		7
46.	Hydnum repandum	Hedgehog Fungus		7
47.	Lepista nuda (2 pieces)	Wood Blewit		7
48.	Pleurotus ostreatus	Oyster Fungus		7
49.	Gyromitra esculenta	False Morel		7
Shirley Talboys' woodchip fungus models: Winter 2003-4		BMS Property		Box 10
50.	Agrocybe praecox	Spring Mushroom		10
51.	Psilocybe cyanescens (3 pieces)			10
52.	Stropharia auriantia (2 pieces)			10
53.	Volvariella gloiocephala (speciosa)	Stubble-field volvar (Lassoe, 1998)		10
Shirley Talboys' Models: Summer 2004.		BMS Property		Box 7 (some exceptions)
54.	Lepiota cristata	Stinking Parasol		7
55.	Tricholoma equestre (flavovirens)			7
56.	Tricholomopsis rutilans	Plums and Custard		7
57.	Clitocybe gibba (infundibuliformis)	Common Funnel-cap		7
58.	Clitocybe nebularis	Clouded Agaric		7
59.	Clitocybe geotropa			7
60.	Clitocybe rivulosa (dealbata) (3 pieces)	Lawn Funnel-cap		12
61.	Lyophyllum decastes			7
62.	Collybia butyracea (3 pieces)	Butter Cap		7
63.	Flammulina velutipes	Velvet Shank; Winter Fungus		7
64.	Clitopilus prunulus (3 pieces)	The Miller		12
65.	Inocybe erubescens (patouillardii)			7
66.	Hebeloma crustuliniforme (3 pieces)	Poison Pie		7
67.	Lacrymaria lacrymabunda	Weeping Widow		7
68.	Cortinarius violaceus			7
69.	Stropharia aeruginosa	Verdigris Agaric		7
70.	Stropharia percevalii			10
71.	Lactarius deliciosus	Saffron Milk-cap		7
72.	Russula emetica	The Sickener		7
73.	Bolbitius vitellinus (2 pieces)	Yellow Cow-pat Toadstool		10
74.	Boletus chrysenteron	Red-cracking Bolete		7
75.	Craterellus cornucopioides (2 pieces)	Horn of Plenty		7
Steve Kelly's Models		Loaned by Steve Kelly to BMS, March 2010		Boxes 8, 11
76	Geastrum berkeleyi	Berkeley's Earthstar		8
77	Geastrum fimbriatum	Sessile Earthstar		8
78.	Geastrum fornicatum	Arched Earthstar		8
79.	Geastrum pectinatum	Beaked Earthstar		8
80.	Geastrum quadrifidum	Four-rayed Earthstar		8
81.	Geastrum striatum	Striate Earthstar		8
82	Geastrum triplex	Collared Earthstar		8
82a	Myriostoma coliforme	Pepper Pot		8
83	Boletus satanas	Devil's Bolete		8
83a	Coprinus picaceus	The Magpie		11

continued on p.3

Shirley Talboys' Models, Summer 2005. Bought and Loaned by Henry Tribe to BMS.**Box 9 (some exceptions)**

		Earlier number of same species	Box No.	
84	<i>Amanita citrina</i> (2 pieces)	False Death Cap	29	9
85	<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette		9
86	<i>Amanita phalloides</i> (6 pieces)	Death Cap		13
87	<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	The Blusher		9
88	<i>Amanita virosa</i> (2 pieces)	Destroying Angel		9
89	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i> (tuft of 9 fruit bodies)	Sulphur Tuft		9
90	<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i> (2 pieces)	Rooting Shank		9
91	<i>Collybia peronata</i> (2 pieces)	Wood Woolly-foot		9
92	<i>Armillaria mellea</i> (10 pieces) small fruit bodies + real 'bootlaces'	Honey Fungus	35, 99	7
93	<i>Lactarius pubescens</i> (3 pieces)	Downy Milk-cap	42	9
94	<i>Russula ochroleuca</i> (2 pieces)	Common Yellow Russula		9
95	<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i> (9 pieces)	Liberty Caps	26	9
96	<i>Clitocybe dealbata</i> (3 pieces)	Lawn Funnel-cap	60	12
97	<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i> (3 pieces)	The Miller	64	12
98	<i>Marasmius oreades</i> (9 pieces)	Fairy Ring Champignon	38	14

Shirley Talboys' Models, Summer-autumn 2006. BMS property

99	<i>Armillaria mellea</i> . Group on log, large fruit bodies	Honey Fungus	35, 92	16
100	<i>Cortinarius orellanus</i> (3 fruit bodies, on stand)	Fool's Webcap		12
101	<i>Cortinarius cinnamomeus</i> (3 fruit bodies on stand + separate fruit body to lay down to show cortina)	Cinnamon Webcap		12

Shirley Talboys' Models, Spring 2007. Received 11 May '07 BMS property Box 15

102	<i>Leccinum versipelle</i> (3 fruit bodies, on stand)	Orange birch bolete		15
103	<i>Pluteus cervinus</i> (" ")			15
104	<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i> (" ")	Charcoal burner		15
105	<i>Pisolithus tinctorius</i> (2 joined fruit bodies; no stand)	Dye balls		15
106	<i>Omphalina pyxidata</i> (3 f.b. on stand)			15
107	<i>Agaricus silvaticus</i> (" ")	Wood mushroom		15
108	<i>Agaricus arvensis</i> (" ")	Horse mushroom		15

All this set on own ceramic bases except *P.tinctorius* which has no base and is suited for partial burial in litter.

Shirley Talboys' Models, Spring 2010. Received 20 April 2010. Paid for and retained by Henry Tribe

109	<i>Mitrula paludosa</i> (11 fruit bodies, on stand)	Bog Beacon		
110	<i>Cyathus striatus</i> (6 " " ")	Fluted Bird's Nest Fungus		
111	<i>Coprinus lagopus</i> (6 " " ")	Hare's Foot Inkcap		
112	<i>Coprinus micaceus</i> (10 " " ")	Glistening Inkcap		

All on own ceramic bases

112 Model sets, 107 species

HT 27/2/10, 30/4/10, 8/1/14

Appendix 2

BMS Travelling Exhibition. Assets to May 2010

Models or accessories	No.	No. of sets of models	Status	Present insurance valuation £	Cost to BMS £	Year
Eileen Chattaway Models		29	Long-term Loan by EC	2825		1997
Perspex travelling boxes	29		BMS property		1131	1997
Shirley Talboys Models		10	Long-term Loan by ST	220		2002
Artificial grass panels (made by Derek Frampton)	4		BMS property		120	2002
Photos of first 40 spp Digital photos Four sets of prints			BMS property		40 75-20	2003
Derek Frampton Model		1	BMS property		185	2003
Shirley Talboys Models		12	BMS property		240	2003-4
Shirley Talboys Models		22	BMS property		450	2004
Artificial grass panels	4		BMS property		160	2004
Shirley Talboys Models		15	Loaned by Henry Tribe	424		2005
Shirley Talboys Models		3	BMS property		80	2006-7
Shirley Talboys Models		7	BMS property		217-75	2007
Steve Kelly Models		10	Loaned by Steve Kelly			2010
Shirley Talboys Models		4	Ordered for BMS but paid for and retained by Henry Tribe	47-75	92-25	2010
Total		113 model sets (107 species)				

Plus:-

Simple stands of nail or polystyrene types for Shirley Talboys agarics.

Bags of dry litter - beech, birch, oak, pine and woodchips.

Appendix 3

BMS TRAVELLING EXHIBITION VENUES

	From	To	
Royal Literary & Scientific Exhibition, Bath (Eileen Chattaway Models boxed)	Jul 1997	Sep 1997	
BMS Southampton Meeting		Apr 1998	
Melton Carnegie Museum, Melton Mowbray	29 Jul 1998	21 Sep 1998	
Bristol Museums and Art Gallery	26 Sep 1998	11 Nov 1998	
Thornbury Museum (Glos.)	16 Jan 1999	13 Mar 1999	
Ipswich Museum	6 Apr 1999	19 Jun 1999	
Bedford Museum	Sep 1999	Nov 1999	
John Dony Field Centre, Luton	Nov 1999	Apr 2000	
Liverpool Museum	Apr 2000	Jun 2000	
Plantasia, Swansea	Jun 2000	30 Sep 2000	
Welsh Botanic Garden, Llanarthne	30 Sep 2000	Apr 2001	
BMS Swansea Meeting	22 Apr 2001	27 Apr 2001	
Plantasia, Swansea	Sep 2001	May 2002	
Chelsea Flower Show 2002	19 May 2002	24 May 2002	
Kew Gardens Autumn Cornucopia	12 Oct 2002	3 Nov 2002	
BMS Autumn Taxonomy Meeting, Kew		16 Nov 2002	
Luton Museum, Wardown Park	10 July 2003	2 Nov 2003	
'Cage Uncaged' Event, Barbican, London		17 Jan 2004	
BMS Main Meeting, Nottingham	12 Sep 2004	15 Sep 2004	
Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, London	19 Sep 2005	30 Nov 2005	
Hereford Museum: Hereford Festival of Fungi	5 Sep 2005	31 Oct 2005	
Chelsea Flower Show (Association of British Fungus Groups)	20 May 2006	27 May 2006	
Aylesbury Museum, Bucks County	3 Sep 2006	4 Mar 2007	
BMS Spring Foray, Isle of Arran, Scotland	17 May 2008	23 May 2008	
Cambridge Natural History Society 150 th Anniversary Conversazione	13 June 2008	15 June 2008	
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst, Hants	11 Oct 2008	16 Nov 2008	
BMS Autumn Taxonomy Meeting, Kew		22 Nov 2008	
BMS Autumn Taxonomy Meeting, Kew		14 Nov 2009	
To Edinburgh for joint BMS, RBGE display, August to Nov. 2010		8 March 2010	HT 4/5/10
To Welsh Botanic Garden after Edinburgh and still there		29/5/15	
BMS Open Meeting, Kew. Geography of Fungi		30 Nov 2013	
East Horsley Meeting		1 Mar 2014	
BMS Open Meeting, Kew. Conservation of Fungi		29 Nov 2014	HT 29/5/15