

# Catalogue of the science collections for teaching and research in the SouthKensington Museum.

Printed for H.M. Stationery Off. by Eyre and Spottiswoode - Researchers



Description: -

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Anthropology.

Horse racing.

Scientific apparatus and instruments. Catalogue of the science collections for teaching and research in the SouthKensington Museum.

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Notes: At head of title: Department of Science and Art of the Committee of Council of Education.

This edition was published in 1892



Filesize: 21.85 MB

Tags: #Researchers

## 'South Kensington' and the Science and Art Department

Also realistic on this particular plan was Pennethorne's careful allowance for extensions to the other buildings on the site, each of them unlike on the other plans carefully marked with its proposed use, and thus giving an interesting commentary on what Pennethorne thought the Commissioners' 'brief' was at that moment.

## Collection

Even Cole and Redgrave's own plan was put in abeyance. As we have seen, Sir M. Natural history collections form an essential infrastructure for scientific research: biological and geological objects form an indispensable starting point for research that contributes to current issues such as climate change and the disappearance of species.

## Museum collections

Besides their Renaissance belief in the nobility of public art, which through Dyce influenced the English Pre-Raphaelites, they were also pioneers in reviving the medievalist 'workshop' attitude towards truthful craftsmanship, which they brought back from their original artists' colony in Rome.

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Its special flavour in South Kensington resulted from Sykes's mixture of fastidiousness and spontaneity in rough-textured, vivacious figure-modelling Plates 12d, 14a, 58d. He also visited All Saints, Margaret Street, when it was building and some years later when it was completed: on both occasions, however, he called the architect Butterworth. Dilke, senior, one of Cole's close associates, grumbled to him that Fowke was 'as clever as possible—but no architect or man of business'.

## Acquisitions & Accessioning

Towards Cromwell Road the 'Museum of Industrial Arts and Patented Inventions' had two courtyards on each side arranged in an L-shape and joined together into a 'U' by a quadruple central colonnade that gave an effect of peering through columns into a garden which was to become basic to South Kensington. But the Department had sufficient respect for his ability or his power of mischief to employ him early in 1866 to provide, for 20 guineas, designs for a library as part of the museum's completion scheme. But Webb had little of the practical and functional skill which Waterhouse had deployed in the Natural History Museum and the City and Guilds College: his museum design was amended and whittled away by the authorities, while at the same time after Ingress Bell's departure his own creative powers declined.

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Another version showed two concave quadrant blocks probably for museums forming a broad courtyard towards Cromwell Road and opening northwards to the 'National Gallery' block in a way partly foreshadowing Fowke's completion plan for the South Kensington Museum in 1860. The collections are organized in departments of botany, entomology, mineralogy, , and zoology; a subdepartment of ornithology is based at Tring. The new hand behind this synthesis was undoubtedly that, not of an architect at all, nor of an engineer, but of a brilliant decorative artist, Godfrey Sykes 1824—66.

**The Library and Archives collection**

Furthermore, at one of the many houses which he built in Hamburg, Semper had been the first to revive the Italian mural technique of sgraffito, which was to be used so prominently at South Kensington. When Cole succeeded in 1852 to the supreme extent of having a new Government office, the Department of Practical Art, set up under himself to administer art education nationally Dyce was by then already heavily involved in his never-completed scheme of murals in the Queen's Robing Room at Westminster. The meteorite collection has more than 710 specimens and the tektite collection has approximately 1000 specimens.

**Acquisitions & Accessioning**

Humbert and of the mausoleum erected by the Queen at Frogmore after his death, which was the work of the Prince's eminence grise, Ludwig Grüner, in association with Humbert. Our librarians and archivists have curated and developed the collection to meet the needs of researchers, curators and visitors since 1881. Yet at Marlborough House, where the School of Design had joined the new Department in 1852, and thereafter at South Kensington, Redgrave seems to have acquiesced totally in the opposing educational policy of Cole.

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