

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

14TH JUNE, 1920.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF SIR WILLIAM MACLEAY.

Mr. J. J. Fletcher, M.A., B.Sc., President, in the Chair.

Presidential Address, "The Society's Heritage from the Macleays."

BRIEF SYNOPSIS, AND LIST OF SOME OF THE EXHIBITS.

Yesterday (Sunday), the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir William Macleay, at Wick, County Caithness, 13th June, 1820—Came to Australia with his cousin, W. S. Macleay, in March, 1839—His scientific usefulness, and how he came to be useful: in the first stage of his scientific career largely the product of family influence and family example: the youngest and last of a succession of Macleays interested in Science—Other reasons for the Society's interest in the Macleays: its Hall stands on part of the old garden, in proximity to the old home—The Macleay collections are now in the possession of the University of Sydney: the accessibility of the collections to members of the Society for study provided for by Sir William—The Society's memorials of all of them, and of some of their friends—Their long connection with the Linnean Society of London, 1794-1891: and with the Australian Museum, *ab initio* (1826) to 1877—Both branches of the family in which it is interested have now come to an end in the direct line; the Society may be considered to have inherited the family scientific traditions.

The MACLEAYAN SUCCESSION: ALEXANDER MACLEAY, F.R.S., F.L.S. (1767-1848)—WILLIAM SHARP MACLEAY, M.A., F.L.S., eldest son (1792-1865)—Sir GEORGE MACLEAY, F.L.S., third son (1809-1891)—Sir WILLIAM MACLEAY, Kt., F.L.S., M.L.C., nephew (1820-91).

Details of the development of their interest in science, and of their scientific work—History of the old garden and of Elizabeth Bay House; records of scientific and other visitors—Records of their scientific and other friends—History of the Macleay Collections up to the year 1874 [The account of their later development, based on Sir William's own records, is reserved for another occasion]—Memorials of all of them.

EXHIBITS.

Mementoes of Alexander Macleay: Portrait—Portraits of the Tradescants (father and son), Linnaeus (in his Lapland dress), Buffon, Peter Collinson (Botanist), George Edwards, Dr. William Hunter, Sir Ashton Lever, Dr. A. Russell, Captain Cook, and William Curtis (with an inscription, from Dr. Sims).

Books: Fr. Willughbeii *Ornithologia* (1626); Linnaei *Systema Naturae* (1767)—Four author's reprints inscribed "from his affectionate friend," "from his attached friend R. Brown"—Original made-up copy of J. W. Lewin's "Lepidopterous Insects of New South Wales," with the MS text and title page, as sent to England; original drawings of Lepidopterous larvae—Sale catalogue of collections.

Mementoes of W. S. Macleay—Books, reprints of his papers—Author's reprints presented to him by Robert Brown, Charles Lyell, and others—John Vaughan Thomson's "Zoological Researches" (1828-30)—His copy of Robert Lowe's famous macaronic poem composed on the visit of the Princess Victoria, and her mother, the Duchess of Kent, to Oxford in 1833—Original Drawings of Tunicates, and of the Fruit-fly (*Ceratitis citriperda*) for the illustration of two of his papers—Coloured drawings of Cuban lepidopterous larvae, spiders, etc.—Miscellaneous sketches—Sketch-book containing drawings of pelagic organisms caught in the townet on the voyage to Australia—Sketch of a pelagic tunicate (*Appendicularia*) taken in the townet by Mr. Huxley in Torres Straits—Charles Curtis' original drawings of Paussid beetles, and spiders, for the illustration of two papers—Original drawings of remarkable spiders and Membracid insects sent by Dr. Cantor, of Calcutta—Dr. James Stuart's collection of drawings of Australian animals, chiefly Port Jackson fishes, bequeathed to W. S. Macleay—Original drawings of Lepidoptera, spiders, and of a "Vegetable Caterpillar," by the Misses Scott of Ash Island—Sketch of a Pselaphid beetle by the Rev. R. L. King, 1858—Gerard Krefft's original drawing of *Chaeropus*, and etchings of Aborigines and marsupials seen in the Lower Murray and Darling country, about 1857—Letter to Miss Harriet Scott, explaining the synonymy of the species of *Charagia*—Letters from scientific friends—Original sketch of *Phyllirhoe* by Dr. J. Denis MacDonald, H.M.S. Herald—Dissecting microscopes.

Memento of George Macleay, donor of some of W. S. Macleay's entomological books, and of the Stuart collection of drawings to William Macleay: his portrait.

Mementoes of William Macleay—Portraits—Bust presented by Members—The Society's home, much of its library, and of its other possessions, including nearly all the foregoing.

OTHER EXHIBITS (not Macleayan relics).

Photo of the bust of W. S. Macleay, kindly sent by Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, General Secretary of the Linnean Society of London, by permission of the Council—Photographs of original drawings, by Conrad Martens, of the Colonial Secretary's official residence in Bridge Street, and of Elizabeth Bay House viewed from Darling Point, kindly sent by Mr. Clive Lord, Hon. Secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania, by permission of the Council.

Portraits of Rear-Admiral P. P. King and Mrs. King, and their son, the Hon. P. G. King, M.L.C., an early Member of the Society, Member of the Council, and donor of his father's author's copy of J. D. Hooker's "Flora Antarctica" (the photos kindly lent by Mr. G. Goldfinch).

Portrait of Mrs. Charles Meredith, who, with her husband, came out to Sydney in 1839, and afterwards removed to Tasmania: authoress, some of her books illustrated with her own drawings of plants and animals.

Portraits of Mr. A. W. Scott, and of his younger daughter, Mrs. Edward Forde, entomologists and artists, formerly of Ash Island.

Professor J. T. Wilson unveiled the Society's Honour Roll, on which are inscribed the names of members who served abroad during the Great War, 1914-1919.

A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Professor Wilson for unveiling the Honour Roll.

The President, on behalf of Members, offered Professor Wilson hearty congratulations on his appointment as Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge, at the same time expressing their keen regret at his departure from Sydney, and also asked him to convey a message of remembrance and regard to Professors Martin and Hill.

Professor Wilson expressed his appreciation of the invitation to be present and unveil the Honour Roll; he also thanked Members for their congratulations on his recent appointment.

On the motion of Professor David a hearty vote of thanks to the President, Mr. J. J. Fletcher, was carried by acclamation.

The Meeting closed with cheers for His Majesty the King, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.



Fletcher, J. J. 1920. "Special General Meeting, 14th June, 1920. In commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Sir William Macleay. Presidential Address, "The Society's heritage from the Macleays.". Brief synopsis, and list of some of the exhibits." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 45, 218–220. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.19542>.

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