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HUGH JONES, AN ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTOR IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY MARYLAND

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In several accounts (e.g. Wilkinson, 1966a, 1966b, 1969a, 1969b) I have suggested the role of the English apothecary and naturalist James Petiver (ca. 1663-1718) in promoting the first widespread entomological collecting activities in the English seaboard colonies. In his eagerness to obtain natural history objects for his own cabinet, Petiver furnished collecting equipment and directions, as well as frequent "reminders" of his needs, to overseas travellers, emigrating colonists, and settled residents. He built up a considerable correspondence with persons in the American colonies who sent him zoological and botanical specimens, and a good example of his *modus operandi* is the case of the Reverend Hugh Jones, who became a member of Petiver's "circle" of friends before his departure for the colony of Maryland.

Ewan and Ewan (1970) have traced the interest caused by John Banister's seventeenth-century reports of the flora and fauna of the colony of Virginia among those English naturalists who followed his accounts and received his specimens. Banister was killed accidentally in 1692, and his loss weighed heavily upon English recipients of his favors. When Francis Nicholson, himself a dilettante in natural history, was appointed governor of Maryland, he was in need of a chaplain, and those who recalled Banister's contributions grasped at the opportunity of sending a willing correspondent to the colony on the Chesapeake. Edward Lhwyd, a friend of Petiver and keeper of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, wrote to the physician and naturalist Martin Lister about a candidate who had "little skill" in botany but "some little smattering in other parts of Nat. History." Despite his shortcomings, he could be made "a fit man to succeed Mr. Banister" (Lhwyd to Lister, 1 January 1693/4; Lister MS. 36, Bodleian Library, f. 83).

In the fall of 1695 Lhwyd sent Hugh Jones, an undergraduate of Gloucester Hall and an assistant at the Museum, to London with letters of recommendation in the hope that he might secure the place. Henry Compton, the Bishop of London, was a member of the Temple Coffee House botanical "club" to which Petiver and his friends belonged, and Compton was willing that the candidate also become a representative of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, thus providing him with additional funds (Stearns, 1952). Through the machinations of these men who were interested in promoting natural knowledge while stocking their own cabinets, young Jones was promoted on Lhwyd's recommendation that none other at Oxford who was available had "any notion of Natural History wherein I am well assured he'll be no lesse industrious than Mr. Banister" (Lhwyd to Lister, 14 November [1695]; Lister MS. 3, f. 144). Although Jones was twenty-four (he appears to have been born ca. 1671), he was but an undergraduate, and was hardly prepared for holy orders. Nevertheless he was ordained by the Bishop and groomed for his departure to Maryland.

Petiver and his friends did not lose a moment. Jones was "daily treated and complimented" by the apothecary, who wanted insects and shells from Maryland, and by Samuel Doody and James Ayrey, who coveted botanical specimens (Jones to Lhwyd, 31 December [1695]; Ashmolean MS. 1829, Bodleian Library, f. 10). He was well supplied with directions and apparatus, and finally left in the spring of 1696 to join Nicholson in Maryland. As it turned out, Jones stayed with Nicholson only a short while, and soon accepted the ministry of Christ Church parish in Calvert County. (Stearns, 1952, has separated the rather confusing melange of Hugh Joneses in colonial Maryland.) Despite Petiver's continuous letters of entreaty (Sloane MS. 3333, British Library, ff. 73r, 75r-77r, 77r-79r, 79r-80r) it was not until the following March that Jones sent his first shipment of insects, shells, fossils and botanical specimens.

These were preceded by a long letter to Petiver and his friends, in which Jones described the circumstances of his voyage and his subsequent adventures. Since his arrival he had been "as diligent in quest of Naturall curiosities" as his calling would permit, but when he became settled "it was too late to look for plants or Insects." he had since examined the productions of the country, and promised that in the coming summer he would "procure considerable collections of vegetables Animals & mineralls," having hired an assistant for the purpose (Jones to Petiver, Doody and Ayrey, 26 March 1697; Sloane 3333, ff. 65v-67r). Petiver replied with thanks for the collections, which had arrived soon afterward, and requested the native names of all the species. Other letters followed, in which Jones was sent medicinal receipts and other information (Sloane 3333, ff. 80 r-v, 81r-82r, 82v-85r, 87r-v).

In October Jones was cautioned by Petiver that butterflies and moths should be "put into a book as soon as caught like 2 or 3 I send you after ye manner of Plants this way will preserve them without any further trouble & let them not be removed from ye places y are first put in for ye moistness in their bodies will then cause them to stick." A small book was suggested as it could be carried in the pocket, and wide collecting was urged, as "then will nothing ab[ou]t you [e]scape." Ayrey was sending "some bottles of stout Beer for yr Mornings daughts," and Petiver was adding "a Cheeshire cheese leaving Bread & ye other part of Batchelers fare for to be procured by yr self," as well as some wide-mouthed vials to be half-filled with "Rum or Brandy, in wch you may drown all ye supernumerary Insects as Bees flies spiders . . . except Butterflies & Moths being such as have farinaceous or Mealy wings they being more proper for the Box or rather Book" (Petiver to Jones, 10 October 1697; Sloane 3333, ff. 87v-88v).

Jones was plied in every possible manner by Petiver and his friends in order to elicit more insects and plants. Sending Jones new year wishes for 1698, Petiver reminded him that "I begin to grow impatient till I hear again from you, it being now almost a Year . . . & I was in mighty expectation of the Insects yu promised to get ye last Summer." Petiver warned that "yr Insects will not mend by keeping them long by you. Therefore I would beg yu would send wh. yu have by yu by every Opportunity" (Petiver to Jones, undated [late 1697]; Sloane 3333, ff. 91v-93r). In the summer of 1698 Jones did indeed dispatch another shipment of insects, shells and plants, collected and packed according to Petiver's specifications.

The apothecary sent warm thanks in October, pressing his case once more and requesting still "another Collection of Insects in preserving of wch you have taken ye best Method in sending ye Butterflies, Moths Libella [*i.e.* Odonata] &c in Books & ye thickbodied Insects as Beetles, Buggs, Bees, Grasshoppers &c in Boxes." Petiver announced that he was preparing a catalogue of Jones' specimens in a letter "wch should be published in ye Philosophicall Transactions in a Month or two, wch shall be sent yu" (Petiver to Jones, 6 October 1698; Sloane 3333, f. 170r-v). The "letter" appeared in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society of London (of which Petiver was a Fellow) as "*Remarks by Mr. James Petiver . . . on some Animals, Plants, &c. sent to him from Maryland, by the Reverend Mr. Hugh Jones.*" Described were a turtle, a king crab, a number of shells, various insect specimens (apparently all Coleoptera), and a great number of plants.

Jones sent yet further collections which were acknowledged by Petiver (Petiver to Jones, 2 January 1698/9; Sloane 3333, ff. 257v-258r), but in 1700 the Maryland minister became seriously ill with an asthma which had developed complications, and despite the comfortable living he held in the New World, he wished heartily that he could return to England. Forwarding some plants to Petiver, he complained that he could not "walk a Fields breadth if it has any ascent without panting for breath & you will own yt a man in yt condicon is not fit to catch butterflies." He often "spit up little stones as big as [a] pins head . . . these things are enough to discourage any man from action" (Jones to Petiver, 26 February [1700/1]; Sloane 4063, 68r). Jones' untimely death in January 1701/2 at the probable age of thirty or thirty-one was apparently due to the worsening of his malady.

Although some of Jones' English correspondents complained of the condition of the botanical specimens which he shipped from Maryland, this was probably less the fault of Jones than it was the result of risky transatlantic voyages in the age of sail. Petiver was more than pleased with Jones' performance, for in the time which he could spare, the minister

was a diligent and faithful collector. Petiver praised him in the fourth "century" of his *Musei Petiveriani* (1699) as a "very curious Person in all parts of Natural History," and the apothecary's papers include a number of lists of Jones' specimens, including an interesting inventory of Maryland Lepidoptera (Sloane 3324, ff. 75-78; other lists are in Sloane 3324, ff. 4-5; 3330, ff. 771, 772, 825-826; and 3331, f. 50). Petiver mentioned Jones' specimens in several of his publications in the *Musei Petiveriani* and *Gazophylacii* series, and some are still identifiable in those of Petiver's collections which are preserved at the British Museum (Natural History). Jones' plants and seeds were generally very welcome in England, and they found their way into various botanical gardens of importance (Stearns, 1970). At least one of his accounts of Maryland, sent in a letter of 23 January 1698/99 to Benjamin Woodroffe, was partially printed; it was extracted in the *Philosophical Transactions* for December, 1699. Although Jones was little more than a collector of specimens who, despite Petiver's praise, claimed no great knowledge of natural history, he was among the earliest collectors to send American insects for the study of transatlantic scientists, and he deserves a small place in our entomological history.

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