

Centre for Anthropology Seminars, British Museum

Date : May 29, 2007

Thursday June 7th 2007, 10 a.m.

Dr Ian Coates (Senior Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, National Museum of Australia)

A collector's life: Emile Clement

Emil Clement, an English-based collector, made important contributions to the British Museum's collections during the second half of the nineteenth century. As well as selling large numbers of north-western Australian Aboriginal objects to a range of museums in Britain and Europe, Clement had earlier collected and sold Bronze Age pots and objects from Silesia. In this paper I review Clement's collecting activities, and examine continuities in his sale techniques relating to both the ethnographic and bronze-age material.

Thursday June 14th 2007, 10 a.m.

Peter Mason (Rome)

Images of the ancestors: Aesthetics and moai being-in-the-world

Several expeditions to Easter Island, especially from the late 19th and early 20th century, provoked an interest in the carvings of the island among several Western artists, especially the Surrealists. Less well-explored is the subject of the aesthetics of how the well-known carved stones (moai) of the island have been and are physically presented: their being-in-the-world. Bypassing the enigmatic question of how the moai are to be interpreted, I explore the effects of different presentations or stagings of the moai, both on the island and elsewhere (including the British Museum).

Seminars usually start at 10.20 – tea and coffee provided from 10.00.

The British Museum Centre for Anthropology is located inside the north entrance to the museum on Montague Place.

For more information please contact: anthropology@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk