DATE: 19 July 2000
TO: BSA Council
FROM: Laurence E. Skog, BSA Representative to Association for Systematic Collections (ASC)
SUBJECT: Highlights of ASC Activities-2000

The major activity of the current year was the annual meeting of ASC, MD 13-15 May 2000, at which I represented the Botanical Society of America. The meeting is detailed in the June 2000 ASC Newsletter (see also the ASC website at www.ascoll.org), but here are a few highlights: over 150 registrants at which included directors, staff, and faculty from more than 65 museums, as many officials from U.S. government agencies. There was a wide-ranging program of sessions and panels on a variety of topics such as innovative collaboration, biodiversity, information technology, museum programs, as well as a separate program of online and web-based demonstrations of museum and university activities. The address was presented by the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, biological community and the role and future of the National Biological Infrastructure, this was followed by a funding workshop that included representatives from NASA, U.S. Dept. Commerce, and the Inst. of Museum and Library Services. The keynote speaker was Dr. Rita Colwell, NSF Director, introduced by Senator Bob Bennett as part of the special festivities at the ASC meeting to honor NSF's 50th anniversary. Unveiled was ASC's Web Gallery of NSF-funded project, which can be seen at the Field Museum, Morton Arboretum, Illinois State Museum and the History Survey will host the next ASC annual meeting in Chicago during 2001; meeting dates have not yet been determined.

Throughout the year ASC continued to distribute on-line a bi-monthly newsletter, called Washington Initiative, which highlights of recent news, collections, in addition to the printed ASC Newsletter. The electronic newsletter is sent to interested ASC member institutions and societies, and can be sent to interested recipients by Manager Kim Hiser.

Various requests for information received from ASC were forwarded to Manager Kim Hiser.