

# Horniman Museum and Library Publications series (1904-1977)

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## ABSTRACT

Horniman Museum and Library published a group of visitor guides and handbooks to accompany permanent galleries under the series title “Horniman Museum and Library Publications”. This paper presents a bibliography for the series, which covered subjects in zoology and anthropology. The series included sixteen publications. Many had multiple editions. Authors were not identified explicitly, and attribution was assigned to the institution. This paper identifies authors and other notable contributors for each volume. The Horniman stopped assigning new publications to the series at the end of the 1930s; however, new guides and handbooks continued to be published in similar fashion. Some new publications asserted continuity, claiming to be later editions. Others did not. This paper identifies those additional publications. Both continuity and break reveal aspects of work within the museum environment. Indeed, the evolution of this series offers insight into relationships between curators, professionalisation, and exhibition culture at the Horniman Museum over the twentieth century.

## KEYWORDS

Horniman Museum – evolution – anthropology – ethnology – gallery guides – zoology – aquaria – musical instruments – curator – natural history museum – locomotion – defences – classification

## TEXT

In the first half of the twentieth century, Horniman Museum and Library published the “Horniman Museum and Library Publications” series. Generally, these were specialised handbooks associated with the museum’s permanent galleries in anthropology and natural history. Handbooks sometimes provided detailed information about objects displayed in exhibition cases. They also created larger narratives for subjects associated with the museum’s galleries. Handbooks were marketed to ordinary museum visitors and sold as inexpensive keepsakes within a broad education remit.

This paper untangles the bibliographic history of the Horniman Museum and Library Publications series. Online catalogues show considerable inconsistency regarding items in this series, confused by authorship, the appearance of multiple editions, and the use of different publishers over the decades of its production. The bibliography presented here assembles the series into a single sequence, through number 16 (evolution of animals). This bibliography also notes later publications not explicitly identified as part of the series but clearly fitting into its ethos and frequently identified informally as part of that series. Both continuity and break in identity seem to be important in the history of this series. Analysis of such patterns, however, is beyond the scope of this short note.

Authorship is a key area of bibliographical confusion. Authors were not identified on title pages, with attribution assigned only to the Horniman Museum and Library. Authors sometimes were noted in preface materials. Alternatively, they sometimes were noted retrospectively in later editions. Where known, authors are identified in the bibliography presented here; however, this list preserves the Horniman Museum and Library as volume author unless a named person appeared on the title page.

Some handbooks in the series can be used to reconstruct exhibit design. However, most do not offer case-to-case specificity. This was intentional. Curators designed thematic displays in the natural history gallery, and they wrote handbooks because they felt the need to relate objects in cases to more encompassing narratives, principles, or explanations. The 1912 handbook for new exhibits on

locomotion in animals, for instance, offered a way to “present a more connected account of the subject than can be given on the labels in the cases” (p. [ii]) Handbooks for anthropological subjects, especially those written by Herbert Spencer Harrison (e.g., numbers 7 and 8) interpreted objects through the advocacy lens of social Darwinism and Tylorist progressionism (Scott 2007).

Items in the Horniman Museum and Library Publications series were neither the first nor only publications produced by the institution. This series began after an institutional reorganisation that saw the museum and library rebuilt in 1900 then ownership transferred in 1901 from its founder to London County Council (LCC). Associated with this transfer was an expansion in facility and capability. Educational goals were amplified, too. Publications after 1901 were produced for the Horniman Museum and Library by LCC through the LCC’s general publishing and procurement systems. Horniman publications normally included LCC catalogue numbers, printed on front covers. Horniman publications under the LCC were distributed by LCC agents as well as by the museum.

Development of the handbook series paralleled growth in permanent exhibitions at the Horniman Museum and Library. It also reflected increased specialisation amongst museum staff and in the communities the museum sought to engage. For instance, handbook number 2 (*Study of Animal Life*) grew into number 11 (locomotion in animals) and number 12 (survey of the animal kingdom). Re-organisation of the natural history gallery in the early 1920s led to new editions of number 11 (locomotion, second edition in 1923) and number 12 (survey, second edition in 1922) as well as expanded coverage of headline subjects in numbers 13 (human evolution), 15 (defences of animals), and 16 (evolution of animals).

Creation of new handbooks and revisions for existing handbooks stalled after 1929, after publication of the second edition of number 8 (*War and the Chase*). Only two new publications appeared in the 1930s. One was a third edition of *From Stone to Steel* (1936), published just before the exhibit’s creator (Harrison) retired in 1937. Also, the general guide for the museum (number 1) was revised for a third edition in 1936.

The production of handbooks continued after the 1939-1945 war, with a revision in general design in the 1950s and a second redesign in the 1960s. However, handbooks after 1945 were no longer carried association with the pre-war “Horniman Museum and Library Publications” series. Formally, number 16 (evolution of animals) was the last publication designated in that series. Nevertheless, new museum publications continued literary and design patterns of earlier handbooks. *Musical Instruments* (1958) and *Tropical Aquaria* (1960) were examples. *Survey of the Animal Kingdom* (1959) was identified as a “third edition,” though it was not numbered specifically as previously part of the series (number 12). Similarly, *Defences of Animals* (1972) was identified as a “second edition”. No publication associated with this group of publications appeared after 1977.

Not all publications associated with Horniman exhibitions were associated with the notion of a handbook. The key criterion for inclusion appears to have been whether the material was part of the permanent displays. Examples of catalogues associated with temporary exhibitions at the Museum included Thero (1948), Jenkins and Olsen (1976), Doubleday (1998), and Horniman Museum (1975, 1979, 1981).

In 1993, the museum launched a new series, “Horniman World Heritage Series”. Tobert (1993) was the first in the series. Other titles included Teague (1993) and Tobert (1994). In 1990, the museum and library were devolved from association with local government. They began operating as a charity, the Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust (registered charity 802725).

## REFERENCES

- DOUBLEDAY, John, 1998. *Popular Art in Isolation Japan 1639-1858*. London.
- HORNIMAN MUSEUM, 1975. *Folk Embroidery and Jewellery of Bosnia-Herzegovina*. London.
- HORNIMAN MUSEUM, 1979. *Man in the Americas: Horniman Museum Gallery Guide*. London.
- HORNIMAN MUSEUM, 1981. *The Dolmetsch Collection of Musical Instruments*. London.
- JENKINS, J. and OLSEN, P. R., 1976. *Music and Musical Instruments in the World of Islam*. London.

SCOTT, M. R., 2007. *Rethinking Evolution in the Museum: Envisioning African Origins*. Abingdon, England.

TEAGUE, K. (ed.), 1993. *Mr Horniman and the Tea Trade*. Horniman World Heritage Series. London.

THERO, M., 1948. *Frescoes from Ceylon Temples*. London.

TOBERT, N. (ed.), 1993. *Feet of Ingenuity: A Catalogue of Footwear from the Ethnographic Collections at the Horniman Museum*. London.

TOBERT, N. (ed.), 1994. *Sacred Lands Devoted Lives: Hinduism and Daily Life in a South Indian Village*. London.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The ordering of this bibliography is by handbook number as printed on the volume's cover. New editions are identified here with subordinate numerals, e.g., "1.2" is the second edition of handbook number 1. This notation is a convention used by the present paper and not used in the original series.

1. Horniman Museum and Library. 1904. *A Guide to the Collections of the Horniman Museum and Library, Etc.* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 1). London, London County Council, 41p.

Later editions are not identified as part of the handbook series.

1.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1912. *Guide for the Use of Visitors to the Horniman Museum and Library, Forest Hill, London, S.E.* Second edition, rewritten. London, London County Council, 96p.

1.3 Horniman Museum and Library. 1921. *Guide to the Collections in the Horniman Museum and Library, Forest Hill, London S.E.* Third edition. London, London County Council, 128p.

1.4 Horniman Museum and Library. 1936. *Guide to the Collections in the Horniman Museum and Library, Forest Hill, London S.E. 23.* Fourth Edition. London, London County Council. 128p.

2. Horniman Museum and Library. 1904. *A Handbook to the Collection Arranged as an Introduction to the Study of Animal Life* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 2). London, London County Council, 43p.

Alfred Cort Haddon ("Advisory Curator") is identified as the editor. In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), "the naturalist of the Museum," is identified as the author of this volume.

2.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1909. *A Handbook to the Collection Arranged as an Introduction to the Study of Animal Life*. Second edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 2). London, London County Council, 44p.

The nominal publication date for the second edition was 16 March 1909. In the library of the Horniman Museum, the copy of record has a handwritten note on its title page stating the second edition was "cancelled" dated 18 April 1909. No explanation is given.

3. Horniman Museum and Library. 1904. *A Handbook to the Vivaria and Fresh Water Aquaria* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 3). London, London County Council. 56p.

In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), "the naturalist of the Museum," is identified as the author of this volume.

3.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1907. *A Handbook to the Vivaria and Fresh Water Aquaria*. Second edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 3). London, London County Council. 76p.

In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), "the naturalist of the Museum," is identified as the author of this volume.

3.3 Horniman Museum and Library. 1924. *A Handbook to the Freshwater Aquaria and Vivaria. Third Edition, Re-Written* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 3). London, Horniman Museum and Library. 54p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Note the title change between second and third editions.

4. Horniman Museum and Library. 1904. *A Handbook to the Marine Aquaria* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 4). London, London County Council. 39p.

In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), “the naturalist of the Museum,” is identified as the author of this volume.

- 4.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1912. *A Handbook to the Marine Aquaria. Second Edition*. (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 4). London, London County Council. 52p.

In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), “the naturalist of the Museum,” is identified as the author of this volume.

- 4.3 Horniman Museum and Library. 1927. *A Handbook to the Marine Aquaria. With Two Plates. Third Edition* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 4). London, London County Council. 69p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author.

5. Horniman Museum and Library. Probably 1904. *A Handbook to the Case Arranged as an Introduction to the Study of Birds' Eggs* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 5). London, London County Council. 11p.

No publication date is given. It likely is late 1904. In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr Frank Slade (FZS), “the naturalist of the Museum,” is identified as the author of this volume.

6. Horniman Museum and Library. 1905. *A Handbook to the Library* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 6). London, Horniman Museum and Library. 90p.

- 6a. Horniman Museum and Library. 1912. *Supplement; Being a Catalogue of Publications Added in the Years 1906-1911* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 6a). London, London County Council. 81p.

- 6.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1912. *A Handbook to the Library (1905), With Supplement (1912)* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 6). London, London County Council. 90+81p.

In 1912, the Horniman Museum published a *Supplement* to its library holdings as number 6a in the series. This appeared as a standalone publication. Also in 1912, the Museum reprinted its 1905 *Handbook to the Library* bound together the *Supplement*. This was identified as publication number “6,6a”. The presumption might have been that those owning number 6 might purchase number 6a only, while those without number 6 could purchase both as a single issue of number 6,6a combined. This entailed reprinting number 6 in 1912 to be included as part of “6,6a”.

In preface materials to handbook number 6.2, Mr. A. W. Pepper, the Librarian, is identified as the author of number 6. He also is the likely author of number 6a.

7. Horniman Museum and Library. 1906. *From Stone to Steel: A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Ages of Stone, Bronze, and Iron* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 7). London, London County Council. 75p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author.

- 7.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1923. *From Stone to Steel: A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Ages of Stone, Bronze, and Iron*. Second Edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 7). London, London County Council. 81p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author.

- 7.3 Horniman Museum and Library. 1936. *From Stone to Steel: A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Ages of Stone, Bronze, and Iron*. Third Edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 7). London, London County Council. 98p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is the likely author of the third edition. He is the author of the preface, but he does not explicitly claim authorship of this edition. Harrison retired from the museum in 1937. E.M.

[Edmund] Rich is identified on the title page as “Education Officer”, and he is sometimes taken to be the author. There is no supporting evidence for that assertion.

8. Horniman Museum and Library. 1908. *A Handbook to the Weapons of War and the Chase. With Two Plates* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 8). London, London County Council. 73p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author. The title page lacks a handbook number in the upper right corner of the frontend paper.

8.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1929. *War and the Chase. A Handbook to the Collection of Weapons of Savage, Barbaric, and Civilised Peoples*. Second Edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 8). London, London County Council. 85p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author.

9. Horniman Museum and Library. 1910. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Stages in the Evolution of the Domestic Arts. Part 1. Agriculture, the Preparation of Food, and Fire-Making. (Including Also Notes on the Andaman Collection)* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 9). London, London County Council. 39p.

9.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1925 *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Stages in the Evolution of the Domestic Arts. Part 1. Agriculture, the Preparation of Food, and Fire-Making. (Including Notes on the Andaman Collection.)*. Second Edition. (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 9). London, London County Council. 44p.

10. Horniman Museum and Library. 1911. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Stages in the Evolution of the Domestic Arts. Part 2. Basketry, Pottery, Spinning, and Weaving, Etc.* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 10). London, London County Council. 54p.

10.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1924. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Stages in the Evolution of the Domestic Arts. Part 2. Basketry, Pottery, Spinning, and Weaving, Etc.* Second Edition (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 10). London, London County Council. 77p.

11. Horniman Museum and Library. 1912. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Animal Locomotion. With One Plate* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 11). London, London County Council. 47p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Alfred Cort Haddon (“Advisory Curator”) is identified as the editor.

11.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1923. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Adaptations for Locomotion in Animals. With One Plate. Second Edition* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 11). London, London County Council. 40p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified as editor. In 1923 edition, H.S. Harrison wrongly identified the publication date of the first edition as 1913.

12. Horniman Museum and Library. 1914. *A Handbook to the Collections Illustrating a Survey of the Animal Kingdom* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 12). London, London County Council. 78p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified as editor.

12.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1922. *A Handbook to the Collections Illustrating a Survey of the Animal Kingdom. Second Edition*. (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 12). London, London County Council. 66p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified as editor.

12.3 Horniman Museum and Library. 1959. *A Handbook to the Collections Illustrating a Survey of the Animal Kingdom*. Third Edition. London, London County Council. 92p.

George Ernest Williams is identified in preface materials as the author.

12.4 Horniman Museum and Library. 1969. *A Survey of the Animal Kingdom*. Fourth Edition. London, Inner London Education Authority. 96p.

George Ernest Williams is identified in preface materials as the author.

13. Horniman Museum and Library. 1920. *The Ascent of Man. A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Structure of Man and the Great Apes* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 13). London, London County Council, 74p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author.

14. Horniman Museum and Library. 1925. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating Simple Means of Travel and Transport by Land and Water* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 14). London, London County Council. 71p.

Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified in preface materials as the author.

15. Horniman Museum and Library. 1926. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Defences of Animals. With Two Plates* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 15). London, London County Council, 59p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified as editor.

15.2 Horniman Museum and Library. 1972. *Defences of Animals. Second Edition* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 15). London, Inner London Education Authority. 60p.

George Ernest Williams is identified in preface materials as the author.

16. Horniman Museum and Library. 1928. *A Handbook to the Cases Illustrating the Evolution of Animals* (Horniman Museum and Library Publications 16). London, London County Council. 71p.

Henry Neal Milligan is identified in preface materials as the author. Herbert Spencer Harrison is identified as editor.

The publications listed below were not identified formally as part of the Horniman Museum and Library Publications series. However, they continue the pattern of handbooks in that series. Several are identified as later editions of handbooks, including numbers 12 (survey of animals) and 15 (defences of animals). They also show design and production continuities that link the volumes together in series. The catalogues associated with the Carse collection appear to represent a transition in design and direction, changed later in the decade.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1947. *A List of the Instruments Included in the Adam Carse Collection of Musical Wind Instruments, with an Introduction by Mr. Carse, etc.* London, London County Council, 16p.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1951. *Catalogue of the Adam Carse Collection of Old Musical Wind Instruments in the Horniman Museum*. London, London County Council. 88p.

Preface materials note illustrations by Henry H. Trivick.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1958. *Musical Instruments*. London, London County Council. 109p.

Jean L. Jenkins is identified in preface materials as the author.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1970. *Musical Instruments*. Second edition. London, Inner London Education Authority, 104p.

Jean L. Jenkins is identified in preface materials as author and signed the Author's Preface.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1977. *Musical Instruments*. Second edition with addendum. London, Inner London Education Authority, 109p.

Jean L. Jenkins is identified in preface materials as author. The addendum is "List of Books: Supplement," pp. 101-105. This addendum is described by David M. Boston in a Foreword, noting the remaining text was unchanged from the 1970 edition. Boston notes several recent "outstanding acquisitions" and two "major special exhibitions" mounted at the museum in 1973 and 1975.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1960. *Tropical Aquaria*. London, London County Council. 51p.

George Ernest Williams is identified in preface materials as the author.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1973. *Tropical Aquaria*. Second Edition. London, Inner London Education Authority. 48p.

George Ernest Williams is identified in preface materials as the author.

Horniman Museum and Library. 1974. *Wind Instruments of European Art Music*. London, Inner London Education Authority, 107p. 20 pages of plates.

Preface materials note this volume was "prepared by" Edward Alexander Keane Ridley. In *Musical Instruments* (1977), Boston noted it was "written by" Ridley.