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CHANTREY, WESTMACOTT AND CASTS AFTER THE ANTIQUE

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Journal of the History of Collections, Volume 3, Issue 2, 1 January 1991, Pages 255–264, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/3.2.255>

Published: 01 December 1991

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Abstract

The collection of casts from the studio of Sir Francis Chantrey entered the newly built University Galleries (now the Ashmolean Museum) in Oxford in

the 1840s. This paper describes the circumstances of their arrival, the method of display adopted, and the manner in which they were gradually driven from the main galleries into the basement in response to pressure from other parts of the collection, most notably the plaster casts after the Antique (some of which had also come from Chantrey) which were so avidly accumulated in the late nineteenth century. Finally, it describes the circumstances in which the casts were eventually, in large part, destroyed.

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Online ISSN 1477-8564

Print ISSN 0954-6650

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