

1857.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

(REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 11 August, 1857.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1856.

To His Excellency the Governor General, &c., &c., &c.

1. The Trustees of the Australian Museum have the honor of submitting to your Excellency this, their Third Annual Report.

2. By the liberality of the Legislature in voting the sum of three thousand pounds towards the completion of the Museum, the Trustees have been enabled to make considerable progress during the past year in carrying on the works necessary for the display to the public of the rapidly increasing collections contained within the walls of the Institution.

Early in the year, the Trustees accepted a tender to construct glass cases at one end of the floor of the hall, and to enclose a portion of the space between the pilasters with plate glass framing. The amount of this tender was five hundred and sixty-eight pounds (£568), and, on its completion in the month of March, a further contract was entered into for the completion of the cabinets on the floor of the hall, the filling up of the whole of the remaining spaces between the pilasters with plate glass, and the erection of a case at the west end of the gallery similar to the one already put up at the east end. The cost of this work amounted to eight hundred and fifty-seven pounds (£857).

In the month of July, the Trustees accepted a tender to complete the whole of the cases, both round the gallery and in the hall below, for the sum of thirteen hundred and eighty-seven pounds (£1,387).

The internal fittings of the great hall being thus brought to a state approaching completion, the Trustees then obtained a contract to provide additional rooms for the accommodation of the officers of the Institution—to drain and flag the basement—to erect staircases to the gallery—to provide means of ventilation, and in other respects to improve the building, at a cost of sixteen hundred and fifty pounds (£1,650).

3. The Trustees have much pleasure in stating, that during the past year the collections have been enriched by many valuable donations in almost every department of Natural History. Several purchases of specimens have also been made, especially one of an important collection of insects, shells, and ethnographical objects, from the French Missionary Settlement at Woodlark Island. The sum of ninety-six pounds (£96) has been expended in the purchase (from the Paris Exhibition Commissioners of New South Wales) of a valuable series of gold specimens from the various gold fields in the Australian Colonies.

4. The Trustees have also entered into a system of correspondence with various foreign Museums, in order to effect exchanges of Australian specimens for those of other countries, a measure which will, doubtless, tend materially to the increase of the collections.

5. It is with a feeling of deep regret that the Trustees have to record a vacancy in their number, through the death of Rear Admiral Philip Parker King, R.N., whose zeal for the promotion of science was, for many years, so beneficial to this Institution.

The vacancy has been filled up by the election of Randolph John Want, Esquire.

6. The Trustees have also to record the appointment, by your Excellency, of the Honorable E. Deas Thomson, Esquire, C.B., as Crown Trustee of the Museum—the Honorable Henry Watson Parker, Esquire, having resigned that post, and taken his seat as an Official Trustee.

7. In Appendix No. 1 will be found an account of the expenditure by the Trustees of the sums voted by the Legislature towards the completion of the building.

8. Appendix No. 2 contains the expenditure of the Annual Endowment of One Thousand Pounds (£1,000) for the current expenses of the Museum.

9. In conclusion, the Trustees would beg respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to the very limited accommodation which the Museum affords in its present state for the proper display of the various collections. In every department of Natural History, the Trustees possess numerous specimens, which they find it impossible to exhibit to the public for want of space. They also possess a valuable collection of casts from antique statues, but, for the same reason, only a few of them can be shewn. The Trustees would, therefore, look again to the liberality of the Government for means to extend the present building, so as to provide the necessary accommodation, not only for the objects already collected, but also for those that are constantly being contributed by the friends of the Institution.

10. The Board have the honor to submit this as their Report for the year 1856, and in testimony thereof have caused their Corporate Seal to be hereunto affixed this first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Chairman.

By order of the Trustees,

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS,
Secretary.

APPENDIX I.

BUILDING Expenses of the Australian Museum, during the year 1856.

1856.		£ s. d.	1856.		£ s. d.
Jan. 1..	To Balance from last year..	89 12 4	Mar. 8..	Amount paid Abbot for } Contract	568 0 0
Mar. 28..	„ Cash, 1st quarterly } payment of the £3,000 } voted by Legislature }	750 0 0	July 12.	„ paid Mayne for do.	2,246 5 6
Aug. 6..	„ Cash, 2nd do. do...	750 0 0	Nov. 1..	„ paid Leedom, } painting	161 15 0
Dec. 31..	„ Balance	1,438 11 1	„ „	„ paid shelving in } cases	50 0 0
		£ 3,028 3 5	Dec. 30.	Interest	2 2 11
					£ 3,028 3 5

APPENDIX II.

CURRENT Expenses of the Australian Museum, during the year 1856.

1856.		£ s. d.	1856.		£ s. d.
Jan. 1..	To Balance from last year..	354 7 2		By Amount of Salaries } during the year }	765 12 0
Mar. 8..	„ Cash, 1st quarterly } payment of £1,000 per } annum as an Endow- } ment Fund	250 0 0		„ Cash paid for pur- } chases of Collections }	48 3 0
June 24..	„ Cash, 2nd do. do....	250 0 0	Aug. 2..	„ Do. for purchase of } Gold Specimens	96 0 0
Aug. 6..	„ Cash, 3rd do. do....	250 0 0	Feb. 1..	„ Do. purchase of Iron } Safe	20 10 6
April 2..	Sale of Living Birds.....	5 0 0		„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	21 16 9
		£ 1,109 7 2		„ Painting, Glazing, &c..	14 6 0
				„ Requisites for Cura- } tor's Department .. }	29 0 2
				„ Keeping Grounds in } order	6 0 0
				Contingent Expenses ..	45 10 6
				Balance	62 8 3
					£ 1,109 7 2

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS.