

Egyptian treasures

Most of the Ure Museum's collection of Egyptian antiquities has been in Reading since before the Museum, and even the University, were founded, displayed at University College, Reading. The earliest gifts came in 1909 from Hilda Urein Petrie, the wife of Flinders Petrie, who distributed among British museums material that her husband had excavated from Egyptian sites such as Thebes, Memphis and Meidum. Her donations to the Ure range from a model offering-plate of limestone to small glazed beads [[Myth and Religion 33](#); [Body beautiful 61–62](#)]. In 1910, the British School of Archaeology in Egypt donated more Egyptian antiquities, mostly pots, to the University.

In 1922/23, the Ure Museum purchased a selection of Egyptian artefacts from the University of Liverpool, for the sum of £22.

These objects were meant to expose students to a broad spectrum of Egyptian, Greek and Roman history and culture. One of these objects is a bronze seated figurine of Horus as the Roman child god, Harpocrates, which appropriately reflects the blending of Egyptian and Roman religion [[Body beautiful 25](#)].

The Ure Museum has benefited from gifts from members of the community over the years. Perhaps the most interesting donation came from an Egyptian student of Agricultural Botany. The night before his final examination, this student left some ancient figurines on his professor's desk. On news of his failure at his exams, however, the student disappeared without reclaiming the figurines. At least one of the figurines was a forgery, but his wooden Anubis found a home in the Ure Museum [[Myth and Religion 11](#)]. Very few antiquities have been acquired by the Ure Museum since Annie Ure's death in 1976. In 2004, however, we gratefully received a Cypro-Egyptian 'poppy' vase from the Chichester District Museum in thanks for our help with their exhibition on Greek life [[Egypt 28](#)].

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