

Antiquity

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Editorial

THAT famous institution, the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, has been celebrating its centenary. On 8th October 1866, George Peabody, in a letter addressed to seven trustees whom he had selected, conveyed \$150,000 to their care for the establishment of a museum. George Peabody was the son of a small farmer in South Danvers, Massachusetts, now renamed Peabody in his honour. While in his teens he inaugurated the dry-goods business which had hitherto merely been part of general stores. He established a financial, economic and intellectual link with Europe, and it was in London, with the establishment of the Peabody Houses, that his major philanthropies began. He was a friend of Queen Victoria and when he died it was requested that he should be buried in Westminster Abbey. His family, however, wanted him brought back to America, and he was therefore temporarily buried in the Abbey (where a plaque in the floor commemorates this brief interment) and his body then brought home in H.M.S. *Monarch*, her Captain's saloon transformed into a mourning chamber by Her Majesty's carpenter.

The idea of establishing a museum came to George Peabody from his nephew Othniel P. Marsh of the Yale class of 1860. He wrote of this: 'The first idea of the Peabody Museum at Cambridge occurred to me in October, 1865, while digging in an ancient mound near Newark, Ohio, and that evening I wrote to my uncle, Mr Peabody, urging him to establish such a museum. . . . My own interest in American archaeology was mainly due to Sir Charles

Lyell who has just published his *Antiquity of Man*, and, when I saw him in London, he urged me in the strongest terms to take up the subject in America as a new field for exploration.' In his letter to the trustees in 1866 George Peabody wrote: 'I leave in your hands the details and management of the trust; only suggesting, that, in view of the gradual obliteration or destruction of the works and remains of the ancient races of this continent, the labor of exploration and collection be commenced at as early a day as practicable: and also, that, in the event of the discovery in America of human remains or implements of an earlier geological period than the present, especial attention be given to their study, and their comparison with those found in other countries.'

This information is taken from a delightful and informative pamphlet entitled *Early Days of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University*, written by Dr John Otis Brew, the present Director of the Museum and Peabody Professor of American Archaeology and Ethnology (published by the Museum, Cambridge, Mass., 1966). Dr Brew tells us that George Peabody, to many a forgotten man, is having his life written by Franklin Parker: this book should make interesting reading.

Among the various ways in which the Peabody Museum celebrated its centenary was a series of five lectures surveying the development of aspects of archaeology and anthropology in the period 1866-1966. The first lecture was given by Professor Gordon Willey, Bowditch Professor of Central American and Mexican

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Archaeology and Ethnology in the Peabody Museum. In this lecture Willey set out a scheme dividing the history of American archaeology into four periods: first, the pioneer or preparatory era—a period of speculation; secondly, the descriptive period from the mid-19th century until the second decade of the 20th century—the period which saw the beginning of systematic and descriptive archaeology; thirdly, the descriptive-historic, following what Willey called the stratigraphic revolution in American archaeology—from the second decade of the 20th century to 1950; and the fourth from 1950 onwards, which Willey called the comparative-historic period.

The second lecture in this Peabody centenary series (and all five lectures in enlarged form are being published by the Harvard University Press) was given by the present Editor of ANTIQUITY; it surveyed the development of Old World prehistory in the last hundred years and suggested that there could be similar periods devised for the development of antiquarian and archaeological studies in Europe and the Near East. The first—the pioneer, preparatory, or speculative period—extended from the medieval antiquaries with their guesses, to the late 18th and early 19th centuries when students of the material remains of the past, not satisfied by Dr Johnson's dictum that all that could be known about the ancient past was derived from early writers, were trying to find facts by observing field monuments and by digging. The second period of Old World archaeology which, again following Willey, can be called the descriptive, or perhaps the formative, period, was from 1797 to 1859–65. It was in 1797 that John Frere sent his letter and package of Acheulian hand-axes to the Society of Antiquaries of London. The publication of John Lubbock's *Prehistoric Times* in 1865, with its introduction of the neo-grecisms Palaeolithic and Neolithic, and the Paris Exposition of 1867, surely mark the end of the descriptive or formative period of Old World archaeology. The third and main stage in the development was from 1865 to 1945 which, in the Willey terminology, can be called the descriptive-historic. The stratigraphic revolution in Old World archaeology dated before

this: Frere himself had observed stratigraphy at the end of the 18th century, and Worsaae had described his stratigraphical observations in the Danish peat-bogs and the barrows of Jutland, while Meadows Taylor made stratigraphical observations in the megalithic tombs of Hyderabad in 1851. This third period, of 80 years, can be referred to as from Lubbock to Libby, because there can surely be no doubt that the discovery and development of radiocarbon dating starts a new period in Old World, as in New World, archaeology. If the second period was characterized by what has been described as the geological and antiquarian revolutions, and the third period by the stratigraphic revolution, then the fourth period is brought into existence and characterized by the C14 revolution. When we have all the C14 dates we want we may move from the fourth or comparative-historical phase to a fifth and cultural-analytic phase, and only then will the discipline of prehistoric archaeology take its proper place in the study of mankind.



Sir Cyril Fox died when the March number of ANTIQUITY had passed its final proof stage. His funeral service was in Exeter Cathedral, and a memorial service was held in St James's, Piccadilly, on 16th March of this year. The address at the memorial service was given by Professor Stuart Piggott, and he tells us that many of the wise and moving things he then said will be incorporated in the obituary of Cyril Fox which he is writing for the *Proceedings of the British Academy*. We ourselves wrote a notice for the Welsh Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and reproduce here what was said then, by kind permission of the Corporation:

Sir Cyril Fox will be remembered inside Wales as in the world at large for three things: he was a great archaeologist, he was a great museum director, he was a great man. *The Times*, in an admirable obituary of him published yesterday, called him 'the eminent archaeologist', and those who read *The Times* obituaries carefully will know how infrequently scholars achieve eminence in those notices. Cyril Fox *was* eminent. His

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early archaeological work was done in Cambridge, from which University I am speaking at the moment. His famous *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* was published in 1923 when he was assistant to the Curator of the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The next year he went to Cardiff to be Keeper of Archaeology in the National Museum of Wales. The Director of that Museum was then Mortimer Wheeler: two years later Fox succeeded Wheeler as Director, and held that difficult and important post for more than a quarter of a century. During his reign that fine Museum grew and developed and flourished under his inspiring and inspired leadership. He lived up to the ideals of the Museum, and saw that it taught the Welsh about themselves and the world about Wales. And he managed to achieve what few but the really great in this world of museums do achieve, namely to run a very large museum efficiently, humanly and well, to take the proper part in Welsh cultural and academic life which the Director of the National Museum of Wales should do, and yet to remain a creative scholar. For his 25 years saw an output of archaeological work—excavation reports, field surveys, and general syntheses—which would have done credit to an archaeologist who had no museum to run. Cyril Fox had the ability to switch from the minutiae of Museum administration to major issues of academic and Museum policy and to his personal scholarship and writing with an ease and assurance which was the envy of most people. His work as an excavator of Bronze Age barrows in Wales and his work on the survey and description of Offa's Dyke will always be remembered as models of digging and field archaeology, just as his books *The Personality of Britain* (first published in 1932) and *Pattern and Purpose* (in 1958) will long be remembered as stirring, seminal works in general archaeology.

He brought to his archaeology that infectious enthusiasm which made him such a nice man. It was this enthusiasm, this humanity, that enabled him to re-create the past, to bring the dead bones alive as he did so often, and so notably in his *Life and Death in the Bronze Age*. It was this enthusiasm and humanity that made him such an inspiring companion, such a loyal friend. It may sound patronizing to say that Cyril Fox was a nice man—but that is what he was: he was one of those rarities—a man with few if any enemies. My wife and I went to see him on Boxing Day: he was obviously very ill,

and his mind was in the past—the past of the '20s and '30s and '40s when he was active in Cambridge and Cardiff. We mentioned many names, some dead like Hector Chadwick, Louis Clarke, Seán ÓRiordáin, Lord Raglan, and some alive—Sir Thomas Kendrick, Tom Lethbridge, Maureen O'Reilly, Mortimer Wheeler, Stuart Piggott. All registered clearly in his mind and he said a kind appreciative sentence about each one. Then he said, 'Old friends—how fortunate I was to have had so many friends.' Cyril Fox was a modest man, and, even at the end, he did not realize that he had had a lifetime of friends and admirers because he himself was always the most generous, most kind, most human friend to all of us. There are not many such men.

While ANTIQUITY does not, and we think, should not, publish formal necrologies, the passing of a great archaeologist and friend of our journal needs more than a brief mention. This is why we have printed our own comments, and why we publish below the following from Mrs G. E. Blundell of Nottage Court, Porthcawl, Glamorgan.

Mrs Blundell writes in a letter to us dated 5th February 1967:

Friendship with Cyril Fox was something very special, to be cherished. There were so many sides to the man, like the facets of a finely cut jewel.

He was not only an archaeologist, but an artist as well. The way in which he always explained things to young people, with an active pen or pencil in hand, was typical of the way the keen brain expressed itself. Charming small pictures of, for instance, little Miss Iron Age trying to make a pot, or blowing the fire for her father, heating up his three-cornered crucible full of bronze, to make a ring or a fibula, also drawn, grew under his fingers on any old envelope out of his pocket.

Such things were a joy to my young family, when he used to come and join in the Candleston 'digs' on the Early Iron site at weekends. His enthusiasm was infectious, and one of the circle, busily working under his direction, was heard to remark, 'Isn't he lovely! He's just like a terrier after a rat!' He was a most unselfish person, always thoughtful for others, and more likely to give credit to those he worked with, than to take it for himself.

He lived his life hard and got an immense

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amount of fun out of it and so did all those infected by his enthusiasm.

May he enjoy The Elysian Fields, for Beauty, too, was one of his joys.

I am thankful for all my remembrances of him.



The Trustees of the British Museum produced a Report in February of this year, and it is the first Report upon the Museum that has been presented by its Trustees since the year 1939. It is called *The British Museum: Report of the Trustees, 1966* and can be obtained from the Publications Office of the Museum for 5s. (by post 6s.). It is excellent value for the money and must be bought by all if only for the photographs—there are 54 plates in all—which include (in colour) the Lycurgus Cup and the exquisite 15th-century Dunstable Swan jewel, and, in black and white, the Roman bronze portrait head of the Emperor Claudius, the Chinese bronze wrestlers of the 5th–4th centuries B.C. purchased last year from the Spencer-Churchill collection, and the Enkomi Silver Cup of c. 1400 B.C.—a fascinating pair of photographs showing the cup before and after its treatment in the Research Laboratory. The Report is a survey of the history of the Museum in the last quarter-century and contains much which, in its own words, ‘will be of interest to those, inside and outside this country, who are familiar with the affairs of the Museum and its famous collections.’

ANTIQUITY has often criticized the British Museum: here the Trustees criticize themselves and their predecessors and set out the great difficulties which have beset this great Museum in the last 25 years, which include the evacuation and dispersal caused by the war of 1939–45, and shattering bomb damage—events which the Report with calculated understatement refers to as ‘a succession of distracting experiences’. The Trustees say that they regard the general situation of the Museum as ‘so little satisfactory’, which the general reader will interpret as plainly meaning unsatisfactory. They draw the attention of Parliament to this and the great unsolved problems that lie ahead. Miss Jennie Lee has interested herself in the

affairs of the Museum. She described how she had ‘gone slumming’ in the Museum and found that in one department 95 per cent of the material was stowed away in boxes and on shelves in the basement. Conditions in some parts of the British Museum are so bad, she said during a progress report on Government policy for the Arts, that ‘they constitute a scandalous waste of precious national assets’. Strong words from a Minister and words which caused *The Times* to devote its first leader to the problem: a leader (17th March 1967) which opens with the words, ‘The British Museum is in a sorry plight’, goes on to say, ‘Its treasures cannot be exhibited to general satisfaction, and it cannot provide all the aids to scholarship that it should’, and ends with a plea for a radical transformation of the Museum, which, it says, must happen ‘if it is to survive as a great national institution and one of the great museums of the world.’ All power to the Minister for the Arts and the new Trustees of the British Museum appointed under the 1963 Act. There is no real reason why these things should be arranged better on the banks of the Seine and in Chapultepec Park, though at present they are.

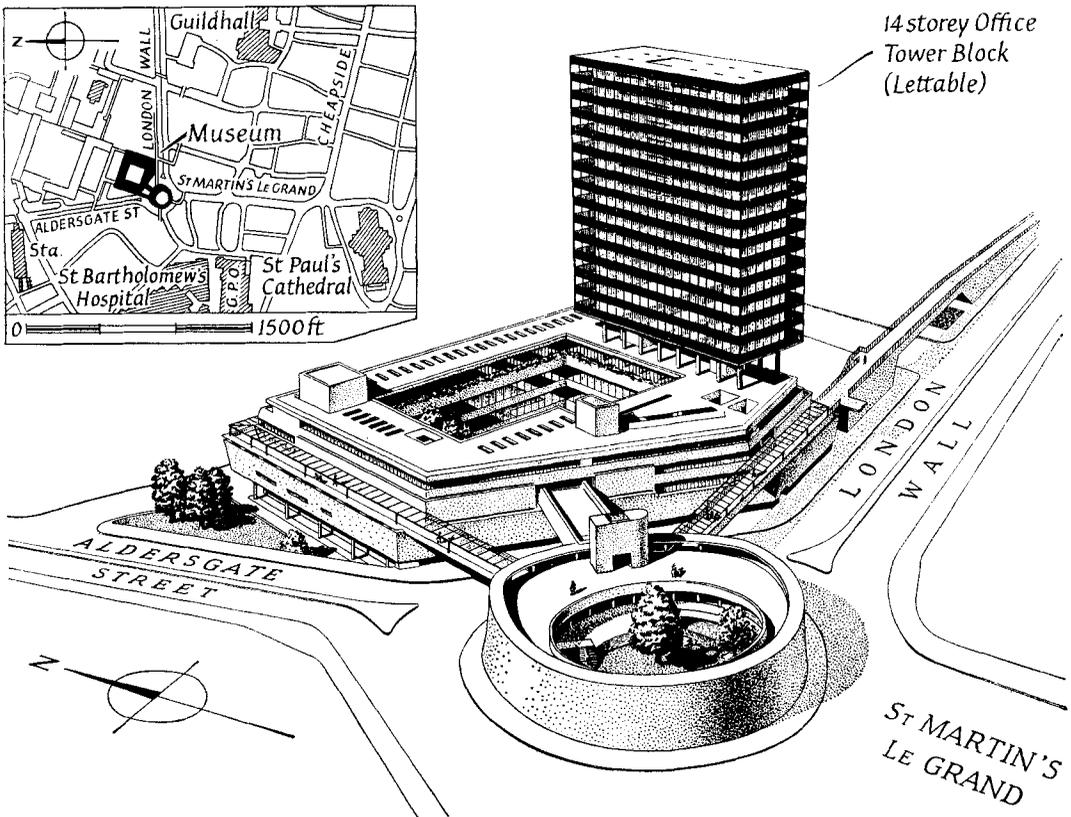


Most of our readers in Great Britain will have seen by now the announcement that the Government have agreed to the proposals for the construction of the new Museum of London. This is excellent news. We print here, for the benefit of our overseas readers, our artist’s impression of the new Museum. The architects are Messrs Powell and Moya.



A warm welcome to a new archaeological journal: it is called *Current Archaeology* and the first number was published in March of this year. It is to come out six times a year and the annual subscription is £1: if the present number is typical of what we are going to get, then at 20 shillings for six numbers we are having very good value. It is published at 128 *Barnsbury Road, London, N.1*, and the editors are Andrew and Wendy Selkirk. Andrew Selkirk read Greats at Oxford and was

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Impression of the new Museum of London (drawn for ANTIQUITY by H. A. Shelley)

President of the Oxford University Archaeological Society: his wife read History at Exeter. They describe their aims and methods in their first Editorial:

Current Archaeology hopes to provide a guide for everyone to just what is going on in archaeology. To do this we have travelled extensively. In the last year we have covered nearly 20,000 miles in our motor caravan, travelling the length and breadth of the country from Scotland to Cornwall, and visiting nearly 100 excavations. . . . *Current Archaeology* is our report on what we have seen and heard . . . in every case we have submitted our articles to the excavators concerned.

All luck to the Selkirks. There is plenty of room for many archaeological magazines. We are glad to know from Miss Dorothy Heighes Woodforde that *The Archaeological News Letter*, despite its

irregular appearance in the last few years, is by no means defunct, as some pessimists have informed us. This, too, is good news, and there is more: yet another archaeological journal may soon be started in Britain. We have always felt that there is a great reading public for clearly presented, popularly written archaeology, but we were not prepared for the success story which *Archéologia: Trésors des Ages* has been in France. It printed 77,500 copies of its March/April number this year and has an editorial and administrative staff of 19. Meanwhile, cheering news from the office of ANTIQUITY which is conducted by an editorial and administrative staff of 2.5. When the subscription was put up to £2 10s. the prophets of doom forecast a considerable drop in our subscribers. In the event this has proved untrue and we now have more subscribers than ever before. It is worth

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reminding those who submit articles and notes to ANTIQUITY that well over half our subscribers live outside the British Isles.



We are always being asked for information about how to get on a dig. *The Council for British Archaeology*, 8 *St Andrew's Place, London, N.W.1*, supplies for a modest fee the information about digs in Britain; for digs abroad, write to *The Association for Cultural Exchange*, 50 *Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1*, who have published a list entitled *Opportunities to Excavate Abroad*.



Our request for strange museum labels has produced some interesting results. Jonathan Gell of Temple University, Philadelphia, draws our attention to a paragraph in *The New Yorker* for 26th November 1966 which says:

A friend of ours who was recently poking through the Wellington Museum in London,

came across a striking error of dates on a small card that accompanied one of the exhibits, and called this, by mail, to the attention of the Museum authorities. By return mail came a message reading: 'It is a printing error on the label and will be corrected when the corridor in which the object is hung is decorated.'

And Mr R. M. Butler sends us three entries which he says are in each case the only clue to the identification of the object, and not extracts from longer labels:

In the Victoria Jubilee Museum, Cawthorne, West Riding:

(1) 'These peas are directly descended from the Peas found in the hand of an EGYPTIAN MUMMY at least 2000 years old.' (Below two dried pea pods.) (2) 'Wishing Egg rubbed by a girl who wished for a young man.'

In Pontefract Castle Museum:

(3) 'Hot Cross Bun sent to a soldier in the Crimea who brought it home again.' (Below brick-like object in case otherwise devoted to the Civil War.)

Book Chronicle

We include here books which have been received for review, or books of importance not received for review, of which we have recently been informed. We welcome information about books, particularly in languages other than English or American, of interest to readers of ANTIQUITY.

The listing of a book in this chronicle does not preclude its review in ANTIQUITY.

A Medieval Society by R. H. Hilton. *London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson*, 1967. 305 pp., 8 pls., 11 figs. (unnumbered). 40s. Sub-titled 'The West Midlands at the End of the Thirteenth Century'—the ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom of the Hwicce, the medieval diocese of Worcester. By the Professor of Medieval Social History in the University of Birmingham.

Lost Worlds of Africa by James Wellard. *London: Hutchinson*, 1967. 209 pp., 24 photographs, 5 maps. 35s.

A History of Egyptian Archaeology by F. Gladstone Bratton. *London: Robert Hale*, 1967. 315 pp., 40 pls. (numbered by pages), 9 figs., 5 maps. 35s. Professor Bratton concludes with a chapter on the relocations of the Nubian temples to bring this history completely up to date.

Iron Age Cultures in Zambia by Brian M. Fagan. *London: Chatto and Windus*, 1967. 232 pp., 15 pls., 129 figs., 8 tables. 84s. No. 5 in the *Robins Series*, this is a joint publication with the National Museum of Zambia and is Vol. 1 (Kalomo and Kangila) by the ex-Keeper of Prehistory at the Livingstone Museum.

Bronzefunde des Karpatenbeckens by A. Mozsolics. *Budapest: Akadémiai Kaidó* (Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), 1967. 280 pp., including 74 pls., 41 figs. (8 maps). Appendix by Franz Schubert and Eckehart Schubert. £5 5s.

Pagan Celtic Britain by Anne Ross. *London: Routledge and Kegan Paul; New York: Columbia University Press*, 1967. 433 pp., 96 pls., 208 figs., 10 maps. £6 6s.; \$25. 'Studies in Iconography and Tradition'. *continued on p. 164.*