

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

QVM 7, H H SCOTT, CURATOR (1897-1938)

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INTRODUCTION

Herbert Hedley Scott was born on 15 August 1866 in London, the second son of Peter Dewar Scott and his wife Mary Susan, nee Gale. By 1871 the family was living in the USA, but after her husband's death in 1877, Mary returned to England and apprenticed Herbert to a cabinetmaker at Taunton, Somerset. Inheriting an interest in natural science from his parents, he began studies in geology and animal morphology. He did some work towards a science degree, but ill health prevented him from completing his studies. He also spent two years at a commercial college at Weston-super-Mare.

For health reasons Scott migrated to New Zealand in October 1887. After two years in business there he moved to Launceston, where he worked as a steward at the Launceston Club from March 1890. In the mid 1890s he helped form a microscopical club. On 1 June 1897 he succeeded Alexander Morton as curator of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, a position he occupied until his death.

The Museum flourished under Scott. As attested by his diaries, Scott did most of the work himself, from cleaning and supervision to preparation of exhibits and research. He inaugurated scientific lectures at the Museum and was a regular and frequent contributor of articles to the *Examiner* and *Daily Telegraph*, concerned with educating people about their environment and publicising the Museum. Under his guidance the Museum achieved a position unique among Australian regional museums.

Scott wrote an impressive number of scientific papers covering the period 1905 to 1934. He was the author of the first six brochures published by (the then) Victoria Museum, the first appearing in 1905, the last in 1917. Most of his other papers were published in the Royal Society of Tasmania *Papers and proceedings*, a number of them in collaboration with Clive Lord, his counterpart at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. A bibliography is included as Record no. 11.

It was largely due to Scott's efforts that the Beattie collection of Port Arthur relics was acquired by the Launceston City Council in 1927. His son, Eric, was appointed assistant curator at the Museum in 1930.

Recognised as an authority on geology, zoology and other branches of science, Scott, one of Tasmania's foremost naturalists, was awarded the Royal Society's Medal in 1934, only the third person to be accorded this honour. He was a foundation member of the Royal Society of Australia, member of the Cradle Mountain Reserve Board from 1927 and honorary member of the Launceston Rotary Club.

H H Scott died on 1 March 1938 at Launceston, survived by his wife, Frances Fannie, nee Stearnes, whom he had married on 25 January 1893, son Eric and daughter Ila (Mrs Allen, Melbourne).

The records were arranged and described by Barbara Valentine in August 2002.

THE RECORDS

<i>Item no</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Date range</i>
1. Diaries		
1/1.1	H H Scott diaries (25) (1/6/1897-31/10/1898 are in one volume; 1/1/1899 to 13/9/1899 complete, 14-27/9/1899 damaged, remaining pages removed)	1897-99; 1910-1916
1/1.2	H H Scott diaries (25)	1917-1925
1/1.3	H H Scott diaries (25)	1927-1934
2. Correspondence		
2/1	H H Scott letterbook, 28/4/1899-16/1/1905? 25/5/1906	1899-1906
2/2	H H Scott letterbook, 10/5/1909-15/6/1911	1909-11
3. Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Reports		
3/1	Victoria Museum and Art Gallery monthly reports, June-December 1897, by H H Scott	1897
3/2	Victoria Museum and Art Gallery monthly reports, January-May, July-October, December, by H H Scott	1898
3/3	Victoria Museum monthly reports, January-November 1899, by H H Scott	1899
3/4	Victoria Museum monthly reports, January-December 1900, by H H Scott	1900
3/5	Victoria Museum monthly reports, May, July-December 1901/January 1902, by H H Scott	1901
3/6	Victoria Museum monthly reports, February-September/October 1902, by H H Scott	1902
3/7	Victoria Museum monthly reports, January, February, May 1903, April 1904, by H H Scott	1903-04
3/8	Victoria Museum & Art Gallery annual report for 1917, by H H Scott	1917
3/9	Victoria Museum & Art Gallery annual report, dated 28 October 1918, by H H Scott	1918

3/10 Victoria Museum and Art Gallery annual report for year 1919
ended 30 June 1919, by H H Scott

4. Publications by H H Scott

- 4/1 *A monograph of Nototherium Tasmanicum*: Geological 1915
Survey Record no. 4 (Hobart, Department of Mines,
1915) (4 copies, 2 with addendum and annotations by
H H Scott, one of these copies has 'Monograph on
Nototherium Tasmanicum' reprint from *Examiner*
3 July 1915, pasted on inside front cover; also 3 separate
copies of addendum) **NB** Nototherium now called
Zygomaturus
- 4/2 'The natural history of man's evolution', reprinted from 1909
Daily Telegraph, 27 July 1909
- 4/3 'On the discovery of a Notherium in Tasmania' (with 1911
K M Harrison) *Tasmanian Naturalist* vol. 2, no. 4,
April 1911
- 4/4 'Another extinct giant marsupial', reprinted from 1912
Examiner, 1 November 1912
- 4/5 'Extinct Tasmanian monsters', *Country-side*, 4, (12) 1912
December 1912
- 4/6 'Monograph on Nototherium Tasmanicum', reprinted 1915
from *Examiner*, 3 July 1915 (2 copies)
- 4/7 'The story of the Nototheria', *Australian Museum* 1927
Magazine, vol. 3, no. 1, 1927
- 4/8 'Another Smithton giant', *Examiner & Weekly* nd
Courier Print, nd
- 4/9 'A note on "Palorchestes", as a Tasmanian Pleistocene 1915
Genus', Royal Society of Tasmania *Papers &*
Proceedings, 31 December 1915
- 4/10 Royal Society of Tasmania *Papers and proceedings*: 1919-25
(with Clive Lord) 'Studies of Tasmanian Cetacea',
part 2, 24 July 1919; part 3, 24 November 1919;
'Studies of Tasmanian Cetacea', part 4, also 'Studies
in Tasmanian mammals, living and extinct', no. 1,
29 May 1920; no. 2, 24 July 1920; no. 3, 28 September
1920; no. 4, 29 October 1920; no. 4, 14 July 1921; no. 5,
16 July 1921; nos. 8, 9, 10, 2 May 1923; no. 12,
25 August 1924; no. 13, 26 September 1925; no. 14,
26 January 1926; 'Nototheria & allied animals', 14 May
1921; 'On the Tasmanian Muridae', paper read 13 November

1922; 'Ear bones of Nototheria and allied animals',
 14 May 1924; 'Tasmanian giant marsupials', 23 March 1925

5. Research by H H Scott

5/1	Nototherium Tasmanicum (folder containing correspondence, notes, data, newspaper cuttings, diagrams etc; <i>Memoir on 'Nototherium Tasmanicum'</i> , Launceston Museum brochure no. 4, 1912 (2 copies); <i>Some palaeontological notes</i> , Launceston Museum brochure no. 6, 1917; 'Studies in Tasmanian mammals, living and extinct', Royal Society of Tasmania <i>Papers and proceedings</i> , no. 3, 28 September 1920, no. 4, 29 October 1920) NB Nototherium now called Zygomaturus	1910-26
5/2	Various notes on the Nototheria (handwritten by H H Scott)	c1915
5/3	'Monograph on Nototherium Tasmanicum' (manuscript by H H Scott; note by Scott, 1916)	1914
5/4	'The story of a Nototherium: being the autobiographical narrative of the last Tasmanicum Nototherium' (manuscript by H H Scott)	nd
5/5	'The Notheria & their kin' (manuscript by H H Scott)	1930
5/6	'Description of the skull' [of whale] (typed notes by H H Scott) and notes on dolphins (handwritten by H H Scott, 1902-03, c1914)	1902
5/7	'Osteology of the King Island emu' (handwritten and typed notes by H H Scott; correspondence; photographs) 'Macropus Anak' [fossil kangaroo] (handwritten notes by H H Scott)	c1906 1906
5/8	Moa bones (includes list of 18 casts on order, handwritten notes by H H Scott; correspondence)	1897, 1905, 1907
5/9	[Dissection of wedge tailed eagle] (handwritten paper by H H Scott)	1909
5/9a	'Notes on a fossil whale from Wynyard Tasmania' (handwritten notes by H H Scott)	1913
5/10	'Tasmanian wombat' (notes by H H Scott, correspondence etc, 1905, 1912, 1915, 1921, 1934)	
5/11	'Our seals' (<i>Examiner</i> articles, handwritten notes by H H Scott)	1925-26
5/12	'Notes upon some fossil woods from the Launceston Tertiary Basin' (handwritten paper by H H Scott)	1928
5/13	Various notes on fossil woods (handwritten by H H Scott; with <i>Examiner</i> cutting 19/5/1936)	1928, 1935

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|------|--|------------------|
| 5/14 | Various notes on fossil woods (handwritten by H H Scott, together inside leather cover inscribed 'Fossil Woods, Scott' on spine) | 1932-33 |
| 5/15 | Various notes on fossil woods (handwritten by H H Scott, together inside leather cover inscribed 'Wood Histology, Scott' on spine) | 1928,
1932-33 |
| 5/16 | 'The vegetable histology of the fossils found in the Launceston (Miocene) Tertiary Basin' (typed paper by H H Scott) | 1935 |
| 5/17 | 'List of Australian Echinoidea' (handwritten by H H Scott) | nd |

6. Notebooks

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|-----|--|------------|
| 6/1 | 'Fossil woods (notes for cards)' (handwritten by H H Scott) | nd |
| 6/2 | "The story of a tree' (handwritten by H H Scott, includes separate diagrams) | 1929 |
| 6/3 | 'Tasmanian pines microscopical data' (handwritten by H H Scott) | 1933, 1935 |

7. Newspaper Articles

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|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 7/1 | Newspaper cuttings from <i>Examiner</i> and <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (articles concerning and by H H Scott, pasted in exercise book (Natural Science Association of Northern Tasmania meeting notice for 7 October 1895 pasted inside front cover)) | 1892-98 |
| 7/2 | Newspaper cuttings from <i>Examiner</i> and <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (articles on natural history and the Museum by H H Scott, pasted in exercise book) | 1898-1903 |
| 7/3 | 'Tongues in trees' (<i>Daily Telegraph</i> articles by H H Scott)
'Tree lovers' league' (<i>Examiner</i> articles by H H Scott)
'A national tree' (<i>Daily Telegraph</i> articles by H H Scott)
'The popular microscope', unsourced, undated article (not by Scott) pasted in book; 'Microscopical outfit' notes by H H Scott, 1932 (also 'Tongues in trees' articles pasted on 15 sheets of paper) | 1919,
1923-24,
1927 |
| 7/4 | 'Pill box collection of microscopical specimens', with handwritten notes on wood specimens etc by H H Scott; 'A piece of wood', <i>Examiner</i> 16/6/1926 article by H H Scott; 'The romance of mahogany', <i>Daily Telegraph</i> articles by H H Scott, 7/7/1926-27/7/1926, pasted in book | 1926 |
| 7/5 | Newspaper cuttings mainly concerning Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, pasted in book (<i>Examiner</i> 1/11/1912 cutting "Another extinct giant marsupial", pasted on front, followed by | 1926-38 |

some undated cuttings)

- 7/6 'Nature and science, Curators' notes', *Examiner* articles by H H and E O G Scott (from 5/3/1935 called 'Science and nature') (pasted in 7 books: 13/1/1931-30/12/1931, 5/1/1932-27/12/1932, 2/1/1933-26/12/1933, 2/2/1934-25/12/1934, 1/1/1935-28/12/1935, 4/1/1936-[26/12/1936], 2/1/1937-5/3/1938) 1931-38

8.Related Activities

- 8/1 'The manifestations of life upon the earth', University Extension Lectures by H H Scott (3 copies of program; course ticket; *Examiner*, *Daily Telegraph* reprints 13/6/1916; newspaper cuttings *Examiner*, *Daily Telegraph* 30/5/, 8/6/, 26/6/, 15/7/, 1/8/1916 pasted on 4 sheets of paper) 1916
- 8/2 'A course of five popular lectures', University Extension Lectures by H H Scott (4 copies of program; course ticket; newspaper cuttings about the lectures pasted on 5 sheets of paper) 1917
- 8/3 Launceston Microscopical Club. Minute book (with *Examiner* and *Daily Telegraph* cuttings 25/9/1915 loose inside) 1929-37
- 8/4 'Roll of "The Scattered few"' (notebook concerning club for those interested in microscopy) 1930

9.Miscellaneous Records

- 9/1 'History of a piece of wood' and 'Workers' Education Association', unsourced, undated newspaper articles on lectures by H H Scott (pasted on a sheet of paper) nd
- 9/2 'Elephant skin', typed account annotated 'Copied from Scott's notebook in strongroom' nd
- 9/3 Unsourced, undated newspaper article on H H Scott c1929
- 9/4 Unsourced, undated newspaper cutting re award of Royal Society of Tasmania medal to H H Scott, includes photograph of Scott (2 copies) (Scott was awarded the Royal Society Medal on 9 April 1934, see *Royal Society Papers and proceedings*, 1934, p. 92) 1934
- 9/5 Obituary and associated newspaper cuttings on H H Scott, includes photograph, *Examiner* 2/3/1938, 4/3/1938 (pasted on 2 sheets of paper) 1938
- 9/6 'H H Scott' from Cradle Mountain Reserve report, by R E Smith (2 copies of typed obituary) c1938
- 9/7 'Living with dinosaurs' (typescript account by Nairn Eade, H H Scott's granddaughter, of her childhood recollections of living in the QVM AG building) 2001

9/8 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings by H H Scott, with handwritten notes 1907-1910

OTHER SOURCES

N J B Plomley, 'Scott, Herbert Hedley', *Australian dictionary of biography* vol. 11

Photographs of H H Scott - QVM:1983:P: 2514, 2515, 2516