

III. Notes

John Howard Marsden (1803–1891) First Disney Professor of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge 1851–1865

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Although there were ten chairs of archaeology at universities in Germany, and one in France, by the mid-nineteenth century, in Great Britain it was the amateur societies and museums (the British Museum in particular) that encouraged the study of this subject. In 1851 John Disney established the first university chair in Great Britain at Cambridge University. His proposal was initially received with considerable caution by the governing body of the university, and was only accepted by the narrowest margin of eight votes to seven. His agreement with the University of Cambridge stipulated that six lectures a year should be given on the subject of 'Classical, Medieval, and other all matters and things connected therewith' (Clark 1904, 222–225). However university archaeology was slow to establish its academic credibility nationally, and it was more than thirty years before Oxford University established its chair of classical archaeology. The Cambridge Board of Anthropological Studies, which included instruction in prehistoric archaeology, was not created until 1915, and as late as 1945 there were still only a few university lecturers in archaeology in Great Britain. It was not until 1946 that Oxford University appointed a Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology (Wilson 2002, 153; Daniel 1976, 6–12; Smith 2004, 4–5, 53–54).



In 1816 John Disney (1779–1857), a barrister and art collector, inherited his father's house at Ingatestone in Essex, together with the collection of classical statuary acquired by two of its eighteenth century owners. Disney's wealth enabled him to add to this collection substantially, and much of this was donated by him in 1850, to the newly formed Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. In 1851, Disney added to this generous donation by giving an endowment of £1000 in 3% consolidated bank annuities to pay the occupant of newly created chair in archaeology named after him. Disney reserved the right, during his lifetime, to select the holder of the university chair, and his first choice for the position was the Reverend John Howard Marsden (1803–1891), who held the chair until 1865. One of Disney's conditions was that the appointment was for five years only, although this did not exclude re-election for a further term. Marsden was reappointed twice, in 1856 by Disney, and then in 1861 (after Disney's death) by the vice-chancellor and the Heads of the Colleges of Cambridge University (Clark 1904, 222–225; Gill 2004, xvi, 266–268).

At the time of his appointment, Marsden was the rector of the parish of Great Oakley in Essex. The eldest son of a clergyman in Wigan, Lancashire, he had been educated at Manchester Grammar School from where he had won an exhibition to St John's College, Cambridge. Here he had progressed

in the usual way, BA in 1826, MA in 1829 and BD in 1836. Marsden was awarded the Seatonian Prize for English Verse in 1829 for his poem 'The Finding of Moses' which was published in Cambridge that year, with a second edition the following year. In 1827 he was ordained by the Bishop of Ely, in 1834, 1837 and 1847 he was Select Preacher to the university, and in 1843 and 1844 he was the Hulsean Lecturer in Divinity. Marsden's Hulsean lectures were published (probably privately) along with a variety of his sermons and other literary work. He was described by his contemporaries as a distinguished and eloquent preacher (Cooper, rev Matthew 2004, xxxvi, 781–782).

On 18 February 1828 Marsden was elected to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in Lincolnshire. This society started informally in 1709, in the first instance as a literary society, by Maurice Johnson, a member of a group active in the establishment of the Society of Antiquaries of London. It grew rapidly to encompass other, and a wider range, of interests including art, science, mathematics and local antiquities. However the society lost its momentum after Johnson's death in 1755 and was not re-invigorated until the 1880s (Moore 1851, 1–32). Marsden was appointed secretary and librarian at the time of his election when the Reverend Dr William Moore was chairman and treasurer (SGS 1828, vi, 48r). It was customary in the Spaulding Society at that time, for the curate or schoolmaster to be elected to this position, so it seems likely that Marsden occupied one of these posts. The society's records are incomplete for this period, but it has been suggested that he may have written, or contributed to, the history of the society that was published in 1851 under the authorship of Dr Moore. (M J Honeybone pers. com.)

Marsden's marriage in 1840 to the daughter of Dr Moore, who by then was the prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral, automatically terminated his college fellowship. Then he was appointed to the parish of Great Oakley, Essex, which was in the gift of the college. This was a well-endowed living, with a rectory house, 60 acres of glebe, and tithes commuted at £900 per annum (Kelly 1882, 217–218). Up until this time Marsden's interests appear to have been exclusively clerical and literary ones, apart from his possible authorship of the history of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society mentioned above. His interest in history may have been encouraged by two members of his family, one of whom was an eminent linguist, orientalist and numismatist, and the other a traveller, topographer and collector of coins and vases.

Marsden's much older cousin, William Marsden (1754–1836) was the tenth of sixteen children and worked for eight years with the East India Company in Sumatra (now part of modern Indonesia). On resigning, he returned to London, established himself there, and participated in the city's literary and intellectual circles. He published a 'History of Sumatra' demonstrating his considerable expertise in the fields of zoology, botany, geography and linguistics. Various appointments led to his taking up the post of First Secretary of the Admiralty, and one of his memorable tasks during this time was waking the First Lord to inform him of Nelson's victory, and death, at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805. When time allowed, William Marsden continued to study oriental languages and to publish books, as well as adding to his collection of coins. Eventually and due ill health he retired to Hertfordshire, but he retained an active interest in languages and continued to collect for the rest of his life (Cook 2004, xxxvi, 785–787). He gave his 'magnificent' collection of oriental coins to the British Museum in 1834 (Wilson 2002, 180), and his books and manuscripts were donated to Kings College, London. His will suggests a strong interest in his cousin, John Howard Marsden, who was the principal and substantial beneficiary (well in excess of £40,000), although William Marsden's widow had a life interest in the capital (NA PCC PROB11/1868).

The second relative who influenced John Marsden was probably the new husband of William Marsden's widow, William Martin Leake (1777–1860), who she married 1838. Leake had extensive military and diplomatic service in Greece where he travelled widely during the Napoleonic War. In 1802, he was shipwrecked on his way to Malta in the same boat that was carrying a consignment of Lord Elgin's marbles to London. Leake had also spent some time under house arrest in Salonika. In 1814 his intention of retiring to pursue his intellectual interests in England, was disrupted by

Napoleon Buonaparte's escape from Elba. Leake finally retired in 1823 and settled in London for the rest of his life. In spite of his military responsibilities, he had already written for learned journals, and published important works on the topography and culture of ancient Greece. He continued to develop his interests and, in 1856, he published a catalogue of his coin collection in which he established new principles of classification. Leake's collections, principally comprising coins and vases, are now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (Wagstaff 2004, xxxii, 982–983).

Although John Howard Marsden's obituary in *The Essex Standard* in 1891 noted that he was a frequent contributor to 'leading Quarterlies', these articles appear to have been published anonymously and are now difficult to identify. However soon after moving to Essex in 1840, he joined the Colchester Castle Book Society, a somewhat select lending library established in the partly ruined castle a century earlier. The Castle Book Society's loan records show that he borrowed a wide range of literary and historical material including, in 1846, the very detailed manuscript diary of the seventeenth century antiquarian and parliamentary historian, Sir Simonds D'Ewes. It is not clear why Marsden was interested in D'Ewes, although perhaps the fact that they had both attended the same Cambridge college probably played a part in this. The diary, now unfortunately lost, was a unique and detailed account of the life of an early seventeenth century undergraduate. Marsden must have been in contact with Professor J. E. B. Mayor (1825–1910), the classical scholar and antiquarian, about the diary before 1869, when Mayor published Thomas Baker's manuscript history of St John's College.

Marsden's discovery of the diary prompted him to write two pieces, both published anonymously. The first, a lively account of D'Ewes' unsuccessful courtship, was published in *Blackwood's Magazine* in August 1850. The second was a slim book, entitled *College Life in the Time of James the First*, and was published in 1851. Although this drew extensively on the diary, Marsden skilfully used a variety of other sources, including Thomas Baker's unpublished manuscript in the British Museum. This book demonstrates his skill as a writer, as well as his ability to organise and clearly present historical material. It also suggests that the criticism of him as 'an old fashioned antiquarian, who spent what little time he gave to Cambridge in the promotion of Greek and Roman culture' may be unfair (Wilson 2002, 153).

Marsden's successor to the Disney Chair, the Reverend Churchill Babington (1821–1889), had a similar career. He too was a Fellow of St John's College, a classical scholar, and a writer of religious and historic works, as well as a contributor to the journals of various learned societies. His interests included botany, ornithology and conchology. On resigning his fellowship in 1866, Babington was appointed to one of the parishes in the gift of St John's (Cockfield in Suffolk). He occupied the university chair for fifteen years, from 1865 until his resignation in 1880 (Seccombe, rev. Curthoys 2004, iii, 82–83).

It is not surprising to find that Marsden, by then Professor of Archaeology, was involved in the formation of the Essex Archaeological Society. In 1852 he served on a sub-committee of the Colchester Archaeological Association advising on its re-establishment 'on an enlarged basis' as a county archaeological society. This duly took place at an inaugural meeting in Colchester Town Hall on December 14, 1852 at which John Disney was elected president, and Marsden one of the vice-presidents of the Essex Archaeological Society. Marsden was chosen to give the inaugural address. In this he defined archaeology as 'the investigation and study of all those relics which have come down from past ages, of the visible and tangible works of man'. He listed and discussed the various sources for such studies as a) writings and inscriptions b) remains of architecture c) sculpture d) gems and engraved stones e) coins and medals f) paintings and g) miscellaneous items, including weapons, personal ornaments, implements etc. This definition differed very little from what other antiquarians had been doing over the previous two centuries, and it is interesting that he made no mention at all of excavation as a form of investigation. However his cautionary advice to archaeologists is as relevant today as it was then: 'the youthful Archaeologis ... must at all times

and on all occasions ... be careful to keep Imagination in her true and subordinate place. Reason must take the lead – Imagination must follow. Nothing must be admitted except on well-weighed and satisfactory evidence' (EAT 1st series 1858, i, 22).

Marsden went on to examine the reasons for studying archaeology, and the pleasures to be derived from this discipline. He described a small hoard of Middle Eastern coins found in Cumberland, and speculated at length on their complex journey before being buried in an English field (EAT 1st series 1858, i, 12–14). Only one paper written by Marsden on a specific archaeological site has been found. This was a discussion of the Roman site of Ancaster and was read to the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society at Sleaford in 1863. In it he discussed possible reasons for the considerable numbers of coins discovered on this and other Roman sites, as well as the significance of several fragmentary sculptures which had been unearthed at Ancaster. Although it is clear that the finds he discussed were accidental, rather than from organised excavation, it is a well-reasoned paper, and shows an engaging intellectual curiosity (Marsden 1863, 55–60).

In 1858 Marsden was elected Canon Residentiary at Manchester Cathedral, and along with this responsibility was added rural Dean of Eccles (where his father had been vicar), as well as his appointment as one of the chaplains to the controversial first Bishop of Manchester, James Lee Prince (d. 1869). When not attending to his other clerical posts, he was resident in his parish. In addition to this heavy load of professional responsibilities, he had a weekly commitment as a Justice of the Peace, and this perhaps left him with little time to write, or to play an active part in the newly formed Essex Archaeological Society. Apart from a volume of verse, printed privately in 1869, and a very brief note on the discovery of a coin hoard at Harwich in 1883, Marsden published nothing after vacating the Disney Chair of Archaeology in 1865. Following the death of his wife in 1883, he moved to Grey Friars in Colchester where he spent his remaining years, though he did not resign the living until 1889. He was buried in Great Oakley churchyard. (Cooper, rev. Matthew 2004, xxxvi, 781–782; Essex Standard 31 January 1891)

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History of Bolivian Archaeology: Geraldine Byrne de Caballero

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Today the principal archaeological museum of Cochabamba, Bolivia is called the Museo Geraldine Byrne de Caballero. Yet there is surprisingly little information on Byrne de Caballero at the museum, or elsewhere in Bolivian sources. Fortunately, Walter Sánchez Canedo (2006) has written a brief article, providing some more information about her career.

Byrne de Caballero investigated and wrote articles on Cochabamba sites, from the formative period up through historical periods. I knew most of the eight journal articles cited for her, but she wrote another five dozen articles for local newspapers. All of these publications, however, were written when she was director of the museum in Cochabamba, from 1972 to 1986, so we lack information on her earlier archaeological contributions. Although publishing in special supplemental newspaper sections has been a well-accepted practice or tradition for informing the public and specialists about Bolivian archaeology, it obviously makes it difficult for the non-Cochabambinos to track down her publications. But at least now with title, newspaper, and date, it may be possible to go back into old local archives and retrieve some of these articles.

Geraldine Byrne de Caballero was born in Algeciras, Spain in 1906, and died in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1986. She studied history and anthropology at Cambridge, London and Oxford, finishing with an A.B. degree. She may have come to Bolivia as early as 1935, but we know that she taught English at the Escuela Nacional de Maestros de Sucre from 1943 to 1945, where she first met Dick Edgar Ibarra Grasso (1914–2000) and later Leonardo Branisa Minarik (1911–1999). She joined with Ibarra Grasso and Branisa to conduct the first archaeological investigations in Chuquisaca, and they together came up with the idea of founding the Museo Arqueológico de Sucre in 1944 at the Universidad de San Francisco Xavier. From 1946 until the 1960s, she worked for William Brothers Sudamericana. She became the Vice-Consul of Great Britain for Chuquisaca and Cochabamba departments in 1955, and in the 1960s, she moved permanently to Cochabamba, where she was also a correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* of London, and *La Razón* in La Paz.

It would sound from what Walter Sánchez Canedo writes, that Byrne de Caballero was not involved