

IV. Publications by subscribers

Murray, T. 2007. *Milestones in Archaeology*. Santa Barbara and Oxford: ABC-Clio.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.17206>

V. Book reviews

Lawrence Keppie 2007. *William Hunter and the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow 1807–2007*. Edinburgh University Press. xvi, 190p. ill. ISBN 9780748628056.

Reviewed by **Tim Murray**

This interesting book celebrates the bicentenary of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, which (among other items) contains the treasures collected by the eighteenth century Scottish physician William Hunter. Given the spirit of the late eighteenth century Hunter's collection was extremely broad spanning anatomical and pathological preparations, coins and medals, books and manuscripts, paintings and prints, shells, coral, insects, stuffed animals and antiquities (classical and otherwise). Notwithstanding the breadth of the collection, and the impression that Hunter seemed to be insatiable in his pursuit of everything from Egyptian mummies to stuffed deer, very little Scottish material could be found among the 30,000 coins and medals, 10,000 books, 650 manuscripts, 7,500 insects, 1,500 minerals, 3,000 anatomical specimens, 5,000–6,000 shells and 200 'South Seas Curiosities' that he had accumulated by his death. This is a 'cabinet of curiosities' to conjure with!

Of greatest interest for the historian of archaeology are the antiquities (including pieces recovered from the excavation of Etruscan sites and Pompeii and Herculaneum) and the ethnographic collections of material culture from North America, East Asia and the Pacific (some items of which were brought back by crew from Captain James Cook's voyages of discovery).

Lawrence Keppie gives a thorough and at times diverting account of the history of the museum and its collections (particularly their expansion through the donation of paintings by James McNeill Whistler by his heir and furnishings, drawings and designs owned or made by the Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh). As a result we have a sound understanding of the forces that shaped Hunter's objectives, and those of his successors. Keppie concludes with an excellent summary of the importance of the collection and of the institution itself:

The Hunterian Museum and its collections have endured many vicissitudes of fortune over the last two hundred years. Indeed we must applaud the fact that the institution survived at all... William Hunter's collections have come down to us largely intact, apart from the impact of time and natural decay, an achievement in itself, since many eighteenth century libraries and natural history collections were dispersed or have been lost... (p. 135).

David La Vere 2007. *Looting Spiro Mounds: An American King Tut's Tomb*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 256 pp., 17 b & w ills; 2 maps. ISBN: 978-0-8061-3813-8

Reviewed by **Melody Herr**

In the summer of 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression, two men from Oklahoma and one from