Theophilus Redwood (1806-1892) - One of the founding members of the Pharmaceutical Society, Theophilus Redwood started his career in Cardiff. He then moved to London where he was employed by John Bell, alongside John's son, Jacob Bell. He was appointed the first curator of the newly created museum at the Pharmaceutical Society in 1842, along with his other duties as Professor of Pharmacy at the Society's school, a sub-editor of the Pharmaceutical Journal and the head librarian of the Society's library. He lobbied colleagues, collectors and pharmaceutical firms to donate specimens to the fledgling museum.

In the first year, he was able to report 570 specimens; by 1843 he had 850 to form the core of the collection. Because of Redwood's many other responsibilities within the Society, he occasionally came under some criticism from the council for neglecting the routine maintenance of the museum collection. This resulted in the creation of a full time curatorial position for the rapidly increasing collection in 1868.

Redwood's main interests lay in the study of chemistry, so he was also made director of the chemistry laboratory when it was opened in 1844. Along with John Attfield and Robert Bentley he was the joint editor of the 1867 edition of the British Pharmacopoeia. His dedication and contribution to the formation and development of the Pharmaceutical Society was commemorated by his colleagues in the creation of the Redwood Scholarship following his death.
Edward Holmes

In 1872 Edward Holmes was appointed curator, a position he would hold for the next 50 years. Before acquiring this post he had received his education at the Pharmaceutical Society, where he was honoured with several awards for academic excellence. After having just missed being selected for an assistantship at the Kew Herbarium, he worked at Wright, Seller and Layman, in London for a while before coming to the Pharmaceutical Society.

As curator, Holmes worked tirelessly, despite many financial and spatial restrictions, to maintain and exhibit the unique collection. Holmes was instrumental in building, preserving and recording the collection. He created a special teaching collection, from which the students and teachers could borrow specimens, allowing the main collection to remain protected from over-use. He also created a complete catalogue of the collection as well as organising and identifying the specimens.

Alongside his curatorial duties he also held the post of Professor of Materia Medica from 1887-1890 and published widely in the field of botany and other natural sciences, including at least 600 papers on botany and materia medica in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Thomas Edward Wallis

T.E. Wallis as a student in the Chemistry lab, 1898 (Copyright: Royal Pharmaceutical Society)
In 1925 T. E. Wallis was appointed a part-time curator; he would hold this position until 1949. After passing his exams at the Pharmaceutical Society School of Pharmacy, Wallis held various teaching and analytical positions before returning to the Pharmaceutical Society as a lecturer. He was made Professor of Pharmacognosy in 1924 and continued to contribute greatly to the development of this field of pharmacy. In 1946 he published Textbook of Pharmacognosy and was responsible for the reorganisation of the curriculum for pharmacy students towards a more chemistry-based education.

As curator of the museum, Wallis was a meticulous note-taker and worked to extend the collections significantly. He encouraged research students from around the world to work and study in the museum.

After 1934, use of the museum was considerably reduced, as the School of Pharmacy's expansion took much of the area originally designated for the museum. This area was further reduced to a storage room in the basement when the collections moved back to Bloomsbury Square after being evacuated during the Second World War. As curator, Holmes worked tirelessly, despite many financial and spatial restrictions, to maintain and exhibit the unique collection. Holmes was instrumental in building, preserving and recording the collection. He created a special teaching collection, from which the students and teachers could borrow specimens, allowing the main collection to remain protected from over-use. He also created a complete catalogue of the collection as well as organising and identifying the specimens. Alongside his curatorial duties he also held the post of Professor of Materia Medica from 1887-1890 and published widely in the field of botany and other natural sciences, including at least 600 papers on botany and materia medica in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

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The Museum was started in 1842 in a ground floor, front room of No. 17 Bloomsbury Square, London. In 1863, the building next door was acquired and three more rooms were allocated to the museum's collection which had already reached several thousand specimens. During the Second World War the School of Pharmacy was evacuated to Cardiff and the museum collections went to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington for safe keeping. When they were returned after the war, there was no area designated for the exhibition of the collection so it remained in storage, occasionally being used for temporary exhibitions at the Pharmaceutical Society and elsewhere around the country. In 1968 the museum collection went to the University of Bradford, and in 1976 the Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters were moved to No. 1 Lambeth High Street, where they remain today.
This photo shows the interior of the Museum at No. 17 Bloomsbury Square in 1883. The main purpose of the museum collection was as a repository for authentic and commercial specimens of drugs. It also served to supply professors within the School of Pharmacy with samples with which to illustrate their lectures. This practice of lending items resulted in many specimens deteriorating quickly or being misplaced. When Edward Holmes took over curatorship of the collection he created a separate teaching collection available for the use of the professors. He was then able to focus on expanding, instead of preserving, the main collection.

In 1937 the Museum at the Pharmaceutical Society began an historical collection. It no longer actively collected materia medica, but focused its collection policy on ceramics, caricatures and proprietary medicines. Today these historical collections number around 45,000 objects, and the Museum is one of the leaders in its field.

Economic Botany Collection
When the collection reached Kew much of it was re-housed in airtight jars for better preservation. It was accessioned into the larger Economic Botany Collection, with the financial support of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Here at Kew the Royal Pharmaceutical Society collection is used in a variety of ways. Some of the items are on public display in the Plants+People Exhibition in Museum No. 1. The majority of the collection is held in the Economic Botany Collection, in the Sir Joseph Banks Building, where it is accessible to researchers. In 1988 Christine Stockwell, who was involved with the integration of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society donation into Kew's collections, published *Nature's Pharmacy, A History of Plants and Healing*. This book is based on the holdings of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society collection at Kew and is a good introduction to its history. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society collection is also used in current scientific research at Kew and elsewhere, for example as reference material for chemical analysis to assist with authentication and to evaluate the quality of some plant products, including those used for medicinal purposes.