1956
(SECOND SESSION)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
FOR THE
Year ended 30th June, 1956

BY COMMAND

Ordered to be printed, 31 October, 1956
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1956

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—

The Trustees of the Australian Museum have the honour to submit to Your Excellency their 102nd Annual Report, for the year ending 30th June, 1956.

TRUSTEES.

In December, 1955, Mr. H. B. Mathews was unanimously elected President for the year 1956. No changes in membership of the Board of Trustees have occurred during the year. The list of trustees as at 30th June, 1956, is shown in Appendix "A".

STAFF.

The Director was the delegate of the Museum at the meeting of A.N.Z.A.A.S. held in Melbourne in August. Miss J. Allan and Miss E. Pope also attended as official representatives and Mr. E. Troughton as Secretary of the Fauna and Flora Conservation Committee.

The Director attended a symposium on Continental Drift, which was held in Hobart during March.

Mr. F. D. McCarthy was elected President of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Mr. J. B. Kinghorn, Assistant to the Director, represented the Museum on the State Fauna Protection Panel. Mr. Troughton is also a member of the Panel and of the Fauna Reserves Sub-committee.

Dr. J. A. Keast and Dr. D. F. McMichael returned in September after two-year periods spent in overseas study.

On the retirement in June of Miss J. Allan, formerly Curator of Shells, Dr. D. McMichael was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Department. During the year he visited Brisbane in connection with his research work on freshwater mussels and studied collections at the Queensland Museum. In February Dr. McMichael was awarded a research fellowship in Pacific Science by Yale University and the Bertrand P. Bishop Museum. This will enable him to undertake field work in the near future in New Guinea.

A new Department of Design and Art has been created and Mr. J. Beehnam appointed Officer-in-Charge.

Miss Fraser, who formerly has been Museum Librarian and Editorial Assistant, has been appointed to the new position of Editorial Assistant and Public Relations Officer and the Library is now in the charge of Mrs. J. Goodwin, who is seconded from the Public Library.

Mr. J. Kingley retired from the position of Chief Preparator in August and has been replaced by Mr. H. Hughes.

Two new Cadet Preparators (R. Witchard and K. Gregg) have been appointed and also a new Cadet Artist (R. Bertram), a new Technical Assistant (Miss E. Da Silveira) and a new Ticketwriter (Miss L. Chambers).

Dr. J. Lovering, formerly Assistant Curator of Minerals, who returned from a period of overseas study in September, rejoined during the following month.

Mr. W. Midway, who had been in the service of the Museum for thirty-three years and Chief Preparator since 1941, retired in November.

Miss V. Beattie, part-time Ticketwriter, resigned in January. Miss N. Gillett, Chief Clerical Officer, who had been at the Museum for fourteen years, retired in June on account of ill health.

FIELD WORK.

During September a Museum expedition, comprising Mr. R. O. Clambers, Mr. H. Fletcher, Mr. F. D. McCarthy and Mr. R. B. Kinghorn, the far-west of New South Wales collecting minerals, fossils, anthropological material and other specimens. The expedition was financed by the firm of J. W. Landon Ltd.

The Director and Mr. Kinghorn visited Jenolan Caves to survey the problem in regard to Nature Trails, and the Director and Mr. Fletcher, accompanied by Mr. O. Le M. Knight, who has presented much valuable material to the Museum, spent two days in the Newcastle district seeking Permian fossil insects. Steps are being taken in an endeavour to have part of the outerop of the fossild beds set aside as a permanent reserve.

A visit was also paid by the Director and Mr. Fletcher to the Triassic fossil beds at Brookvale, where many well-preserved fish, insects and other animal remains have been discovered in the past.

In January Mr. Fletcher visited Canowindra to investigate a report of a fossil exposure. As a result he secured for the Museum a collection of the finest specimens of Devonian armoured and ganoid fishes so far recorded in Australia.

During March Dr. Keast visited Melbourne and Adelaide to examine the bird collections in the National Museum of Victoria and the South Australian Museum. He travelled overland by car and, en route, studied certain aspects of natural geographic barriers which play a part in determining bird species. Particular attention was paid to the extent of the arid Coorong barrier and to the relationship of the Mallees fauna to those surrounding it.

A preliminary survey of the fauna of the Dee Why Lagoon has been made by Miss Pope, Mr. Whitley and Dr. McMichael.

GALLERY EXHIBITS.

The Mountain Parrot group and the Bluebottle exhibit mentioned in last year's Report have been completed; also the beginnings of Civilisation displays.

A third large wall painting has been installed in the Australian Aboriginal Gallery.

During Education Week a temporary exhibition entitled "Age and Animals" was arranged in the front hall and inspected by the Minister for Education (the Hon. R. J. Heffron) and the Director-General of Education (Dr. H. S. Wyndham). This exhibit attracted much interest and favourable comment.

As usual, an exhibit was prepared for the Royal Agricultural Show. It featured various aspects of the work of the Museum, in particular those connected with children and with Museum activities in relation to agriculture.

Further temporary exhibits have been of a Salish, Bird Migration, one entitled "Crabs and Their Relatives from Local Harbour Waters", relics from the S.S. "Dunbar", lost off the entrance to Sydney Harbour in 1857, and another of the eggs of the Ribbon-tailed Bird of Paradise, which were presented by Sir Edward Hallstrom.

Although no major changes have been made in the galleries during the year, much preliminary planning has taken place. Plans are now in an advanced stage in relation to the redesign of the Australian Bird Gallery and an Australian Mammal Gallery, the new Fish Gallery and the Invertebrate Gallery; many exhibits have been prepared for installation in projected new cases in the Australian Aboriginal Gallery. This planning has been undertaken as a cooperative effort between Curators and Assistant Curators and those in charge of the Departments of Preparation and Design and Art and the Artificers' Department.

TRANSFER OF COOK RELICS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Museum has had in its possession for a long time many objects of a varied nature having some association with Captain Cook. All of these, which are of an historical, as apart from a natural history nature, have, with the permission of the Trustees of the Museum, been transferred to the care of the Trustees of the Public Library as it was considered that they would be more appropriately housed in the Mitchell Library. Among the new objects retained are two large Wedgwood plaques, one of Sir Joseph Banks and the other of Dr. Solander. These have been hung in the Board Room of the Museum.

LIBRARY.

During the year 291 volumes (235 presented or exchanged) were added to the Library; 152 of these were books and 139 bound volumes of periodicals. The Museum currently receives over 700 different periodicals. About fifty of these are purchased and the rest received by exchange. A thoroughstocktaking of the 31,600 volumes in the Library has been completed.

The Museum Library continues to lend regularly to universities, museums, C.S.I.R.O. Divisions and other institutions throughout Australia.

In April, 1956, the Library and Editorial sections were separated, and it is hoped that in the coming year staff will be seconded from the Public Library to undertake the major task of recataloguing the Museum collection.
Lectures

Twelve Popular Science Lectures were delivered during the year. As is customary, half of these were given by visiting lecturers and the remainder by members of the Museum staff.

The attendance was 1,623.

BUILDINGS AND STORAGE ACCOMMODATION

A mezzanine floor has been constructed in one of the two fossil stores. This will relieve congestion for the time being, though overcrowding remains as serious as before in almost every other department of the Museum.

As a first step towards the provision of an urgently needed new wing, some 7,000 square feet of storage space has been acquired in warehouses on the outskirts of the city. Since this became available, collections and display cases stored in the cellars, the air-raid shelters and the iron sheds at the back of the Museum, have been re-arranged and a large quantity of material transferred to the storage warehouse. As a result, the air-raid shelters have been completely emptied and the iron sheds also, excepting for the extensive ethnological collections. These will shortly be temporarily stored in a gallery. When this has been done the sheds will be ready for demolition so that the site can be made available for preparations for building purposes. The air-raid shelters have already been demobilized and a new road is in the process of construction which will give access to the Museum when the present one becomes blocked by the new wing.

Work by the Public Works Department has continued on major repairs to the roof of the Museum and in the replacement of worn stone work.

EQUIPMENT

Six new binocular microscopes and accessories for use in the various scientific departments have been ordered and some already received.

A printing machine for use in the preparation of labels and for other purposes has been acquired, also a compressing unit, diamond point engraving tool, a DeVilbiss spray gun for use in the Artificers' Department, and an electric hand drill for the Department of Preparation.

FINANCE

Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue for the year (excluding Statutory Endowment of £1,000) was £52,472 11s., compared with £52,531 6s. 6d. last year. Net expenditure from Trustees' Account Funds (including Statutory Endowment) was £2,500 4s. 6d., compared with £1,549 13s. 9d. for 1954-55.

The cash balance in the Trustees' Account at 30th June, 1956, was £1,590 5s. 6d. Trustees' invested funds at 30th June, 1956, were Commonwealth Inscribed Stock, £5,859; Sydney Commonwealth Government, £1,000; Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board Inscribed Stock, £2,500; Commonwealth Savings Bank, £331 16s. 4d.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year is contained in Appendix "B".

PUBLICATIONS

During the year Volume XXIII, No. 5, and Volume XXIV, No. 1, of the Museum "Records" have been published. The latter part is the first under the new arrangement whereby each paper is published separately and not issued bound together with several others. The front cover of the "Records" has been re-designed. The indices of Vol. XXII and XXIII are still in the press.

Volume XI, Nos. 11 and 12, and Volume XII, Nos. 1 and 2, of the Australian Museum Magazine have been issued. A committee has been set up to plan future issues of the Magazine. In addition to seeking to ensure more balanced contents than formerly and to obtain more contributions from outside authors, it is planned to issue each year a special number devoted to a topic of major interest.

The fourth edition of "Australian Aboriginal Decorative Art", by Mr. P. D. McCarthy, has been published and twelve leaflets intended for educational and advisory purposes have been prepared for printing.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCES

Statistics of attendances for the years 1951-52 to 1955-56 are as follows:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Week-days</th>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>77,317</td>
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<td>211,544</td>
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<td>71,419</td>
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<td>75,350</td>
<td>74,510</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>212,660</td>
<td>83,206</td>
<td>295,866</td>
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</tbody>
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PUBLICITY

The former practice of lending specimens to commercial firms for window displays or exhibitions has been discontinued as it involved much time on the part of various members of the Museum staff.

A special effort has been made to arouse interest in the Museum and its activities by means of publicity in the daily press and in illustrated weekly and quarterly periodicals. The effort has been particularly successful and, as well as almost monthly mention of the Museum having been made in the daily papers, several illustrated articles have been published in the weekly ones. Numerous wireless talks have been given by various members of the staff on subjects covering different aspects of the work of the Museum.

COLLECTIONS

The collections are in good order and condition. A careful check has been maintained on gallery displays and weekly inspections have been made for insect infestation and development of damp conditions.

The condition of specimens stored in the spirit house has been of particular attention and new regulations relating to the spirit house have been prepared.

The rearrangement of many collections, following on the requirement of outside storage, has brought about better conditions for some than was formerly possible.

RESEARCH

Research work actively pursued during the year has included studies of Palaeozoic and Mesozoic insects by the Director; studies relating to speation in certain groups of Australian birds by Dr. Keast; studies of the Despoda of the Great Barrier Reef Expedition by Mr. McNally; of the New Guinea freshwater molluscs by Dr. McMichael; of Peruvian gastropods by Mr. Fletcher and on the relationship to each other of certain groups of Diptera, Acalyptra by Mr. McAlpine.

CURATORS' REPORTS

Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians. (J. R. Kinghorn, Curator; J. A. Keast, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Curator.)

Reptiles and Amphibians. — During the year nearly 500 specimens were added to the collections. Included in this number were the following:—107 presented by Mr. L. J. Jones, Laboki River, New Guinea; 63 from Montwingie, New South Wales, collected by Mr. R. Mackay and party; 200 from the Mount Hagen and Ganz River area, Papua, collected by Messrs. E. L. Troughton and N. Camps; 60 from Taranaki, New Zealand; and 200 from Kavieng, New Guinea.

A paper entitled "Herpetological Notes No. 5", by the Curator, has been published in Records of the Australian Museum XXIII, No. 5.

Trees.— Twenty-four specimens have been registered during the year.

Assistance has been provided to many overseas scientists and institutions, including the following:-Dr. Ernst Mayr, Harvard University (skeletal and other material); Dr. J. Mees, University of Lendon (Zoosteropidae); Dr. Dr. Ride, University of Oxford (details of the collections and expeditions of Dr. George Bonnici, who was associated with the Australian Museum in its early days); Dr. J. Baume, University of Florida (in connection with his studies of Australian.
The following papers have been published by the Assistant Curator:—“Variation in the Australian Orioleidae” and “Variation in the Genus Megalurus,” in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of New South Wales. Two articles have been published in the Australian Museum Magazine.

An outstanding gift of birds has been made by Mr. G. Bulmer, of the School of Pacific Studies of the Australian National University. This comprised some 400 skins and numerous spirit specimens and is the finest made to the Department during the past quarter of a century.

**Mammals and Skeletons.** (E. Le G. Troughton, Curator.)

Important acquisitions have included a collection of forty mammals presented by Mr. R. H. Bulmer. These were obtained in the Bajyer Valley district of New Guinea. A number of interesting specimens has been received from the Taronga Zoological Park Trust. Other donations have included a native cat and a small bat, from Miss D. Levitt, of the Groote Eylandt Mission, and a giant tree-rat from Mr. S. E. Barker, of the University of New South Wales.

Facilities for research have been afforded to Dr. F. A. Benedict and Dr. E. L. Landelius, both Fulbright scholars, and to Dr. B. J. Marlow, of the C.S.I.R.O., Wild Life Survey.

Impressions dealt with have included ones relating to—Damage done by bandicoots and brush-tail possums; the danger of the introduction of foreign mammals such as the hamster, chinchilla, agouti, hedgeshog and wallaby; the prevention of damage to crops by covers (Porcomaster-General’s Department); the destruction of young plantation pines by rodents and/or marsupials (Forestry Department); the distribution of birch and Pinus banksiana (School of Biological Health); mouse plagues (Department of Agriculture); the identification of rats, and mammal remains in food (Health Department); the fauna of Lord Howe Island (Government Trust Board).

Specimens of native rats have been identified for the Queensland Department of Agriculture and bats identified as mite hosts (for the South Australian Museum).

Visitors of interest have included Miss E. Cheeseman, who provided information about the mammals of Malekula Island, New Hebrides.

One article has been published in the Museum Magazine.

**Skeletones.**—Acquisitions have included skulls of webbed bats killed by traffic; the skull of a Squirrel-Glider from the hitherto unproven locality of Stockton Island, and skulls of New Guinea phalanger and other marsupials presented by the Taronga Zoological Park Trust.

The rearrangement of material in storage has called for much attention, in particular relating to the skeletons of whales which have been transferred to the new store.

A series of human and anthropoid crania was supplied for a Health Museum display at the request of the Dental Department of the Department of Public Health. The skulls of certain marsupials were presented to Victoria University College, New Zealand; a collection of crania of natives of the Pacific Islands has been studied at the Museum by Donald Marshall, of the Peabody Museum of Salem, Mass., U.S.A.

**Fishes.** (G. P. Whitney, Curator.)

More than 1,150 specimens have been preserved and registered. This is the highest number of acquisitions in a single year since 1947.

Noteworthy gifts have been collections of Australian fishes from Queensland and New South Wales presented by Mr. E. W. Borsch; coral fishes from Halmahera and New South Wales presented by Mr. E. W. Borsch; coral fishes from Halmahera and New South Wales presented by the University of Queensland; freshwater fishes from remote areas in eastern Australia (Dr. A. R. Main); and some New Guinea freshwater species (Mr. R. H. Bulmer).

Some 460 fishes from the Gilbert Islands, presented by Dr. R. Catala, have been identified by Dr. J. E. Randulli (Hawaii) and placed in the reference collections.

The Curator has continued to act as Editor of publications for the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales.

Nine hundred and twenty-five inquiries from the public and the press have been dealt with during the year. These have included one on the snow-monkeyway Fishery Office; Department of Harbours and Marine, Brisbane; the Chief Secretary’s Department; the Universities of Western Australia and New Zealand; and from game fishermen. Information has been supplied for inquiries received from P.A.O.; the University of Hawaii; the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the B.S.A.; Government; N.Z.A.R.E. Expedition; Commonwealth Fisheries Service; Australian Institute of Marine Science; and the B.S.A.

New faltering which has been provided in the main spirit house has made possible the rearrangement of some of the reference study collections.

Loan material returned to the department and incorporated in the collections has included specimens of Tucanetes (Mrs. P. P. Leucos), and Locuscolor (The R. H. Lockhart), Ramsay’s Institute of Oceanography. With the co-operation of Sir Douglas Mawson, part of the B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. Expedition collections, which have been held in trust by the department have been dispatched to expeditions in 1947.

Revisions of the extensive reference collections of Pemphigidae prawns, Portunids crabs, and freshwater crayfish which have been undertaken by Mr. W. Dull, Professor W. Stephenson and Dr. E. Rice, have done much to increase the usefulness of the collections.

Assistance provided during the year has included that given to Mr. A. M. Eason (Department of Agriculture, New Guinea); the Department of Navy (fouling project) and the C.S.I.R.O., Division of Fisheries (fouling project).
Such time as has been available from other duties has been spent on the continuation of the survey of the Decapods of the Western Australian Museum.

A total of 214 inquiries, both of a general and technical nature, have been dealt with.

During January the Assistant Curator accompanied a collection party under the leadership of Professor Emmor of the Department of Biochemistry, National University, Canberra. This party spent three days collecting material in the Australian Great Barrier Reef Expeditions. The nature and the specimens collected have been dealt with. The collection material has been examined and the marine invertebrates needed for experimental research on the chemistry of invertebrates.

Visitors of particular interest have included Professor G. O. G. Wittenberg, Hebrew University; and Professor W. R. Macgregor, Auckland University College.

One article by the Curator has been published in the Museum Magazine and two by the Assistant Curator. In addition, the Assistant Curator, in collaboration with Miss P. McDonald (Education Officer) has written a series of articles for the Magazine entitled "Exploiting Between Tide-mark." It is intended that these shall be published as a separate pamphlet.

Shells. (Joyce Allen, Curator; D. F. McMichael, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Curator.)

Registrations for the year totalled 507 entries, comprising approximately 1,500 specimens. Acquisitions have included a large collection of shells presented by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, a particularly interesting polymorphic nudibranch, presented by Miss J. Steinberg; land shells from New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, presented by Mr. A. E. Brookes; and a specimen of a particular species at present known throughout the world.

Miss P. McDonald, Assistant Curator, has continued her personal reprints, which numbered several hundreds, to the Magazine. Her personal reprints, which numbered several hundreds, to the Department. Some type material has been presented by Mr. C. L. Woolacott,

General inquiries have averaged approximately four each day and many have been received from other Government Departments and research institutes.

Visitors to the department have included Mr. A. W. P. Arndell (National Museum); Dr. T. L. Hescock (University of Queensland); Dr. C. Fleming (New Zealand Geological Survey); Miss Allison Kay (Hawaii) and Mr. O'Farrell (Philosophy Academy of Science).

In addition, the Baroness Ravensdale also visited the Museum seeking information about Australian and South Pacific shells.

Apart from Magazine articles the Curator published one scientific paper during the year in the proceedings of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, and at the end of the year her book "Cowry Shells of World Seas" was published by Georgian House, Melbourne. This features every species at present known throughout the world. The As- asistant Curator has published one article in the Museum Magazine and a scientific paper in "The Nautili".

It is hoped that after the new wing has been built it will be possible for more space to be made available to the Shell Department on the floor where it is at present situated and to this end reorganisation of collections is being planned. New cabinets are fundamental to development.

Fossils. (H. O. Fletcher, Curator.)

Two hundred and eight specimens were registered during the year including a collection of Pliocene insect remains transferred from the Mining and Geological Museum and several holotypes and figure specimens of Palaeozoic corals and of Permain invertebrates from the Department of Geology. Certain amount of new Fossil insect and mollusca material, the most outstanding acquisition has been that of Upper Devonian fossils from Queensland. Other acquisitions have included five holotypes of Ordovician graptolites presented by Mrs. K. Sherrard.

Completion of the new mezzanine floor in fossil store No. 2 has made it possible for all the fossils to be stored and their removal from store. Large specimens and very important material have been transferred to the new storage shed.

Information and assistance of a palaeontological nature have been given to the Australian Oil and Gas Corporation; the Joint Antarctic Board; the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission; the Bureau of Mineral Resources and the C.S.I.R.O., Coal Research Station.

Photographs of type specimens have been forwarded to several research workers.

As time has permitted research has continued on the Permain gastropods of N.S.W.

A complete list of fossil insect types and species referred to in literature has been prepared. A total of 427 specimens has been listed in addition, the type material of Palaeozoic corals, including some 1,000 specimens, has been listed.

Approximately 160 inquiries have been dealt with during the year and many specimens and collections of fossils identified.

Apart from accompanying the expedition to Moolooloo, the Curator spent short periods on the joint expedition to Harper's Hill in the Hunter Valley (examining the gastropod fauna in the Lower Marine Series); at Cooeeke (examination of 800 feet of bore core); at Rafflesian Quarry (visiting a newly opened quarry to arrange for specimens to be purchased for the Museum); at Brookvale Quarry, Belmont and Canowindra.

Visitors of note have included Professor K. Bystryn (University of Cincinnati); Mr. R. L. Bowen (University of North Carolina); Mr. G. Lamont (University of Kansas); Dr. C. Fleming (Geological Survey of New Zealand); Professor W. N. Benson (University of Otago); Mr. G. Woodward (University of California) and Mr. E. D. Gill (National Museum of Victoria).

Four articles have been published in the Magazine, Mr. A. Billett, who had formerly acted as part-time Librarian, resigned in January because of ill-health.

Minerals and Rocks. (R. O. Chalmers, A.S.T.C., Curator; J. F. Lavington, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Curator (part of time)); Miss E. E. D. Silveira, Technical Assistant, Miss Fola Socha, Assistant.)

Two hundred and eighty-seven mineral specimens have been added to the collection. These consist principally of ones collected by the Curator from Prospect Quarry and on the Murray Johnson field expedition. Material has been supplied from the New South Wales Museum; from the recently discovered deposits at the Auckland Museum; and from the recent discovery of the Anzac Museum.

Approximately 250 inquiries have been dealt with, most of them involving the identification of mineral and rock specimens and gem stones. Advice has been given on research projects to advanced students. Information has been supplied to the Geological Survey of New South Wales on the "Geestones" and "Building Stones" sections of the new edition of the "Mineral Industry of N.S.W.," Information on gem stones has been furnished to the Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources. Renewed interest in rutile has brought an increase in the number of inquiries on the occurrence of this mineral in the State.

Three visits were made to the Prospect Quarries during the year and the Curator organised and led the Murray Johnson field expedition to north-western New South Wales.

Visitors to the department have included Professor R. H. Voisey (New England University); Dr. A. J. Jones (University of Queensland); Mr. G. Shaw (Geological Museum, Wellington); Mr. R. J. McAndrew (C.S.I.R.O., Mineralogical Investigations); Mr. B. Fintner (Geological Survey of Malaya); Mr. J. Grover (Chief Geologist, British Solomon Islands Protectorate).

The Clarke Memorial Lecture, which was given by the Curator during the preceding year, has been published and three articles have printed in the Magazine.

Fifty-six thin sections of core cores have been examined on behalf of the Joint Coal Board and reported on.

The Curator is performing the geological work, other than coal itself, on commission for the Board's extensive diamond drilling programme in connection with the search for new coal seams and the extension and development of existing seams.

Anthropology and Numismatics. (F. D. McCarthy, Curator; G. C. Heyde, Hon. Numismatist.)

A total of 6,973 specimens was received by gift during the year in fifty-seven acquisitions. This is the highest total for several years. Gifts of stone implements have included for several years. Gifts of stone implements have included for several years.
As a result of the Morley Johnson Expedition, 2,744 stone implements, 13 latex casts and 118 photographs of rock engravings have been added to the Collection. An outstanding acquisition is the collection of the late Mr. M. S. Stanley, presented by his wife, consisting of 1,005 specimens among which are many fine wooden objects from the Pacific Islands, a comprehensive series of adzes from Beqa Island, Fiji, and also adzes from New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Fiji and Pitea Island. The Australian series includes a large number of axes, fish-hook files (from the Murray River) and 198 small spears points (called the Bondi-point). The collection contains many rare and unusual types of adzes and axes not previously represented in the Museum's collection, and a fine series of unusually large examples.

Another valuable acquisition is the W. D. Campbell collection of 472 weapons, sacred boards, ornaments, stone implements, and other articles collected in Western Australia between 1900 and 1910. It includes five carved rain boards from 10 to 12 feet long.

Four interesting collections of Australian and Pacific Islands material comprise 107 specimens from Captain A. W. Ostenfeld, including a number of fine old strings of red shell dish called 'chips,' a splendid example of a rare flint cleaver from Malaita; 20 specimens from Dr. J. Greenwell, including a Samoan orator's staff (not previously represented in our collection), Sepik River face masks, and Australian weapons; 107 specimens from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences which included two rare coiled baskets from the Richmond River, New South Wales; a large trade package of turmeric pigments, a series of shell ornaments, many of which are new to our collection; 113 feather ornaments, mostly Birds of Paradise, Central New Guinea, from South East Australian Flats, usually worn by head-dressers.

Other donations include the following:—New Guinea and Solomon Islands shields, hawked in or worked flat (Mr. and Mrs. D. Pyne); 2 painted facia boards, New Guinea (J. Tyrell); wooden club, New Hebrides (fished up at Monterey, Sydney) (G. E. St. John); dugout dug, Dutch New Guinea (N. Sprague); stone axe, Solomons (T. Aliceoc); a beautiful bark-cloth fringed, from Bau, Fiji, made by a member of the high chief's family many years ago (Dr. E. V. Bradfield); 11 baskets, masks, etc., from New Guinea, Tonga and China (Mrs. R. Keast); set of 24 weapons from Talaub Highlands, central New Guinea (J. G. C. Davis); carved tree, Mumuland, New South Wales (J. W. T. Hill); Queensland weapons (2) (Mrs. E. Lipton); 2 Arnhem Land baskets (J. W. Morris); axe, Denmark (Mrs. E. Fredericksen); Magdalenian stone knife, from Sweden (J. W. Morris); a beautiful barkcloth from New Britain (J. H. Vickery); mat and sheet of bark cloth over 100 years old, Fiji (Miss P. J. Atkinson); bows and arrows, from the Curator, A. N. Sl., G. Burritt.

The whole of the archaeological collections of 49,000 specimens, in 54 cabinets, was transferred from the air-raid shelter to a cellar room in the main building and other anthropological collections to different storage centres.

Planning for the projected inter-pillar cases in the Australian Aborigines Hall has been completed and a very realistic deal of initial preparation undertaken in anticipation of the building of the required cases.

Three articles have been published by the Curator in the Museum Magazine and leaflets written on the natives of New Guinea. Information has been given on the Decoratings of Civilisation exhibit. In addition, a paper on the Cave Paintings of Groote and Chasm Islands has been published in Manhood, Vol. V, Part 2, and five other papers embodying the results of research are in the press.

A total of 674 inquiries, comprising 230 on the Australian Aborigines, 111 on general anthropology and 333 on coins and medals were dealt with during the year.

In addition to taking part in the field trip to western New South Wales the Curator made two one-day visits to the Hawkesbury River with Professor N. W. G. Macleod to locate aboriginal skeletons in rock shelters at Bar Point and Long Island. Interesting data on burial methods and on the contents of these shell deposits were recorded. An interesting burial of a child was examined at Port Kemble. The information concerning this site was supplied by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

Visitors of particular interest have included Madame F. Girardier of the Musée de L'Homme, Paris; Mr. J. O. Comyns, of the United States Embassy; D. C. G. Davidson of Cologne, Germany; Mrs. A. Schulz, of the Frobenius Institute; Mrs. Rishbeth, formerly of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Cambridge, now Director of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Many shipments of aboriginal and New Guinea material, which are subject to export restrictions, were examined on behalf of the Customs Department.

Department of Preparation. (H. D. Hughes, A.R.P.S., Officer-in-Charge; R. D. Mackay, Preparator.)

The Department has regained its full strength with the appointment of two Cadet Preparators (K. Gregg and R. Wilford) and there is now a total complement of six.

Apart from the normal routine work of preparation and storage, attention to the spirit house and giving assistance to Curators, a good deal of time has been spent moving materials from the air raid shelters and the iron shed.

The Department's work rooms have been rearranged. Experimental work has been undertaken with plaster, latex, plastics and casting moulds and some new techniques developed.

Work completed during the year has included mamma skins prepared, 3, reconditioned, 5; bird skins prepared, 57, mounted; 5; skeleton reconditioned, 14; skulls prepared, 40; negatives prepared, 722; photographic prints, 1,614; lantern slides, 135; films projected, 234; plaster moulds, 28; casts, 62; casts coloured, 27; accessories prepared, 300; models, 29; background painted (bird exhibit), 1; plans and designs, 46; drawings, 10; posters, 14; labels, 149.

Thirteen exhibits have been completed in the department.

Department of Design and Art. (J. Boeman, Officer-in-Charge.)

This department only came into existence on 13th April. It comprises as well as the Officer-in-Charge, a Cadet Artist, Miss M. Fraser, a Ticketwriter (Miss M. Fraser) and a man-2-man, both of whom were formerly attached to the Department of Preparation.

The principal work of the department is the preparation of designs for gallery exhibits and the Officer-in-Charge is consulted on all matters related to gallery displays. Work completed during the two-and-a-half months the department has been in existence has included 57 black and white illustrations for scientific papers; designs for part of the new bird gallery, the Education Week exhibit, the wallaby and kangaroo exhibits for the Mammal Gallery and for an evolutionary tree for the front hall. Numerous sketches of sketches, drawings and background and landscape paintings have been submitted for various purposes and a very large number of labels written. The painting of the fourth aboriginal mural has commenced.

Editorial Assistant and Public Relations Officer. (Miss M. Fraser.)

Miss Fraser, who had previously been in charge of the Library, is now being given the new duties in April. The purposes of the new position are to help relieve Curators to some extent of the burden of inquiries, by means of interviewing members of the general public; to promote interest in the Museum by initiating new ventures, such as the provision of a Museum shop and other projects relating to the galleries; to endeavour to increase the circulation of the Museum Magazine and to be responsible for the manner of preparation and presentation of all publications issued from the Museum. The short period which has elapsed since the creation of the post has already served to show its very great usefulness.
A total of 10,301 children visited the Museum in organised classes during 246 visits. This number represents an increase in attendance of 11 per cent over the figures for the preceding year. There are now twenty-three classes coming regularly once a month throughout the year, each of which is following an individual course of Natural Science and Social Studies.

Two groups of students from the Zoology Department of the University of Sydney have visited the Museum as part of their class work. Groups of Indian and Indonesian students have toured the Museum, the visits being arranged through the Commonwealth Office of Education. The Education Officer has been concerned with the organisation and arrangements for all three groups of visits. Films were screened during the September, January and May vacations, the total attendance for the three periods being 11,602.

Eighteen collections of specimens, ten collections of photographs, five film strips and four charts have been lent to the school loan collection. Groups of school children have toured the Museum, the visits being screened during the September, January and May vacations, the total attendance for the three periods being 11,602.

Daily inquiries for information on birds, mammals and other animals are received from school children and dealt with by the Education Officer.

Six new questionnaires have been prepared for use by school children when in the galleries.

The Education Officer co-operated in the preparation of a special exhibit entitled "Age and Animals", which was displayed during Education Week, 1955. This exhibit attracted considerable interest from school children and members of the general public.

In January the Education Officer spent two weeks at the Great Barrier Reef Committee's research station on Heron Island. The purpose of her visit was to collect material for the school loan collection.

In co-operation with Miss Pope, of the Department of Lower Invertebrates, the Education Officer has written a series of articles entitled "Exploring Between Tide Marks". It is intended that these shall be used as a handbook.

**ACCESSIONS.**

Accessions for the year 1955-56 totalled—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
<td>1,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invertebrata</td>
<td>4,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geological</td>
<td>653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnological, etc.</td>
<td>7,064</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>170</td>
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</table>

14,218

The Common Seal of the Trustees of the Australian Museum was hereunto affixed by Order of the Board this 28th day of September, 1956.

H. B. MATHIEWS, President.

JOHN W. EVANS, Director.

**APPENDIX "A".**


**Crown Trustees:**

H. B. MacKay, B.A.

**Statutory:**

The Hon. the Chief Justice.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

The Auditor-General.

The President of the Medical Board.

**Appointed:**

The Hon. the President of the Legislative Council.

The Crown Solicitor.

The Secretary-General and Chief Surveyor.

The Hon. the Minister for Works.

The Hon. the Minister for Education.

**Elected:**

Professor A. N. St. G. Burkill, M.B., B.Se.
Frank B. Spencer.
O. G. Vickery, B.E., M.I.E. (Aust.).
Wallace C. Wurth, C.M.G., LL.B.
Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D.
P. McDowell.
Mrs. J. Kranny, M.A., F.I.M.
P. L. S. Bell, M.A., F.R.A.I.
Frank W. Hill.
G. A. Johnson.
Professor F. D. F. Murray, M.A., D.Sc.

**APPENDIX "B".**


**RECEIPTS.**

**APPRAISATION ACCOUNT—**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>To Treasury Appropriations</td>
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<td>To Statutory Endowment</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>Postage Receipts</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting Receipts</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds of Insurance Premiums</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds, Sale of Table</td>
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<td>Proceeds, Sale of Guillotine</td>
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<td>Refund of Overcharge on Film</td>
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<td>Reimbursement for loss of Specimens</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous receipts</td>
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**Balances as at 1st July, 1955—**

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<td>Cash at Bank and in hand</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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**PAYMENTS.**

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<tr>
<td>By Salaries, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers' Compensation Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance on Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling &amp; Subsistence Expenses</td>
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<td>Freight, Cartage and Packing</td>
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<td>Books, Periodicals and Papers</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees, Commissions, etc.</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laundry Expenses</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Postal and Telegraphic</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stores, Plant and Equipment Minor Expenses</td>
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<td>4</td>
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**TRUSTEES' ACCOUNT.**

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<td>By Printing and Publishing Magazines</td>
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<td>Printing and Publishing Other Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Films, &quot;North Western Australian Expedition&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs to Ford Utility Truck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling Expenses</td>
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<td>Petrol &quot;Morley Johnson Ltd. Expedition&quot;</td>
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<td>Stores and Services</td>
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<td>Freight and Cartage receipts paid to Treasury</td>
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<td>Publication Sales receipts paid to Treasury</td>
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<td>Postage receipts paid to Treasury</td>
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<td>Refund of Insurance Premium paid to Treasury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refund of Discount paid to Treasury</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lighting Receipts paid to Public Works Department</td>
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J. W. EVANS, Director.