

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The object of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology is to provide for the people of Canada, an opportunity to study the development of the handicraft of man.

Man has risen, step by step, in civilisation, through a desire for new aids to his safety, his comfort or perhaps his pleasure, and an endeavour to obtain them. For a great period, the advance was very slow, as each hunter had to be able to be entirely independent of his neighbours and able to do everything with his own hands. At this stage of civilisation there could be no specialisation of work, and a man is more lenient to himself for bad workmanship than he is to another whom he is paying to carry out his ideas. Each individual craft has come up through slow stages, as difficulty after difficulty has been surmounted; and the forms and designs of things usually carry with them the story of their development. It is to be hoped that the study of this evolution of the crafts, will be as beneficial to the people of Canada, as it has been to those of other countries, where the study has been made possible.

The first room in the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology is situated at the head of the main staircase to the first floor. It contains the history of primitive man, from his first stone tools and weapons of the Palaeolithic period, through the Neolithic, or later stone age, into the early age of metals. This collection is particularly rich in objects of the Palaeolithic period, and shows practically all the periods known, and also has remarkable examples from each of the great prehistoric centres. Special note should be made of the wonderful Egyptian knives.

To the north of this gallery come three rooms, that show the development of the two great centres of agricultural civilisation: Babylon and Egypt. The Babylonian collection