

# PROCEEDINGS

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## THE PROPOSED NEW MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY AT CAMBRIDGE.

It is desired to call the attention of members of the University of Cambridge and others interested in Archaeology and Ethnology to the following statement:—

The present Museum of Archæology came into existence in 1884, and the Ethnological and Archæological collections and Library, at that time by no means extensive, were housed in the small building in Little St Mary's Lane; the Archæological section consisting only of the transferred Museum and Library of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society<sup>1</sup>, and the Maudslay casts of Central American sculptures, while the Ethnological section was limited to the Gordon and the Maudslay collections from Fiji, the von Hügel Loan collection from Oceania, and the Hepburn collection from the North-West Coast of America.

Even for these the accommodation barely sufficed, and during the twenty-two years which have passed since the date mentioned, the additions, both Archæological and Ethnological, have been very numerous and valuable. The influx of accessions has been due not only to direct presentations and to bequests but also to the material help afforded, since 1886, by the Museums Accessions Fund, which has been maintained by private subscriptions and by yearly grants, for the purchase of local antiquities, made by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society: sums to the total amount of £2356 having been received since that date.

But while the University is thus in possession of most valuable material, for purposes of teaching and research, it is rendered practically useless by the fact that only a fraction of it can be exhibited. Oxford possesses in the Pitt-Rivers Museum a magnificent building which permits of the exhibition of its

<sup>1</sup> These collections, known as "The Cambridge Antiquarian Museum and Library," were presented to the University by the Society in 1883 on condition of their being properly housed and maintained.

collections in a manner that specially facilitates teaching, but the Museum at Cambridge is little more than two narrow passages. Not only are there no rooms available for demonstration or research, but a corner of the basement has to serve as workroom, and cases have to be unpacked in the galleries. Even the basement became so crowded three years ago that a warehouse half-a-mile distant had to be hired for storing part of the collections. Under such conditions, as may readily be conceived, the actual preservation of the specimens is becoming a matter of difficulty. It is, moreover, found that potential donors are beginning to hesitate about offering their collections if they are housed in such disadvantageous circumstances.

The interest aroused of late years in Anthropological studies has been especially marked in the University, and this development has not been confined to teaching only. Cambridge, never behindhand in research work in foreign countries, has of late displayed an extraordinary increase of activity in this respect. To give but a few among numberless instances, Cambridge travellers have explored the buried cities of Guatemala, penetrated uncharted rivers of South America, studied the tribes of the Malay Peninsula, traversed such little-visited lands as Saghalin and Kamtchatka, compiled the folk-lore of Celebes, and recorded native manners and customs in the Greek islands and the atolls of the Maldives. Recently a special Cambridge expedition of seven members investigated the ethnology of British New Guinea and Sarawak. To these and other travellers the Museum is indebted for numerous specimens and in some cases for entire collections.

A first and most important step towards the direct encouragement in the University of studies of this kind was taken last year by the foundation of the Anthony Wilkin Studentship for the investigation of the more primitive races of mankind, in memory of a Cambridge student who died while engaged in archæological and ethnological work in Egypt.

The importance of the study of the cultural development of the past and present races of mankind is becoming daily more and more recognised. England of all countries can least afford to neglect it, for her vast over-sea expansion has made her the

ruler over innumerable tribes and peoples whose customs, implements, and speech are in many cases fast disappearing before the new order of things. It is of no less importance to the historian than to the ethnologist that each fact should be recorded, each article preserved, while there is yet time. The University recognised this need by founding lectureships in Physical Anthropology and in Ethnology and by establishing in 1905 a Special Board of Anthropological Studies.

There is another point of no little importance to which it is desirable to call special attention. By the erection of this New Museum it is not only Local and General Archæology and Ethnology which will benefit. The Fitzwilliam Museum of Classical Archæology, at present housed under the same roof, will succeed to the space thus vacated, and the Syndics will then be able to carry out the plan long entertained of extending the existing collection of Casts, now representative of Greek and Roman Art only, so as to include in the series of exhibits reproductions of the sculpture of the East and of the Medieval and Renaissance periods of art.

The University so long ago as November, 1897, officially admitted the necessity for a new Museum, and an excellent and central site in the Downing grounds was assigned for the building in close proximity to the other museums. In 1899 a Building Committee was appointed, but owing to lack of funds nothing more has been done. Meanwhile public generosity has enabled the departments of Geology, of Law, and of Botany, to erect on this recently acquired land the Sedgwick Memorial Museum, the Law School with the Squire Library, and the School of Botany. These Institutions, with the neighbouring School for Medicine, were formally opened by Their Majesties the King and Queen on March 1, 1904, so that now the proposed Museum of Archæology and of Ethnology is the only building required to complete this fine new court.

The cost of the proposed building, with the necessary fittings, will probably not be less than £25,000, and this estimate makes no provision for the maintenance of the building or for the purchase of specimens and books. The financial resources of the University have of late been taxed to the utmost to main-

tain the efficiency of the older scientific departments, and no funds are available. It is therefore necessary to appeal to the public for help, in order to raise the sum required for the erection and the equipment of a Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology which will satisfy the present urgent needs of the University in this department of study.

*Subscriptions may be paid to the Appeal Account of the University Association at Messrs BARCLAY & CO'S BANK, CAMBRIDGE, or to the Secretary, Mr J. E. FOSTER, No. 10, TRINITY STREET, CAMBRIDGE.*

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*March 1908.*

The Building fund now amounts to £7,622. 19s. 6d.; four thousand pounds of this sum having been given "In Memory of Walter K. Foster," by Mrs Walter K. Foster, Charles Finch Foster, Esq., E. Bird Foster, Esq., and Mrs Ed. Rawlings, to whom the thanks of all who wish to see the New Museum an accomplished fact are due.

Detailed plans and estimates for the building are under consideration but until a larger sum is collected the foundations cannot be laid.

Mr W. B. REDFERN then exhibited some objects from his collection, and the Curator commented on some of the recent additions to the Archæological Museum.

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