

Appendix 1: Introduction and Methodology for Annual Archaeological Exhibition Database

Introduction

The database that follows was compiled in the process of research for *Exhibition Season*. It details the dates, opening hours, admission conditions and locations of the annual exhibitions analysed from the 1880s to the 1930s, as well as the sites featured in each display. It was created through examination of extant exhibition catalogues and notices in *The Times Digital Archive*, augmented where available with other primary and secondary source material. *The Times* is primarily used here for consistency throughout the period under examination, discussed further below. However, reviews of the exhibitions also appear in other national, regional and local papers. These can be utilized for further research into the wider impact and dissemination of the annual archaeological exhibitions.

Over the past decade scholars have begun to study the impact and value of digitised periodical databases for historical research (e. g. Bingham, 2010; Leary, 2005; Nicholson, 2013). Nicholson notes the lack of an established methodology for dealing with digitised newspapers, and the need for a methodology that takes into account the benefits and drawbacks of the digital platform. He demonstrates the immense value of the ‘keyword search’ for locating specific information across multiple articles, issues, and periodicals (2013: 65-67).

The value of newspaper notices for research in the history of archaeology and its public presentation cannot be underestimated. Recent digitisation of newspaper archives has enabled research on the frequency and notability of exhibitions to be gathered and analysed with relative ease for the first time. These include the British Library’s *19th Century Newspaper* database, the *British Periodicals Collections I & II* databases, the *The Times Digital Archive*, and the *Illustrated London News Historical Archive* (British Library 2014; GaleCengage Learning 2014; Gale Digital Collections 2014; ProQuest LLC 2014).ⁱ Future research on public access to archaeology, either through exhibitions, public lectures or conversaciones, could compare coverage in a wide variety of periodicals – international, national, regional and local newspapers, specialist journals and popular magazines.

The data assembled here shows the regularity of the annual exhibitions over more than fifty years. While not all of the exhibitions took place during the ‘Season’ months (May through July), the majority of the events listed here were held during this important period in London’s calendar. These exhibitions should be viewed as more than simply social and cultural events. Rather, as discussed in the article, their ‘seasonality’ can also be used as an indicator of the time in which the excavations and the excavators who undertook them were most visible, both literally (by their presence in the exhibition space) and metaphorically (by their coverage in the press).ⁱⁱ

Methodology

The database began with a physical examination of the extant exhibition catalogues at the Egypt Exploration Society and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL. These catalogue collections were fairly comprehensive for the 1900-1938 period for both Petrie and EEF/EES exhibitions. The Petrie catalogue collection formed two parts – a box in the Petrie Museum library and individual or duplicate catalogues kept with the distribution lists that Petrie created to organize artefact dispersal after the end of the exhibitions (see UCL

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2002). These duplicate catalogues were in some cases given or sent to Petrie with notes from museum representatives who had visited the exhibition indicating objects their museum would be particularly interested in acquiring. In addition, there was a certain amount of 'cross pollination' of the catalogue collections – for example, the Petrie Museum collection included three EEF catalogues, as well as two Brunton catalogues and a catalogue for Gertrude Caton Thompson's 1928 exhibition of antiquities from the Fayoum. The EES catalogue collection was also kept in a box in the EES archive, and with one or two exceptions, held only catalogues from EEF/EES exhibitions. Copies of Garstang's catalogues from his five Meroe exhibitions (1910-1914) are extant in university library collections. At the time of writing it remains unclear whether Garstang produced catalogues for his earlier exhibitions.

In searching for reviews of the exhibitions in *The Times Digital Archive* it became clear that the exhibition catalogues did not comprehensively cover the range of annual archaeological exhibitions organised between the 1880s and the 1930s. Once the 'seasonality' of the exhibitions became evident, it was much easier to direct keyword searches to a specific chronological period to find coverage of the exhibitions. A range of keywords was used, from specific (e. g. "Petrie", "Egypt Exploration") to general ("antiquity", "antiquities", "exhibition"), and included sites (e. g. "Amarna", "Meroe"), countries ("Egypt", "Palestine", "Iraq"), exhibition locations ("Oxford Mansion", "Burlington House") and institutions (e. g. "University of Liverpool", "British Museum"). Occasionally finding the exhibition announcements was serendipitous – in searching for one exhibition announcement the details of another would appear; a happy coincidence that Leahy (2005: 75-76) discusses in reference to keyword searches on Google. References to articles on excavations/exhibitions previously published in *The Times* could also be found within reviews.

Emphasis has been placed here on British excavations in the Middle East, as the majority of the annual exhibitions featured work in this region. In 2012, Joanna Bowring published a list of temporary exhibitions held at the British Museum between 1850 and 2012. Some of the exhibitions featured in this database are also included in Bowring's list, namely: EES (1922, 1932), Ur/Woolley (1923, 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930) Nineveh/Campbell Thompson (1928, 1930) Badari/Brunton (1929, 1931) Arpachiya/Mallowan (1933) and North Syria/Woolley (1936). Bowring's work also highlights the existence of some catalogues for Leonard Woolley's BM exhibitions or references to exhibitions in the Museum's departmental archives, although these have not been consulted for the construction of this article (2012: 9-12). Bowring's list includes exhibitions of Maya antiquities discovered in the 1920s and 1930s by the British Museum's expeditions to British Honduras (2012: 10-11). Instigated by Deputy Keeper of Ceramics & Ethnography Thomas Athol Joyce, the exhibitions of these excavations have been included in this database because they fill the criteria outlined above, and were compared to British archaeological work in the Middle East at the time (The Times 1928b).ⁱⁱⁱ

The selection criteria for exhibitions included in this database was simple: the exhibitions had to be organised following an excavation season to showcase artefacts excavated at the site or sites worked on during that season or seasons and/or related interpretive material associated with those artefacts and excavations. Therefore, exhibitions such as those organised by the Burlington Fine Arts Club, which brought together objects to illustrate a particular *theme* (e. g. "Greek Art"), have been excluded.

Organisation

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The database is arranged chronologically, and by the organising body of the exhibition. In years where more than one exhibition was opened, the exhibitions are listed in chronological order where possible. The symbols following the date of each exhibition highlight the types of publicity generated relating to the events. They serve to showcase the routes through which the public could access information the exhibitions and the excavators/excavations promoted. Ranging from short advertisements to long reviews, they featured in different sections of the paper. Sometimes multiple types (e. g. Court Circular and Review) occurred within a single issue. The number of symbols following each exhibition's date can also be seen as an indication of both the amount of effort put into publicising it, and the possible popularity of the exhibition. However, the flaws of keyword searching (outlined below) must be taken into account when reading the data in this way.

The coverage has been categorised into 5 broad types, loosely following *Times Digital Archive* categories:

- **Reviews** of varying length which include details of key objects and display features
- **Event listings ('Prospective Arrangements'; 'To-Day')** comprising a sentence on locations and times or opening hours of events arranged (e. g. exhibitions, lectures, inspections, meetings, charity bazaars, sports matches, balls, parties) occurring during the day/week of the issue's publication
- **Notices in the *Times* 'Court Circular'** detailing the movements of the social elite (e. g. arrivals and departures, attendances, parties and gatherings); features occasionally lists of those in attendance at events
- **Letters of publicity** written by the exhibition organiser or representative relating to the exhibition
- **Other notices** including short news features mentioning the exhibition or mentions of the exhibition in longer features.

Problems

All effort has been made to provide a comprehensive listing of exhibitions using extant exhibition catalogues in the Petrie Museum and Egypt Exploration Society archives, as well as keyword searches in *The Times Digital Archive*. However, word recognition in keyword database searches is problematic and this factor has been highlighted with reference to digitized archive databases (e. g. Bingham 2010). As others have noted, the 'accuracy' of the keyword search – the ability for a researcher to find what they are looking for – depends among other things on the quality of the periodical scanning, the character, organisation and robustness of the database construction and optical character recognition (OCR) software, and the ability of the researcher to recognize and use differences in nuance, spelling and vocabulary over historical periods (see Bingham 2010: 229-230; Leahy 2005: 76). This is particularly relevant for archaeology taking place overseas that this database of exhibitions represents. Archaeological sites could have a variety of spellings from one article to the next – for example, "Lahun" was also spelled "Illahun" or "Kahun".

The time period under consideration here presents further difficulties. As Bingham has noted, while there are a few key periodical databases that cover multiple centuries, there has been a heavy focus on 19th century periodicals, although as time progresses more 20th century issues are being digitised (2010: 226). As this study spans both the 19th and the 20th centuries, the amount of coverage available at the time of writing varied within the

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timeframe. As *The Times Digital Archive* spans both 19th and 20th centuries, it has been used here as the primary source for the exhibition entries alongside the extant catalogues. Dates of duration, sites represented, exhibition locations, opening hours and admission details are given when they appear in the exhibition catalogues and/or *Times* notices. These have been supplemented with information from other periodicals where relevant in an attempt to give consistent information across the entries. As the *British Library Periodicals* database also spans both 19th and 20th centuries, keyword searches within the specialist periodicals it features have been used for supplementary information as indicated in the notes. Similarly, the British Library's 19th Century Newspapers database has also been referred to for exhibitions occurring up to 1900.

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ⁱ Further details on the genesis of some of these database projects can be found in Leahy (2005).

ⁱⁱ Mussell (2007: Ch 5) describes the relationship between physical event and publication in his study of scientific societies in the 19th century. He argues that the events were central to the creation of knowledge capital amongst scientists, through the publication of works in progress presented at the meetings in “proceedings” as a prologue for fully developed scientific papers published in the more formal “journal”. This argument can be applied to exhibitions – with the exhibition catalogues taking the place of “proceedings”.

ⁱⁱⁱ British Honduras was a Crown Colony, and its government entered into a special agreement with the British Museum for concessions to excavate and to export a portion of finds back to London. At the time, *The Times* reported that as export agreements became tighter in Mandated territories, British Honduras could be considered an emerging field for the development of British archaeology abroad (The Times 1928a, The Times 1930).