

Indian Rebellion of 1857, did Britain incorporate the subcontinent as a Crown colony, nationalizing the assets of the EIC in 1858. The company itself was finally liquidated in 1874.

One would not necessarily associate a trading company with the promotion of natural history, but the exploitation of natural resources required botanical, zoological, geological and mineralogical research as a premise for successful utilization. Many officers, particularly but not only physicians and surgeons, were keen amateur naturalists with a personal interest in the natural history of the Far East. *Company Curiosities* is the insightfully told story of how natural history, but also archaeological and ethnographical, collections from South Asia became accumulated and cultivated by the EIC, and how these collections informed the public, shaping the Britons' views of India's potential and exploitability, but also its beauty, nature and heritage. During the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century, the EIC (and later its successor, the India Office) fostered its own museum in London; natural history occupied roughly half the gallery space. (See also the 5th Earl of Cranbrook's review of Ray Desmond's seminal history of the institution, *The India Museum 1801–1879*, in *Archives of Natural History* **11** (1982): 159–160.)

A Senior Curator (now retired) at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and a founding Editor of the *Journal of the History of Collections*, Arthur MacGregor is well qualified to tell the story. His text is succinct yet erudite, with a slow undercurrent of subterranean wit. (Full disclosure: the author is also an Associate Editor of this journal and past President of the Society). Aside from one or two minor errors that I stumbled over (Vienna's Schönbrunn zoo, for example [p. 273], was never "owned" by an Antonio Alpi or any other private individual), I have only one complaint: the book does not have a map. Readers can be expected to know where India lies, and be able to locate, say, Calcutta and Bombay. (MacGregor makes no apologies for using the historical British names of those Indian towns and cities that have in recent decades received new toponyms, and retains a healthy pragmatism in his perception of colonial history.) Many of the places introduced by the author, however, will not be known even by name to readers unfamiliar with India, and I found myself having to occasionally consult an atlas to regain my bearings.

Company Curiosities is not the first book to concentrate on the East India Company as a conduit of South Asian scientific and art collections to Europe, and not even the author's own first foray into the subject. Thus, MacGregor only occasionally refers to original archival sources in his endnotes: his book is largely a synthesis of three centuries of literature on the topic, supported by a 15-page bibliography. It is also a handsomely designed, well-bound and lavishly illustrated volume in royal octavo format: a pleasure to read.

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Ilja NIEUWLAND. *American Dinosaur Abroad: A Cultural History of Carnegie's Plaster Diplodocus*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh: 2019. xvii, 318 pp.; illustrated. Price US\$36.00, £30.96 (hardback). ISBN 9780822945574.

A timely publication as "Dippy", The Natural History Museum, London's *Diplodocus* skeleton, was recently dismantled to make way for a blue whale skeleton called "Hope", and has been on a diplomatic tour the length and breadth of the UK. The visit to Glasgow was a great success, and the tour had its millionth visitor whilst there. It might surprise some folk that Dippy was so popular in Glasgow since part of Dippy has been on display here at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, for nearly a century. It certainly surprised the Curator of Palaeontology there, who did not know that the cast on display was such an early casting of the original skeleton sent to the University of Glasgow from Pittsburgh with the approval of Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) himself. The first time the Curator at The Hunterian knew of this, was when he received an e-mail from the Carnegie Trust asking if they could borrow it in 2019 in celebration of Andrew Carnegie, who died 100 years ago on 11 August in Massachusetts. Thanks to Nieuwland's book and research carried out for his PhD, the Curator at The Hunterian obtained documentation from Pittsburgh relating to the exchange of material between the Zoology Department at the University of Glasgow and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. In 1903,

Graham Kerr of the University of Glasgow had sent a specimen of *Lepidosiren* to the Carnegie Museum, but it was not until later, in March 1905, that the offer of a cast hind limb of *Diplodocus carnegii* was given, and the cast was sent to Glasgow in two boxes. At almost the same time, another, more famous cast was being sent to London which was unveiled on 12 May 1905.

Although Carnegie appears to have been the philanthropic donor of the casts, it was William Holland (1848–1932), Director of the Carnegie Museum, and Arthur Coggeshall (1873–1958), Chief Preparator, who put the casts together and travelled the world with the casts to see them erected. Carnegie gained a political foothold in the recipient countries, by his gracious donations, despite the enthusiasm of the early donations wearing off as the number of casts increased. The book concentrates on the various complex relationships between the protagonists both in Pittsburgh and abroad. It also places Dippy in the context of global politics and the relationships that were developing just before World War I.

This is not just a story about the Scots-born philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and his pet dinosaur; it is about international politics and diplomacy and how this dinosaur became an icon more than any other dinosaur – more even than any *Tyrannosaurus rex*! It continues to instil awe and wonder and is an inspiration to many naturalists. It also helped develop, through the various iterations of scientific interpretation of dinosaur palaeoecology, our understanding of this mighty beast. If anyone is doubtful of the value of casts (not fakes) to research, public understanding, experimental biomechanics, conservation and to museology generally, they should read this book. It is a great read in excellently fluid English. It is easy to take in and digest and a pleasure to consume. I, certainly, will read Nieuwland's book many times over.

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Robert McCracken PECK and Rosamund PURCELL (photography). *Specimens of Hair: The Curious Collection of Peter A. Browne*. Blast Books, New York: 2018. 176 pp.; illustrated. Price US\$39.95 (hardback). ISBN 9780922233496.

This book gives the history of a classic example of how a supposedly irrelevant part of a museum collection, destined for disposal, was rescued and now has unexpected uses and interest. The first short section tells of how an extensive collection of “Specimens of Pile”, made in the mid-1800's, was rescued from oblivion by the author, and the long wait before it generated interest, thanks to an exhibition including a display of hair from the first 13 presidents of the United States. The second section describes the collection's history, sources and content as well as the potential for the collection to be used as a tool “in the search for knowledge about our past”. These first two sections occupy roughly one third of the content. The remainder of the volume is grouped thematically, featuring beautiful photographic images of a selection of the individual pages making up some of the 12 individual albums that comprise the collection made by Peter A. Browne (1782–1860), a Philadelphia lawyer and amateur naturalist.

The selected pages include 11 plates featuring animal or botanical “pile”, sheep wool comparisons being one of the original reasons for making the collection. These are without any commentary but do feature engravings of some of the animals. This is followed by a roughly similar size collection showing samples of hair from “remarkable persons” with some accompanying explanatory text. The remainder, forming the bulk of the book, features plates showing hair samples, sometimes with portraits, biographical notes and accompanying letters from “Presidents and other distinguished people”, often very decorative. These include writers, artists, scientists and others. A final short section includes ethnological hair samples and a brief discussion on changing attitudes to ethnic diversity. Scholarly endnotes occupy the last five pages and give much additional information, but in very small text.

This is an enjoyable, decorative and interesting addition to any history of science collection, but the lack of an index (or alphabetic listing of subjects) makes finding hair samples from a particular individual a hit and miss affair. The images themselves are often beautiful, but the annotations are sometimes