



Dodos and Dark Lanterns

Highlights of Ashmolean History

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- Tells the story of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the world's first university museum, dating from the late 1600s
- Written in an accessible, anecdotal style, the book includes previously unpublished material from the Ashmolean archives

Throughout its history, the Ashmolean has evolved to meet changing needs and reflect new ideas. In the process, it has transformed from a cabinet of curiosities, representing the world in microcosm, to a museum of art and archaeology, illustrating connections between cultures over time. This book tells the story of that remarkable transformation. It shows what the Ashmolean was like at various points in the past and introduces the people who helped to make it the museum it is today. It looks at the buildings that have housed the Ashmolean and how they have been continually altered and adapted, as well as at the collections and how they have been interpreted and reinterpreted over the centuries.

David Berry did his doctoral research on the history of the museums, gardens and libraries of the University of Oxford. He has lectured extensively on the history of the Ashmolean, its architecture and collections, and has given numerous tours on these subjects to a variety of audiences. Since 2008, he curated the early museum collections (and related archives) and has developed the content of the Ark to Ashmolean gallery at the Ashmolean. David is now the Assistant Director of the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida.