

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM AND UNIVERSITY GALLERIES.

*Report of the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum
for the Year 1898.*

THE most important additions to the Museum that have been made during the past year are the magnificent gift of the Egyptian Research Fund and Messrs. Somers Clarke and J. J. Tylor of relics of the First Three Dynasties of Egypt, excavated by Mr. Quibell at Hierakonpolis. The section illustrating Early Mediterranean Culture has also received an important accession by the purchase of the first part of an illustrative collection from Messrs. Sirets' excavations in South-Eastern Spain. Dr. Fortnum has also deposited on loan two exceptionally fine Italian bronzes. The Museum has been greatly assisted by a special grant from Trinity College of £100.

Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., gave a series of lectures in the Ashmolean Lecture Room on the Early European Relations of Egypt. In answer to his appeal, as Director of the Egyptian Research Account, for assistance in continuing the excavations, a fund has been raised on behalf of the Museum which has so largely benefitted by them.

Owing to the kind contributions received from Colleges, members of the University, and other Oxford residents, a sum of over £160 has already been forwarded to Professor Petrie to enable him to continue the excavations at Hierakonpolis.

The Ashmolean pictures consisting mainly of the old Tradescant Gallery, which had been so successfully cleaned and repaired by Mr. Horace Buttery, have now been re-hung

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in the staircase lobby and Dr. Fortnum's room, and progress has been made in their labelling under the Assistant Keeper's superintendence. He has also drawn up a detailed catalogue of the pictures, incorporating what was known of their former history.

The number of visitors to the Ashmolean Museum and the University Picture Galleries during the past year has been 11,716 as compared with 10,736 in 1897.

Egyptian Section.

1. *Relics of the First Three Dynasties from Hierakonpolis.*

The donation from the Egyptian Research Account referred to above, of the First Three Dynasty antiquities from the site of Hierakonpolis, includes a limestone statue of a hitherto unknown king, called Besh. Though incomplete this is the only royal figure existing of this early period, with the exception of another fragmentary specimen from the same site which was kept by the Museum at Gizeh. The head is delicately modelled, and on the base are figures of slain captives and a statement of the number as 47,029. Another object of great interest is a finely carved limestone head of a man, apparently representing the aboriginal Libyan type which occupied Egypt in the pre-Pharaonic Period.

A limestone mace bears a relief of another unknown king, whose Ka name is Nar-Mer, with standards, attendants, and captured flocks and herds; and a portion of another colossal mace shows an early king superintending irrigation works. Among the objects presented is also one of the only two perfect slate palettes with carvings in relief as yet discovered. It displays various animals, many of them of fantastic forms, including pards with giraffe like necks, and perhaps the earliest representation of a griffin. A gigantic flint knife is 10½ inches wide and 32 inches in length. Among other remarkable objects are a well-modelled figure of a seated lion in red-faced pottery of the aboriginal class. A great variety of smaller figures of animals in green-glazed ware, and others in crystal,

serpentine, steatite, chrysocolla, ivory, and other materials. A headless figure of a girl in *lapis lazuli* is of great interest from its resemblance to the marble figures from the præ-Mycenaean deposits of the Greek islands.

All these objects are anterior to the Fourth Dynasty and go back before 4,000 B.C. They have been arranged and provisionally labelled in Cases N and S of Room I.

2. *Egyptian Relics from Denderah.*

Other valuable objects, the fruit of Professor Petrie's excavations at Denderah, have been presented by the Egyptian Exploration Fund. Among them is an exceptionally fine piece of Eleventh Dynasty sculpture, the group of Mentuhotep and his wife Nefermesut. The head of Nefermesut is equal to the best work of the old kingdom. There are besides some stelæ of the Tenth or Eleventh Dynasty, and a good Eleventh Dynasty tomb-group, including alabaster vases, a fine flint knife, and hollow silver bangle.

One of the finest objects presented from Denderah is a fluted bronze vase of Eighteenth Dynasty date. This is the first specimen of this type of vessel actually found in Egypt though often seen in the hands of foreign tributaries in Egyptian wall-paintings. The fluted form is of great interest from its resemblance to that of some of the gold vessels found at Mycenæ.

Oriental Section.

The Warden and Council of Keble College have deposited on loan at the Museum a small but representative collection of Babylonian and Assyrian Cylinders bequeathed to them by the late Dr. Liddon.

Primitive Greece and Anatolia.

An exceptionally large specimen of a primitive marble figure, measuring 2 ft. 6 in. in height, was obtained with other smaller 'idols' from a cist-grave in Amorgos. Another, of somewhat more developed type, is remarkable as still showing

traces of colour about the eyes. From Crete, the Keeper has procured two vases of unique character. One from Knósos is in the form of double owl with painted ornaments illustrating the insular style parallel to the geometrical of Greece. The other from Milato (the Cretan Miletos), a globular vase with narrow spout, has a crab with a human face painted on the neck round which a serpent is coiled, while on its base is a rosette ornament akin to early Corinthian types. Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, of Brasenose College, has presented a very interesting primitive pot of a red-faced ware, analogous to Cyprian types, found with a stone mace and marble image allied to Trojan forms at Sarilar the old site of Sikeon, in Galatia. It supplies an important link in a chain of connected ceramic forms extending from the Hellespont to Cyprus.

The Keeper has completed the catalogue of the "Hittite" or Syro-Anatolian seals and intaglios, and also the primitive Cyprian series. The Assistant Keeper has drawn up an inventory of the Aegean Section, marking the provenance on each object, as also on the recently acquired Egyptian specimens.

Prehistoric objects from South-Eastern Spain.

The explorations of Messrs. H. and L. Siret in S. E. Spain, have brought to light in a region between Carthage and Almeria, of which Argar is the centre, a series of prehistoric settlements containing the evidence of a hitherto unknown culture. The civilization as a whole, while fitting in the one direction to that of North-Western Europe, in the other shows interesting affinities with the primitive remains of the East Mediterranean basin, including small stone idols like those of Troy and the Aegean islands.

As the Ashmolean Museum is becoming more and more a centre for studying the primitive Mediterranean civilization, the Keeper considered that it would be highly important to secure an illustrative series of Messrs. Siret's finds. As the result of his negotiations it has been possible to obtain a very good selection, the first part of which has been already

purchased, and is now exhibited in Cases H and HHH of Room I. The objects illustrate three distinct stages of culture: (1) Neolithic; (2) "Chalcolithic," in which bronze implements are introduced concurrently with stone; (3) Pure Bronze Age, during which bronze practically supersedes stone for weapons and implements. A special characteristic of this period in the "Culture of Argar," is the proficiency attained in working silver from native ores. The specimens of silver work in the present selection include armlets and earrings, and an example of a curious type of diadem worn by the more well-to-do among the women.

Classical Section.

A very beautiful series of Greek and Greco-Roman jewels from Cyprus has been presented by Professor A. H. Church, F.R.S. A pair of earrings terminating in two lions' heads, ranks among the finest existing pieces of ancient goldsmith's work of its class. It probably dates from the fifth century B.C. To Mr. E. P. Warren, B.A., of New College, and Lewes House, Lewes, is due a scaraboid of blue Chalcedony from Cyprus. It represents the sole of a foot executed in the finest Greek style, and accompanied by the inscription *pi-ki-re-vo* in Cypriote letters. This gem was formerly in the Tyskiewicz Collection. A terra-cotta head of a youth from Taranto, purchased by the Keeper, of a severe style, and dating from about 460 B.C., is one of the most exquisitely finished plastic works yet discovered on that site.

Local Oxford Collection.

The desirability of affording proper exhibiting space for a collection illustrating the antiquities of the City and University of Oxford, has long been before the Keeper's mind. Measures are at present being taken to secure this result by devoting to this purpose the central space and part of the walls of the lobby containing the architectural casts and models. The mediæval pottery, glass, and other objects found in Oxford are already in course of transference, and screens will be introduced

containing views and plans of certain historic buildings. Local antiquities belonging to the period anterior to the existence of the town of Oxford, will still be kept with the general pre-historic and Romano-British series. In order to get together a collection worthy of historic Oxford, the co-operation of all those interested in local antiquities is earnestly invited. In the case especially of corporate bodies, the deposit of illustrative objects on loan would be a welcome means of assistance.

Renaissance Section.

Loan of Italian Bronzes by Dr. Fortnum.

Two masterpieces of Italian bronze work have been deposited on loan by Dr. Fortnum. One is a statuette of St. John the Baptist. Dr. Fortnum himself writes of this in his MS. Catalogue as follows: "I can find no clue to this admirable work, the art of which denotes a master's hand. I had formerly ascribed it to the North of Italy, the School of Padua or the earlier Lombardi, an opinion I am still inclined to entertain, although some think no weaker hand than Donatello's could have executed it. In action, in expression, in the management of the drapery, in the delicate execution of the extremities, particularly the hands, this small figure is of the highest excellence. Its date is probably about 1460-80." The other bronze is an inkstand representing a nude figure of Pan seated on a base enriched with shells, and holding a vase which is the receptacle for the ink. In his left hand he holds the Pandaeon pipes on which he has just ceased to play, while with his head raised to the left he seems to listen to the echo. It is probably Paduan and perhaps the work of Andrea Briosco known as Il Riccio, c. 1490-1510, but is possibly somewhat earlier.

Donations.

Collection of Egyptian objects belonging to the First Three Dynasties from Hirakonpolis (see above). From the Egyptian Research Account.

- Egyptian objects from Denderah (see above). From the Egyptian Exploration Fund.
- Mummy cloth with painted figures of the genii of the Amenti from Siwas (Oasis of Ammon). By Mr. A. Silva White.
- Early beads and flint knives from the Temple at Hierakonpolis. By Mr. F. W. Green.
- Primitive vase from Sarilar, Galatia (see above). By Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, of Brasenose College.
- Vase with serpent round its neck, in a peculiar Cretan style answering to early Corinthian, from Milato (see above). By the Keeper.
- Archaic terra-cotta relief of female figure from Praesos, Crete. By the Keeper.
- Portion of *Pithos* with archaic relief of Crested Sphinx, from near Lyttos, Crete. By the Keeper.
- Two "island stones" of steatite, from Trypeti, Melos. One with eye and swastika symbols. By Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Brasenose College.
- Bronze cock and dove with open-work bases, Geometrical Period, ninth century B.C., from Thebes, Boeotia. By the Keeper.
- Marble seal of "Hittite" type with lion and birds, from Sidon. By the Keeper
- Bucchero Vase, Etruscan type, from Carthage. By Mr. F. C. Conybeare, University College.
- Greek and Greco-Roman Jewelry from Cyprus. By Professor A. H. Church, F.R.S. (see above).
- Fragment of pottery representing face, of Ægean fabric, from Karnak. By Professor A. H. Sayce.
- Scaraboid of blue chalcedony, engraved with a human foot, with inscription in Cypriote letters (see above). By Mr. E. P. Warren, of New College, and Lewes House, Lewes.

- Early Etruscan bust urn. By Mr. W. Talbot Ready.
- Leaden dish with relief, from Megara. By Mr. W. Talbot Ready.
- Romano-British pots from early settlement, Long Wittenham. By Mr. H. S. Hewett.
- Parts of a remarkable bronze object with rows of ducks and votive axes, belonging to the Hallstatt Period, from near Le Puy. By Sir John Evans, K.C.B., D.C.L.
- Facsimile of medal of Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham. By Sir John Evans, K.C.B., D.C.L.
- Bronze plaquette with infant Satyr. Italian, late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. A rare model. By Mr. H. J. Pfungst, F.S.A.

Purchases.

- Large marble figure of prae-Mycenaean class, and others from Cist-graves, Amorgos.
- Marble figure of the same class with painted eyes, from Cist-grave, Amorgos.
- Double owl vase and five other geometrical vases from tomb, Knōsos.
- Steatite vessel consisting of six united vases, probably of Cretan fabric.
- Bronze bow fibula, from Thebes.
- Bronze geometrical figure, Kleitor, Arcadia.
- Terra-cotta head of youth, severe style, Taranto (see above).
- A collection of antiquities excavated by Messrs. Siret in south-eastern Spain, first part (see above).
- Grès de Flandres pitcher, early seventeenth century, found in Oxford.

*Additions to the Library (Keeper's Department), 1898.***Presented.**

- Pitt-Rivers, Lieut.-Gen. Excavations in Cranborne Chase. Vol. iv. Given by the author.
- Greek Papyri in the British Museum. Edited by F. G. Kenyon. Catalogue, 2 vols. Facsimiles, 2 vols. Given by Dr. Fortnum.
- Petrie, Professor W. M. Flinders. Deshasheh. Given by the Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund.
- Pullen, H. W. Roman Marbles. Given by Mr. F. Haverfield, M.A.
- Quibell, J. E. The Ramesseum and the Tomb of Ptah Hetep. Given by the Committee of the Egyptian Research Account.
- Hilton Price, F. G. Catalogue of the Egyptian Antiquities in the Collection of the same. Given by Mr. Hilton Price.

Bought.

- De Morgan, J. Origines de l'Égypte. Vol. ii.
- Siret, H. et L. Premiers âges du métal dans le sud-est de l'Espagne. Texte et Album.

ARTHUR J. EVANS.

Annual Report of the Lincoln and Merton Professor.

The following 'acquisitions have been made during the year :—

A large scale model of the Acropolis of Athens, executed by Mr. Walger of Berlin.

Casts from the Antique.

Alexander arming. Munich.

Hermaphrodite from Pergamon. Berlin.

Part of frieze representing the history of Telephus. Berlin.

Heroic head. British Museum.

Aberdeen Apollo head. British Museum.

Head of Dionysus. British Museum.

Head of Apoxyomenus. Vatican.

And a number of Greek and Roman portrait heads, from various museums, comprising—

Aristophanes, Menander, Aeschines, Plato, Socrates, Seneca, Perseus of Macedon, Cleopatra, Flamininus, Scipio Africanus, Caesar (young and old) Agrippina Junior.

Also a male head from the Mausoleum, a bust of a barbarian, and three uncertain Greek and one uncertain Roman portrait from Berlin.

Relief: Hermes and Aphrodite. Munich.

Relief: Jesus Christ and a disciple. Berlin.

Presented by Lady Evans.

Head of Aphrodite and Head of Augustus, both from Toulouse.

Books : Archaeological Library.

Frazer, Pausanias.

Jacobi, Römerkastell Saalburg.

Klein, Praxiteles.
 Tsountas and Manatt, Mycenaean Age.
 Omont, Dessins du Parthénon.
 Boehlau, Aus Ionischen Nekropolen.
 Niccolini, Domus Vettiorum.
 Babelon, Monnaies de la République Romaine.
 Babelon, Catalogue des Camées.

Also continuations of—

Monumenti Antichi dei Lincei.
 Conze, Attische Grabreliefs.
 Fondation Piot, Monuments et Mémoires.
 American Journal of Archaeology.
 Glyptothek Ny Carlsberg.
 Collection Tyszkiewicz.
 Pauly-Wissowa, Realencyclopädie.
 Gerhard, Etruskische Spiegel.
 Bullettino Comunale di Roma.
 Brunn, Denkmäler Griechischer und Römischer Sculptur.
 And other works.

A series of casts of Portraits, Greek, Roman, and Barbarian, has been arranged.

The archaeological library in the Professor's room has been re-arranged.

PERCY GARDNER.

Draft Report of the Keeper of the Picture Galleries.

Weekly meetings of the Galleries Committee have been held in Term during the year.

Following out the scheme of temporary exhibitions of portions of the collections not usually exhibited, the Committee decided to arrange, in the annexe to the Picture Gallery, the series of Turner's "Liber Studiorum" belonging to the Ruskin Collection, and, as on former occasions, endeavoured to make the exhibition as complete as possible by borrowing from other sources.

Sir Henry Acland generously placed at the disposal of the Committee a complete set of the published plates, from which a large selection was made with that object in view.

The collection was further enriched by the addition of twelve fine and important plates lent by Mr. W. G. Rawlinson, who also kindly allowed free use to be made of his book entitled "Turner's Liber Studiorum, a Description and a Catalogue," a work which is the recognized authority on the subject.

In addition, there were exhibited on the desks in the same room a series of fourteen mezzotints by Mr. Frank Short, some of which are copies of very rare original proofs belonging to the unpublished series, the others are from drawings by Turner intended for the "Liber Studiorum," and never hitherto engraved.

Of these fourteen plates, one was purchased by the Galleries and thirteen were gifts.

A small number of drawings by Turner, which stand in close relation to the "Liber," were also exhibited.

The collection, thus composed, included a large number of impressions of exceptional beauty, and some also of the highest rarity, and formed an exhibition of very great interest, illustrating almost completely this side of Turner's work.

A number of original drawings by Claude, and a nearly complete set of his etchings, were at the same time placed in one of the compartments of the Raffaele Gallery. These, with a few of the plates of the "Liber Veritatis," which were also exhibited, served in some measure to illustrate the relation between his work and that of Turner.

Valuable assistance in cataloguing and labelling the Claude drawings and the "Liber Studiorum" was rendered by Mr. Bell, Assistant Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum.

At the end of the year, the "Liber Studiorum" plates were removed, to make way for a selection of engravings from the Douce Collection, but the Claude drawings and etchings remain on view for the present.

A re-arrangement of the prints belonging to the Douce Collection has been sanctioned by the Visitors, and the Committee have decided that, as a necessary preliminary, the additional protection of sunk mounts should be provided to the prints, as they are liable to injury from contact with each other. Fair progress has been made with this work, which has been undertaken with the approval of the Bodleian Curators, but as it involves considerable expense, it is being carried on by degrees, in order to avoid too sudden and heavy a demand on the funds at the disposal of the Galleries.

Another event calling for remark has been the issue from the University Press of the promised work entitled "The Master E. S. and the Ars Moriendi, a Chapter in the History of Engraving in the Fifteenth Century," by Lionel Cust. In this the unique series of eleven engravings belonging to the Douce Collection in the Galleries, known by the title "Ars Moriendi," is reproduced in facsimile along with other

closely related prints, and Mr. Cust, following Dr. Max Lehrs, brings forward strong arguments in favour of the view that these engravings on copper are the originals from which the wood engravings of the unique and famous Block-book in the British Museum are derived.

It is hoped that other reproductions of valuable prints and drawings in the collections will follow. The set of the original prints by the Master E. S., who is otherwise known as the Master of 1466, is exhibited in a case in the annexe, along with several pages of the work just named, showing reproductions (1) of some of the original prints, (2) of contemporary copies by the Master of St. Erasmus, belonging to the British Museum, and (3) of two pages of the Block-book acquired by the British Museum in 1872.

The picture "Ariel," by Joseph Severn, which was lent by the Curators of the Taylor Institution originally for a period of six months, extended afterwards to a year, has been returned.

On the application of Mrs. Arthur Severn, representing Mr. Ruskin, his copy of Luini's St. Catherine has been lent from the Ruskin School to the South London Fine Art Gallery.

The Burlington Fine Arts Club applied for the loan of the drawings, by Sir E. Burne Jones, illustrating the story of Cupid and Psyche, belonging to the Ruskin Collection, for their exhibition of drawings by that artist, but the Visitors came to the decision to decline to lend them.

Donations.

Thirteen mezzotint engravings by Frank Short, described above, presented by the Rev. the Principal of Hertford, Rev. T. H. Grose, Registrar, and T. W. Jackson, M.A., Worcester College.

Two drawings belonging to Mr. Sidney Hall's series of Oxford caricatures, presented by Rev. T. H. Grose, Registrar.

Purchases.

"The Stork and Aqueduct," by Frank Short, after
Turner's unpublished plate.

"Turner's Liber Studiorum, a Description and a Cata-
logue," by W. G. Rawlinson. 1 vol. 1878.

Maso Finiguerra's Florentine Picture-Chronicle, with
Text by Sidney Colvin. 1 vol. 1898.

An exhibition case for table has been provided.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD.