

## LOWER GALLERY

### Case 90.A 'Games and Puzzles'

Turn right at you enter the gallery. The case is a desktop.



Here you will find 1911.29.68, shown above, twelve small wooden pegs, in a cardboard box, used in the game 'merry peg' from Baldon-on-the-Green (possibly Marsh Baldon), Oxfordshire. This game is more often called 'nine men's morris'. It has a long history--it is known to have been played in Ancient Egypt. Each player has nine pieces which move between the twenty-four intersections of three interlocking squares. The object of the game is to remove all the enemy pieces. Every time a player forms a line of three (a mill) on any line drawn on the board, he is entitled to remove one enemy piece.

### Case 14.A 'Baby Carriers'

You will find this large wall case close by.



This is 1911.29.86, a wooden baby runner from Long Crendon, just over the border in Buckinghamshire. This runner was used to teach children to walk. It consists of a wooden ring into which the baby was popped attached to a wooden upright. Thomas Carter (a fellow antiquary who collected objects for Percy) acquired this object in December 1905. The baby was placed in the ring which supported the baby's first steps. Walking aids for children have existed since medieval times. The earliest type was like this but did not enclose the child: later, like this example, the baby was fully enclosed and more protected from falling.

Find out more at <http://folkinoxford.co.uk/percy-manning-centenary-events.html>

## UPPER GALLERY

### Case 3.B 'Shields'

As you enter the gallery look left to cases covering the wall.



Look for the kite-shaped shield from England in the nearest corner to the gallery entrance. An eagle with a halo is painted on the front. This is 1911.29.12. It is covered with hide and is similar in shape to a Norman shield, but is most likely to be a nineteenth or early twentieth century replica.

This shape of shield was very popular in the twelfth century as it covered the warrior's foreleg as well as his torso. More efficient armour gradually led to its being less used.

### Case 49.A 'Clubs'

At the entrance to the gallery turn right and look for a desktop case.



Here you will find a small club known as a life preserver, 1911.29.66. The shaft is made from baleen (though it was originally thought to have been made from whale bone) and the two ends are weighted with lead. Such bludgeons were used as self defence against attackers' wrists or heads. The shaft is flexible.

Such life preservers are mentioned in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, and in several Sherlock Holmes stories. Some authors speculate that it was called a life preserver because it could stun an assailant without killing him.

Trail created by Alison Petch, Madeleine Ding and Faye Belsey

## FLOOR

Case 107.A 'Writing and Communication - Writing Equipment'

*This case is in the centre of the museum*



This is a small carved ivory pounce box, 1911.29.64, it is probably English. Pounce is described by the Oxford English Dictionary as 'A fine powder, made from pulverised sandarac or cuttle shell, used to prevent ink from spreading (especially when writing on unsized paper) or to prepare the surface of parchment to receive writing.'

Like many objects in Percy's collection the box is not very well provenanced, that is to say he has not told the museum how he acquired the shaker, or from whom, nor where it was made or used.

## Other Exhibition Displays

18 February-23 March Weston Library  
'Percy Manning: The Man who Collected Oxfordshire' – Blackwell Hall

4 March-22 April Museum of Oxford  
'Mummers and Maypoles, in celebration of Percy Manning' – Town Hall

March-end of 2017 Ashmolean Museum  
Percy Manning: The "keen field antiquary"  
– Medieval gallery

## Events

12 March 2pm '**Seasonal Songs and Forgotten Tunes**' workshop Bodleian Libraries & Music Faculty, free, contact [alice.little@music.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alice.little@music.ox.ac.uk)

22 March 1pm '**What happened to the extraordinary collections of Percy Manning**' Mike Heaney Weston Library lecture theatre, free

24 March 8pm '**Percy Manning Centenary Celebration Concert**' Magpie Lane and Headington Quarry Morris Dancers St Andrew's Church, Linton Road

6 May 10am and 1pm '**Bark-horn making workshops**' Pitt Rivers Museum free, booking essential [www.prm.ox.ac.uk/talks](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/talks)

## Web Resources

[www.prm.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions-and-case-displays](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions-and-case-displays)

[www.oxforddnb.com/index/101057230/Percy-Manning](http://www.oxforddnb.com/index/101057230/Percy-Manning)

[www.ashmolean.org/ash/amps/oha/ArchivePages/Manning1.html](http://www.ashmolean.org/ash/amps/oha/ArchivePages/Manning1.html)

[web.prm.ox.ac.uk/sma/index.php/articles/article-index/356-percy-manning.html](http://web.prm.ox.ac.uk/sma/index.php/articles/article-index/356-percy-manning.html)

The Man Who Collected Oxfordshire:

## Percy Manning and the Pitt Rivers Museum

We invite you to take a tour of the Pitt Rivers Museum to see some of the objects collected by the antiquarian and folklorist, Percy Manning who died one hundred years ago in 1917. This trail is one of the activities at the Oxford University museums established to celebrate his centenary.



Percy Manning was born in 1870 in Headingley, West Yorkshire. In 1880 his family moved from the Leeds area to Watford. Percy was educated at New College, Oxford and he remained in Oxford for the rest of his life.

Percy had independent means and did not need to work to earn a living. He was particularly interested in collecting objects and information about popular folk customs. Much of this information is now held in the Manning manuscript collections at the Bodleian Library.

Although the Ashmolean Museum has most of Percy's antiquarian collection, he donated a total of 224 objects to this museum. 76 of these objects are now on display in the museum and this trail will show you some of these and give an idea of the breadth and range of his collection.

## GROUND

Case 136.A 'Spinning and winding'

*This is a floor mounted case*



On the floor of the case you will find 1911.29.16, a lady's spinning wheel used and worn attached to a belt, probably from Shrewsbury in Shropshire. The wheel was used to spin thread from fibres. The wheel has fine thread wound around the bobbin and two copper alloy flyers and a handle to turn the spindle.

There is a birdcage distaff used to hold the unspun fibres and keep them untangled. There is also an u-shaped extension to the spinning wheel to support it against the waist. This object illustrates that Percy also collected antiquarian objects from other parts of the country, not just Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.