

THE STUDY

.....
Cabinet of Curiosities



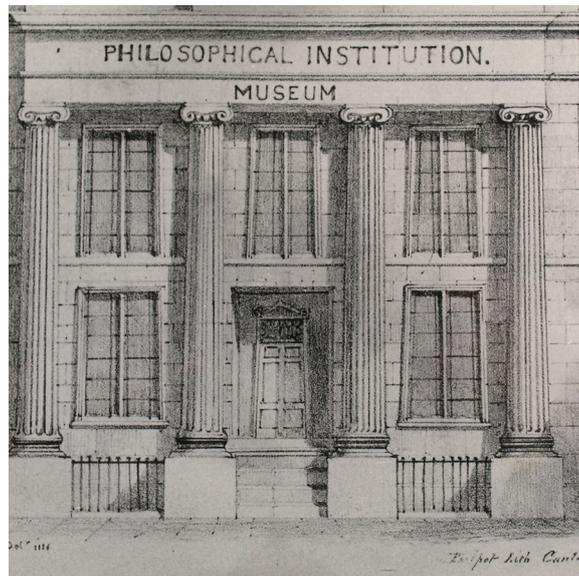
Cabinet of Curiosities

Early collectors were amateurs who wanted to learn about the world by looking more closely at things. The *Cabinet of Curiosities* is filled with wonderful animals and objects collected from the late eighteenth century onwards, such as a duck-billed platypus, armadillo, anteater and Chinese pangolin; fossil fish and shells; shark's jaw and two-headed shark specimen; narwhal tusk; beetles, butterflies and birds; seeds and stones.

Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution

The Beaney's collections date back to the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution, which grew out of the Canterbury Historical Society for the Cultivation of Useful Knowledge.

Founded in 1769 by a group of local men at a meeting called by silk weaver John Calloway, Canterbury Historical Society for the Cultivation of Useful Knowledge met every Tuesday evening at the Guildhall Tavern, home of one of the members, William Wiltshier. At the weekly meetings each member paid eightpence, sixpence of which was spent on beer and twopence added to the funds of the Society. The organisation's aim was similar to that of 'Mechanics Institutes' in other cities, providing a forum for working men to share and develop their knowledge. The Society owned examples of 'Mathematical Instruments', including ones for making and storing electricity, as seen in the portrait of William Goulden. It also built up a large library of books, pamphlets and magazines.



Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution Museum in Guildhall Street

In 1825 the members decided to re-form as the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution, building a museum and library in Guildhall Street.

Canterbury ‘Phil & Lit’ Museum

A quotation on the title page of the first description of museum contents, published in 1826, sums up the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution’s philosophy:

“It is the duty of every man to endeavour that something may be added by his industry to the hereditary aggregate of knowledge and happiness. To add much can indeed be the lot of few, but to add something, however little, every one may hope.”

([Dr] Johnson)

The museum contained the geological collection of Francis Crow, a clockmaker, inventor and geologist

of Faversham and Margate, with many fossils and minerals. There were also birds, insects, shells and coins given by Institution members and the public. Sections of the museum included ‘*Comparative Anatomy*’ and objects illustrating ‘*the Manners and Customs of different Nations*’. Among ‘Miscellaneous’ items were ‘*hairs from the head of Napoleon Bonaparte*’.

Canterbury Museum

In 1846 the Institution’s museum was bought by Canterbury Corporation. There had been national discussion about the need for town councils to establish museums and libraries, which led to an Act of Parliament in 1858. Access to books and objects was thought essential for education of working people. Canterbury Museum collections soon outgrew the Guildhall Street premises. Dr Beaney’s bequest of money for a Working Men’s Institute was used to construct a new building, the Beaney Institute, for the museum and free library. It opened in September 1899.



Canterbury Museum in the old Guildhall Street premises, before moving to the Beaney Institute

Items on display



William Goulden

1805

Stephen Hewson (1775-1807)

Oil on canvas

William Goulden (1749-1816) was a member of Canterbury Historical Society for the Cultivation of Useful Knowledge, which was founded in 1769 and met every Tuesday evening at the Guildhall Tavern.

He was one of two 'Guardians of the Mathematical Instruments'. These included a brass telescope; an 'electrical battery' known as a Leyden jar, which he is holding in his right hand; and a 'large electrical machine' for generating electricity by friction, seen behind him.

Hewson painted portraits of three other members of the Society: John Calloway, silk weaver; Thomas Ridout, land surveyor; and Mr Cooper, holding an architectural plan (all in Canterbury Museums and Galleries collection). He also painted portraits of Canterbury's Member of Parliament, Charles Robinson, and Alderman James Simmons, at around the same time. Hewson otherwise painted in the North and Midlands. He may have received the Canterbury commissions through Mechanics Institute networks.

The Society re-formed in 1825 as the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution.

Presented by Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution, 1846
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 3058



Brush tailed possum

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1999.253



Kiwi bird

CANCM: 1999.841



Chinese pangolin

.....
An endangered species, pangolins are scaly anteaters that also live in Africa, India and South-East Asia. Their scales resemble a pinecone.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Statue of St Catherine

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Bronze lizard with a man's face

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4139(?)



Bronze cupid

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1185 or 4136



Bronze medieval weight

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4784(?)



Bronze bell

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 7906



Purse

.....
Reputed to have belonged to Oliver Cromwell.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4755



White saucer

.....
White porcelain saucer with a monogram of the monarch Louis Philippe, originating in Sevres, 1830. Despite living a much simpler lifestyle than his predecessors, the French king became unpopular during his reign and was targeted in seven assassinations before exiling to England.
.....

CANCM:8627



Bronze figure

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4102



Bronze cherub

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4126



Statuette

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4125



Small bronze bust

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4128



Bronze figure

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4101



Bronze pastry cutter

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4779



Bronze figure of a wild man of the woods

.....
Currently on loan to the Royal Cornwall Museum

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4567



Figurine in a jousting pose

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4121



Bronze figure of a cloaked man

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4098



Bronze head

.....
Presented by Mr Hirst
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4272



Two-headed shark in a jar

.....
nn





Halberd

.....
Combination axe and spear
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 10582



Chicken skin gloves in a walnut shell

.....
A 19th century fashion item, also called 'limerick gloves'. They were so thin that they could be folded up into a nut shell, with such delicacy of texture ordinarily aimed at the upper classes. Despite their name, limerick gloves were made out of the skin of unborn calves.
.....

CANCM:7970



Medallion showing Strasbourg Cathedral

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Marble heads

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Coco de mer seed

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 6442
.....



Duck billed platypus

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 096



Armadillo

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1999.241



Alligator

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Thorn bug box

.....
nn



Box of duelling pistols

.....
Duelling pistols used to be manufactured during the 18th and 19th century for the purpose of an equal fight between men. These specialized weapons were relatively lightweight, accurate and could be considered the finest examples of firearms available back then.

.....
CANCM:2002.315.1-3



Boxes of butterflies

.....
Presented by Mr Hirst
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Chameleons

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference C120



Kidney ore

.....
A variety of hematite, an oxide mineral, found in a range of red, orange, brown and grey colours. It derives its name from its lumpy, kidney-like appearance.

.....
CANCM:2006.202



Ruff

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference E69



American feather star

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



South American bolas

.....
Bolas function as a hunting tool that is thrown in the distance and captures animals by entangling their legs.

.....
CANCM:2010.2.2



Toucan

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1999.42



Tray of seeds

Collected in British Guyana by Reverend R. Wyllie of Canterbury.

Presented by Rev. R. Wyllie

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2000.28



Great bustard

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference E57



Spices and nuts in their natural state

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2000.24.3,5



Shark jaws

CANCM: 1990.270



Coc

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1999.107



Drawer of South American insects

Presented by William Miller to Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution Museum and acquired through purchase of the Museum by Canterbury Corporation, 1846-47

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2000.110



Goliath beetle in a box with imperial scorpion

.....
The mahogany box was donated in 1936 and contains two fine insect specimen from West Africa.
.....

CANCM:2000.14.1



Spiny anteater

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 095.2



Lion

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1999.249



Gastropoda shells - Oliva oliva

.....
Shells of carnivorous sea snails that live predominantly in warm and tropical seas. Other examples in the collection include Turbo Petholatus (CANCM:L 599), Pecten Proteus Sol. (CANCM: 2006.88), Pleuroptoma Babylonica (CANCM:547), Potamides Fuscatus (CANCM: 2006.76) and tiny gastropods in round cases, such as Rissoa sp.cf.confinis
.....

CANCM:L 63



Australian throwing boards

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4470, 4471
.....



Gannet

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference G82



Goosander

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference G97



Model canoe of birch bark

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 4524



Burmese temple in glass dome

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Green glass bottle

.....
nn



Little bustard

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference E84



Souvenir coin in volcanic lava

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2004.270





Rectangle of moulded black lava, imprinted 'VESUV 1820' and 'H.C.E.G. E.S.M.R.'

.....
CANCM:K 291?



Farmyard duckling

.....
A mutant with four legs from Hawe Farm, Sturry.
.....

CANCM:1999.109



Carved coconut with a lid, from South Sea Islands

.....
nn



Cochiti Pueblo animal handled vessel

.....
Typical of ceramics produced by the Cochiti Pueblo people of South America. Our examples were acquired by a traveller in the late 19th century.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Cochiti Pueblo snake-shaped vessel

.....
The Cochiti Pueblo people of South America produce ceramics with animal forms and decorations. Our examples were acquired by a traveller in the late 19th century.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)





Cochiti Pueblo three-legged vessel

.....
Typical of ceramics produced by the Cochiti Pueblo people of South America. Our examples were acquired by a traveller in the late 19th century.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Snowshoe

.....
Snow shoe of woven leather and gut thongs.
.....

CANCM:4514



Hawksbill turtle shell

.....
This turtle shell is turned inside out to see the interior structure.
.....

Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Carved wooden cradle with sides and bottom with cane, resting on four carved legs

.....
CANCM:4512
.....



Tube containing volcanic dust and lapilli from an eruption of Vesuvius

.....
Volcanic dust collected after an eruption of Vesuvius on 1 July 1907 by Mr Chinery of Orchard Street, Canterbury.
.....

Presented by Mr Chinery, 1907
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2004.304



Fossil Turtle

.....
Preserved in a large nodule of cement stone from the London Clay, this fossil turtle was probably found on the Isle of Sheppey. It is positioned upside down showing the inside of its shell, ribs and backbone.
.....

cancm:2004.156



Fossil fish

.....
From Monte Bolca, Italy, a site rich in very well preserved marine fossils from the Eocene period, one of the first fossil sites to be known and studied. This particular fossil was given to Francis Crow by the Royal Institute of Paris and may have been part of the Haeberlein Collection looted by Napoleon. Its matching half is in the Louvre museum, Paris.
.....

Presented by Francis Crow
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference A92



Five large palatal teeth of a fish on chalk

.....
cancm A 64



Ammonite Pylloceras

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1984.3.1



Nautilus shells

.....
Polished to reveal mother-of-pearl and cut to show the mathematical spiral of buoyancy chambers inside. Nautilus shells were much prized by collectors from the Renaissance onwards for their shape and lustre.

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



Ammonite Pylloceras, cut and polished

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 1984.3.2.1



Fossil nautilus cut in half

.....
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference 2003.418



50 million-year-old shark teeth

.....
Teeth and vertebrae of *Otodus Obliquus*, one of the earliest mackerel sharks that lived in the Eocene. They have a characteristic triangular shape and some can reach more than 3.5 inches.
.....

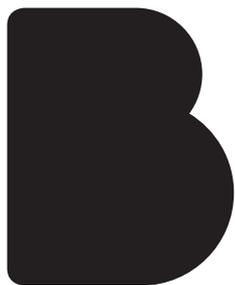
CANWH:1995.15



Narwhal tusk

.....
Given by Reverend Holman, who took part in the search for Sir John Franklin's doomed Arctic expedition to find the North-West passage.
.....

Presented by Rev. Holman
Canterbury Museums and Galleries reference (nn)



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THE BEANEY
HOUSE OF ART
& KNOWLEDGE

The Beaney
18 High Street
Canterbury
Kent CT1 2RA

General Enquiries: 01227 862 162

thebeaney.co.uk

facebook.com/thebeaney

Twitter: @the_beaney



Canterbury City Council & Kent County Council's redevelopment of the Beaney is supported by:
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"Investing in your future"
Crossborder cooperation programme
2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)

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