

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of  
HERBERT JOHN FLEURE FRS  
(1877-1969)

deposited in the National Library of Wales,  
Aberystwyth

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Records

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Report on the papers of

HERBERT JOHN FLEURE, F.R.S.

(1877 - 1969)

Listed by: Jeannine Alton  
Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1976

Description of the collection.

The papers were received from Mr. J.L.Fleure (son), who retains some family and personal material.

Very little primary material remains of Fleure's early researches, or his wide range of teaching in zoology, geology, botany, anthropology or geography. His early impressions of Aberystwyth are recorded in Item 4, and courses of lectures given there in 1906 - 07 in Items 20, 21.

Fleure maintained his research interests to the end of his long life, despite increasing loss of sight. Many items in the collection were written under this severe handicap (4 - 7, 36, 40), sometimes with the assistance of Mrs. Fleure. Mrs. Fleure's own research, under her maiden name of Bishop, is preserved in Item 20, and her help and devotion to Fleure throughout their married life is well attested in Items 9 - 11.

The account book kept by Fleure's father, accountant to the States of Guernsey, is of interest (Item 8).

Help and information are gratefully acknowledged from Professor E.G.Bowen, Professor Alice Garnett, Dr. Iorwerth C.Peate, and Professor Elwyn Davies.

Locations of other material

Royal Anthropological Institute, London: Fleure's anthropometric record cards

Geographical Association, Sheffield: Fleure's medals, bound set of reprints, books and journals from his library (given by his daughter), records in Minutes of the Association.

Summary of the career of H.J.Fleure

- b. 1877 Guernsey  
 1885 - 91 educ. States Guernsey Intermediate School, and private study  
 1897 B.Sc London Intermediate (External)  
 1897 - 1901 U.C.N.W.Aberystwyth  
 1902 - 04 Zoological Institute, Zürich;  
           D.Sc. University of Wales  
 1904 - 30 U.C.N.W.Aberystwyth  
           1904 - 07 Assistant Lecturer in Zoology, Geology & Botany  
           1907 Lecturer in Geology, Zoology & Geography  
           1908 - 10 Head of Dept. Zoology, interim Head of Dept. Geology  
           1910 - 17 interim Professor of Zoology, Lecturer in Geography  
           1917 - 30 Professor of Anthropology & Geography  
 1910 married Hilda Mary Bishop (d.1974)  
 1917 - 46 Hon. Sec. Geographical Association  
 1930 - 44 Professor of Geography, Victoria University, Manchester  
 1932 President, Section E (Geography), British Association  
 1936 Fellow of the Royal Society, London  
           Fellow, Royal Scottish Geographical Society  
 1937 Huxley Medal, Royal Anthropological Institute  
 1945 - 47 President, Royal Anthropological Institute  
 1948 President, Geographical Association  
           President, Folk Lore Society

(see also misc. published and manuscript material in Items 1 - 11)

Contents of the handlist

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Biographical & Personal (Items 1 - 11)

1. 3 photographs of Fleure.  
misc. press-cuttings re Fleure's career, publications etc.
2. Misc. obituaries & memorial tributes.
3. Misc. Honours & Awards:  
re Memorial volume of essays to be published by colleagues at Aberystwyth, 1928  
Corresponding Member, Societa Italiana d'Antropologia, 1932  
Corresponding Member, Societa Romana d'Antropologia, 1933  
Fellowship of the Royal Society, 1936  
Geographical Research Medal, Royal Scottish Geographical Society  
Charles P. Daly Medal, American Geographical Society  
Resolution of Senate, University of Manchester, 1944 (on Fleure's retirement)  
  
Associate Member, L'Institut d'Egypte  
Doctor of Laws, University of Edinburgh, 1950  
Doctor in Legibus, University College of North Wales, Bangor, 1955
- 4 - 7 Misc. autobiographical accounts & reminiscences by Fleure
4. 'The Little Town' (on early days in Aberystwyth 1900 - 04)  
Ms. by Fleure, and typescr. Ms. written by Fleure in his last years, when he was almost blind.
5. An account of geographical & climatic factors in the life of Wales;  
Ms. & typescr. as above.
6. Reminiscences of colleagues at Aberystwyth (Ms.):  
Henry Stuart Jones  
Professor Elliot  
T. F-R  
Mrs. Rachel Mary Fleming  
with covering letter to 'Mr. Ellis'  
Perh. material sent for E.L. Ellis's centenary volume 'University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1872 - 1972').
7. Ms. reminiscences by Fleure, with note by Mrs. Fleure 're. Prof. Herbertson'.
8. Cash book 1869 - 1914  
Kept by John Fleure (father) from 1869 - 1889, then continued in another hand.  
John Fleure was accountant to the States, Guernsey, and the book refers to his transactions on their account.
- 9 - 11 Letters of condolence to Mrs. Fleure, with tributes & reminiscences of Fleure and his work. Arranged in approximate alphabetical order, not indexed.  
3 folders: A - G; H - M; N - W.

Printed Material (Items 12 - 14)

- 12, 13 Articles, papers, obituaries by Fleure 2 Boxes
- 14 Misc. personal & association copies of articles & papers presented to Fleure  
Memorial service, tributes etc. relating to Thomas Jones, President, U.C.N.W. Aberystwyth  
Duplicated paper 'Recollections of "J.M." by George M.Ll.Davies'  
1 Box

Bibliographies & studies (Items 15 - 18)

- 15, 16 Audrey Marie Weston Sinnhuber: Herbert John Fleure. A Bibliography 1954 (duplicated)  
2 copies, one annotated and updated.
- 17 J.A.Campbell: Some Sources of the Humanism of H.J.Fleure. Research papers no.2, School of Geography, University of Oxford, 1972
- 18 Additional Ms. bibliographical information, supplementing 15 above.  
Ms. by Fleure 'Publications Jan.1954 onwards'  
Lists of reviews published by Fleure in Man 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961  
List of Fleure's offprints compiled by Mrs. Fleure (incomplete)

Notes & working papers (Items 19 - 37)

19. Early notebook n.d. of notes and drawings, perhaps for lectures, mainly on marine biology. Few of the pages can be read, as the book has been used to hold press-cuttings about Fleure, especially reviews of his Human Geography in Western Europe: a study in appreciation, London, 1918  
(Original notes c. 1904)
20. Notebook inscribed 'Biological Theory. Course 1906 - 7', Ms. lectures and drawings.  
At rear of book: ms. notes on anthropology
21. Notebook inscribed 'The Biological Aspect of History', Ms. lectures (many pages excised) n.d.
22. Ms. 'Notes on the Gastropod Foot and Branchial Cavity' by Hilda M.Bishop, with pencil and w/colour drawings; with 2 offprints of published version in Annals and Magazine of Natural History, 1910.  
Miss Bishop married Fleure in 1910, and died in 1974
- 23 - 33 11 Octavo folders, labelled by Fleure as listed below. They contain variously notes for lectures, notes on the literature etc.
- 23 Africa (ms. notes)

- 24 America (ms. notes)
- 25 Ancient Lands (typescr. outline for course of 21 lectures)
- 26,27 British Isles (26 contains outline for course of 15 lectures)
- 28 Europe (typescr. outline for course of 14 lectures)
- 29 Europe and Mediterranean Region (ms.notes)
- 30 Geography Lectures. Skeletons. General Course (ms. notes)
- 31 Geography Subjects. unsorted (ms. notes)
- 32 Races (typescr. outline for extensive course of 66 lectures)
- 33 Simple Societies (typescr. outline for course of 28 lectures)
- 34, 35. Work on Channel Islands, mainly Guernsey
34. Photographs, mainly of dwellings in Guernsey, identified & dated on verso. 1953 - 54  
Maps of Guernsey & Channel Islands, drawn by Fleure (ink)  
Printed material re Channel Islands  
Typescr. & ms. account of life in Channel Islands under German occupation during 2nd. World War, 6pp., 1st.p.dated June 13 1944, last p. dated May 5 1945. (A Xerox copy of this document is in the Dept. of Documents, Imperial War Museum, London.)
35. Ms. table & accompanying map by Fleure 'Rural Distribution of Guernsey family names 1913'  
'The Guernsey Farmhouse', ms. & typescr.  
2 separate typescr. accounts entitled 'Guernsey', with notes of 'suggestions' by K.C.Edwards.
36. Work on A natural history of man in Britain; conceived as a study of changing relations between men and environments.  
(first published in the New Naturalist Series, London 1951, revised in collaboration with Margaret Davies, London, 1970  
  
Copy of Readers Union edition 1959, with ms.alterations by Fleure misc. pages of corrections & additional material for revised ed., many in Fleure's hand with Mrs. Fleure's transcriptions, and typed versions.  
(Fleure was almost blind when he undertook this task)  
  
2 letters from Sir Dudley Stamp 1966 re proposed revision of book, with, on verso of letter of 6 June, Fleure's plans for alterations & additions.  
  
25 letters from Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Davies, Dec. 1966 - August 1967 during collaboration, discussing changes and current ecological & archaeological ideas etc.
37. Envelope of notes on Arthur Young's 'Travels in France before the Revolution' (not in Fleure's hand)

Ms. papers & addresses Items 38 - 40

38. 'Parallels between India and Europe. A sketch of the story of civilisation'  
ms. 5pp.  
'Cities' ms. 8pp.

## 38 (cont)

- 'Brittany' ms. 3pp. ?1911
- 'The Church' (on architecture) ms. 1p.
- 'Peoples of the World and their Homes' ms. 3pp.

39. Ms. talk on tolerance, untitled, pages noted A - E c.1950  
 'The Study of Man and the Welfare of Society', typescr. 17pp.  
 typescr. talk on racial & social diversity, untitled, 4pp.  
 ms. talk on world religions, untitled, 1p.

- 4-. ms. talk for Armistice Day 5pp.  
 ms. paper on carbon dating 5pp.  
 'Thoughts on Human Evolution', ms, pages noted A - R  
 'The Almighty', ms talk, 5pp.

(the last 3 items were written when Fleure was almost blind)

poem: 'Lihou Isle off Guernsey'

'On All Souls Eve. A Mystic's Apology', signed H.J.Fleure. (written in Wales)

41, 42. Correspondence

- 41 Letters from colleagues, former pupils etc. requesting references.  
 (not indexed) c1951 - 58
42. Misc. scientific & personal correspondence. (not indexed)

Slides, maps, charts Items 43 - 45

- 43 Slides  
 1 wooden slide box of labelled black-and-white slides, some of U.S.A. travel, majority of anthropological interest illustrating racial features.  
 1 box of labelled colour slides of racial types.  
 1 box inscribed 'Wales Types Negatives'.  
 4 boxes of labelled slides of U.S.A.  
 1 box inscribed 'The Loess and Settlement Farms'.  
 1 box inscribed 'Town and Village'.
44. Ordnance Survey Charts of Aberystwyth, 1905, 1912  
 (the Southern chart has ownership of land holdings and boundaries outlined in w/colour by Fleure)
45. Copies of 'An Accurate Survey and Measurement of the Island of Guernsey... by William Gardner 1787', sheets 1 and 2.