

<https://sparc.utas.edu.au/index.php/lady-franklin-opening-ancanthe-museum>

My dear Sir

I inclose you a card of our little Museum at Ancanthe which we open tomorrow, tho' it is not yet quite completed. I have just made it over with between 4 or 500 acres of land in the same valley to 5 members of the Tasmanian Society in trust for the future College, the proceeds of the land to be devoted to the maintenance of the Museum and the formation of a native Arboretum. The titles to membership of the Society have always been the contribution of a paper to the journal, some object of Tasmanian natural history to the Museum or a book to the Library – but under the latter head the books admissible (for want of space in the building & in order to secure completeness in one object,) are reduced to the following 3 classes.

1. Books illustrating this or the other Australian Colonies.
2. Books written by Authors inhabitants of this or the other Australian Colonies.
3. ~~Books~~ Works of a respectable character issuing from the press of the above mentioned Colonies.

We felt sure that under one or other of these titles Mr. Backhouse's name might be inscribed in our list without asking his leave beforehand. Indeed the whole Colony is well aware how much science has been indebted to him & to you for the results of your visit to it. I have always deeply regretted that we have known you less as a Resident than we did as a Visitor, nevertheless we have never doubted your kindly feelings. I was sorry Mrs. Walker was not present with some other ladies of the Tasmanian Society when they did me the favor of selecting some articles from the tables at Govt. House previous to the sale. I have nothing left that is worthy of her acceptance, but I shall not scruple on that account to beg her acceptance of the inclosed trifle as a memorial of my regard & of those interesting objects in which we were for a brief period associated.

It would give me great pleasure to see you both at Ancanthe tomorrow, & at all events I shall be glad if at any time it is able according to its purpose to administer to the instruction or amusement of any lover of nature & of the works of God.

Believe me my dear Sir
with very sincere esteem
ever yours
Jane Franklin

25th Oct. 1843

The following is the inscription in Latin & English on the corner stone of the Museum

Die XVII Kal. Apr. MDCCXLII posuit
Johannes Franklin Eques Auratas
adspectaribus Scholae Reginensis Majistrus et Discipulis
alisque necessariis suis

Aedificii Capidem auspicatem
quod a Domina Franklin Collegio commissum
Naturae in hac regione servaret opes
Ministros ejus interpretesque exciperet

Laid March 16. 1842. By Sir John Franklin in the presence of the Masters & Scholars of the Queen's School & others his friends, as the corner stone of an Edifice to be given in trust from Lady Franklin to the College for the purpose of preserving the productions of nature and as a Retreat for her Ministers and Interpreters.

Transcribed by Gabrielle Irvin-Speck