

# The Phycologist



The Newsletter of

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The British Phycological Society

**STRICTLY MARGINAL**

**BY R.H.RICHENS**

**with verses by R. A. LEWIN**

**and**

**illustrations by G.E.FOGG**

At the outbreak of the Second World War the UK was cut off from its accustomed supplies of agar and alginic acid and an urgent survey of the seaweed resources of the British Isles became necessary. This was carried out by four members of the Cambridge Botany School working for the Marine Biological Association under contract to the Ministry of Supply. For the participants it was a unique opportunity to see a large part of the unspoilt British coastline and to become acquainted with the variety of communities which lived by it. Their bohemian appearance and peculiar activities naturally aroused deep suspicions in the minds of the police and those responsible for coastal defence, and their travels were not devoid of incident. Afterwards, the three junior members of the team put together, with some artistic licence, their story of the survey. The phycological content of this account is indeed marginal but its record of youthful excesses and undergraduate philosophies, having accumulated the dust of fifty years, is now put before a, hopefully, indulgent public as a quaint fragment of social history.

The publication date will be 1st. January 1996 and the book will be on sale at the Lancaster meeting of the Society, from 2-5th January 1996, at a special price of £8.00. The subsequent price for copies ordered by post will be (including postage and credit card costs):

Within the U.K.	£14.00
Europe	£18.00
Rest of World	£20.00

The address for mail orders (credit cards accepted):

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