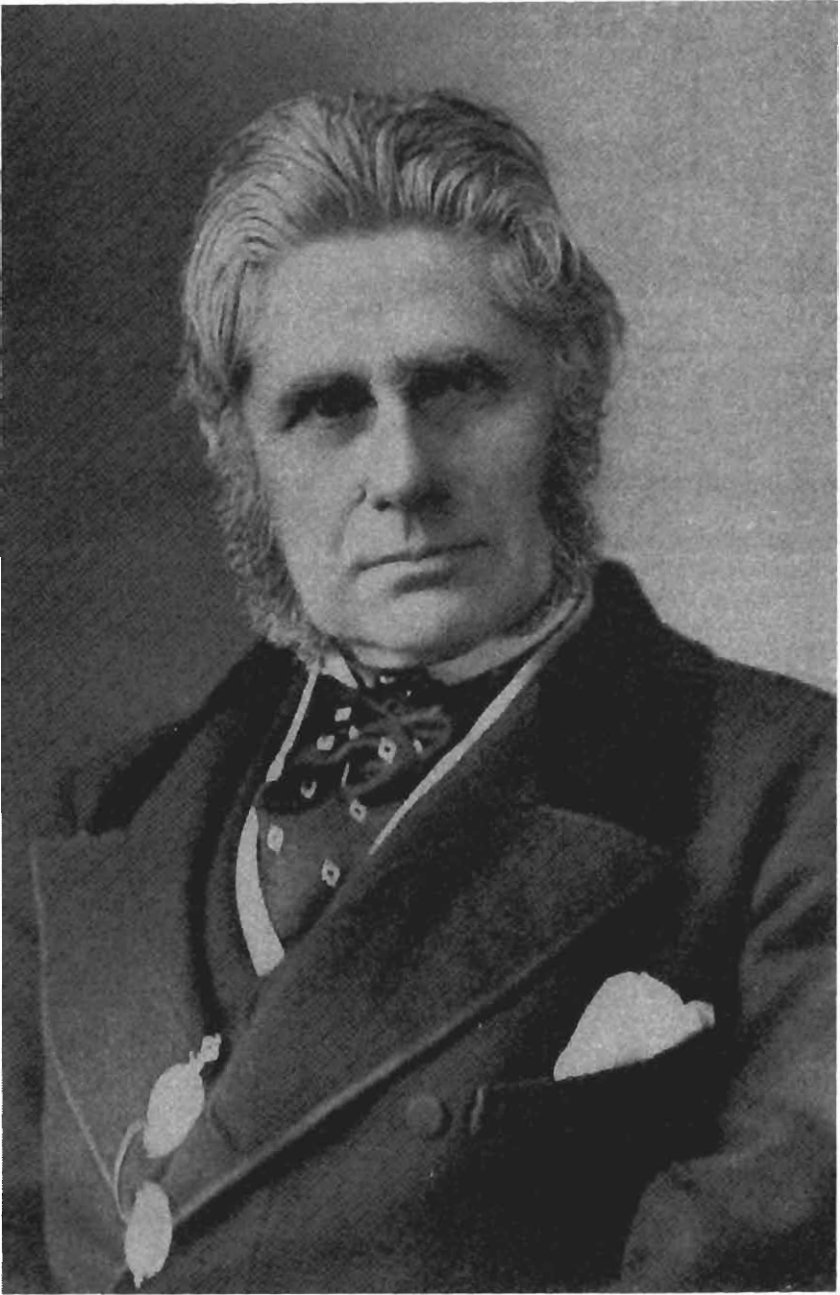


SPECIAL SECTION TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
PITT RIVERS MUSEUM, OXFORD: Editors' Introduction

The Pitt Rivers Museum has had a peripatetic history. From its humble origins as the private collection of Lieutenant-General Augustus Henry Lane Fox Pitt Rivers, F.R.S., in 1851 it was housed periodically in London's Bethnal Green Museum (in 1864) and in the South Kensington Museum (in 1878) before finally coming to rest in the University of Oxford in 1884. This year marks the centenary of the establishment of the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. From the General's original gift - covenanted in 1883 and accepted by the University's Hebdomadal Council the following year - the Museum has survived to become one of the jewels of Oxford. As our contribution to the centenary celebrations, the editors of *JASO* present here four articles that reflect the Museum's history and the symbiosis between the study of material culture and social anthropology.

The Editors of *JASO* record their grateful thanks to the Officers and Fellows of the British Academy from whom a generous grant has been received making possible the publication of these Pitt Rivers papers. The British Academy has also helped with the simultaneous publication, by *JASO*, of a volume entitled *The General's Gift: A Celebration of the Pitt Rivers Museum Centenary (1884-1984)*. Edited by B.A.L.Cranstone and S.Seidenberg this book contains the Pitt Rivers essays published in this issue together with further essays by Elizabeth Edwards ('Collecting with a Camera: Pitt Rivers Museum Photographic Collections'), Helene La Rue ('The "Natural History" of a Musical Instrument Collection') and Deborah Waite ('The H.B.T. Somerville Collection of Artefacts from the Solomon Islands in the Pitt Rivers Museum'). We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr.B.A.L. Cranstone, the Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, and to Miss Julia Cousins, the Administrator of the Department of Ethnology and Prehistory and of the Pitt Rivers Museum, for their support and assistance throughout this project.



AUGUSTUS HENRY LANE FOX PITT RIVERS

1827-1900