



The View of the Past

Elizabeth Grosz, 2000.

[I]t is only the interests of the present that serve to vivify or reinvigorate the past.

Elizabeth Grosz, 'Histories of a Feminist Future', *Signs*, 25 (2000), No.4 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3175479>> 1017-1021. p.1019.

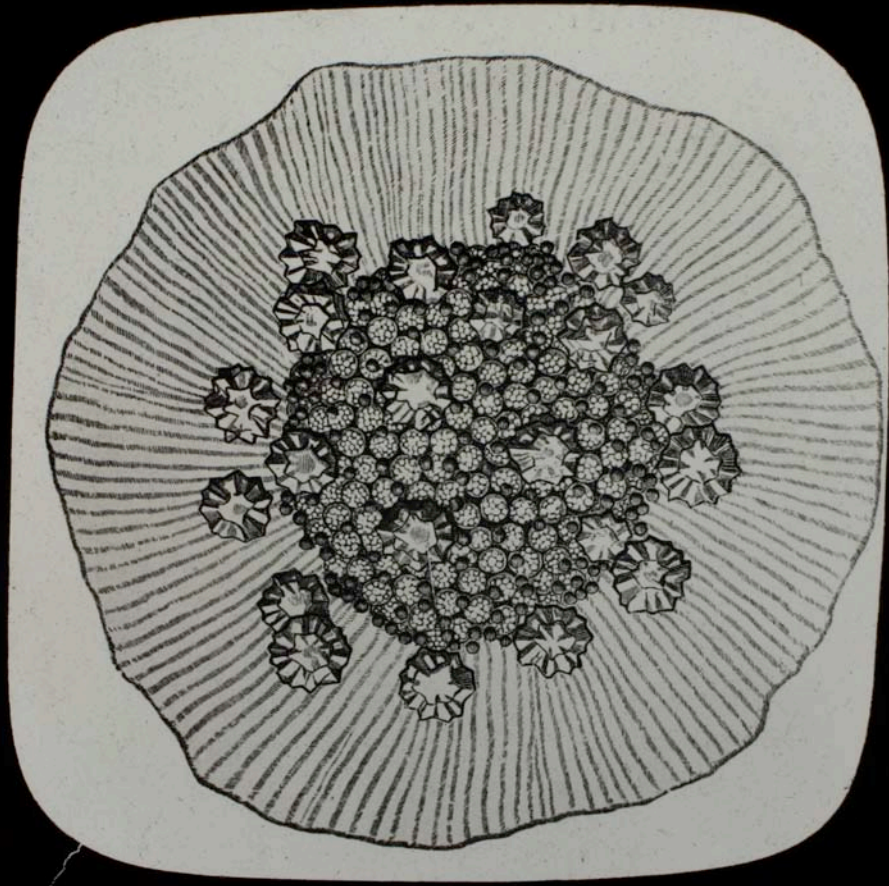


Penguin Pond at London Zoo

‘The New Architecture of the London Zoo’, 1936

An elliptical enclosure with central interlacing ramps forms a setting for the movements of the penguins. The use of reinforced concrete has allowed TECTON, the London Architects, great freedom in designing forms specially suited to the housing of animals, and sheltering and regulating the circulation of the public. The animals for the first time are no longer housed in artificial reproductions of their natural surroundings. The new buildings provide a hygienic organic setting, the simplicity of which best displays the natural characteristics of the animals.

Film titles from ‘The New Architecture of the London Zoo’ by Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1936).

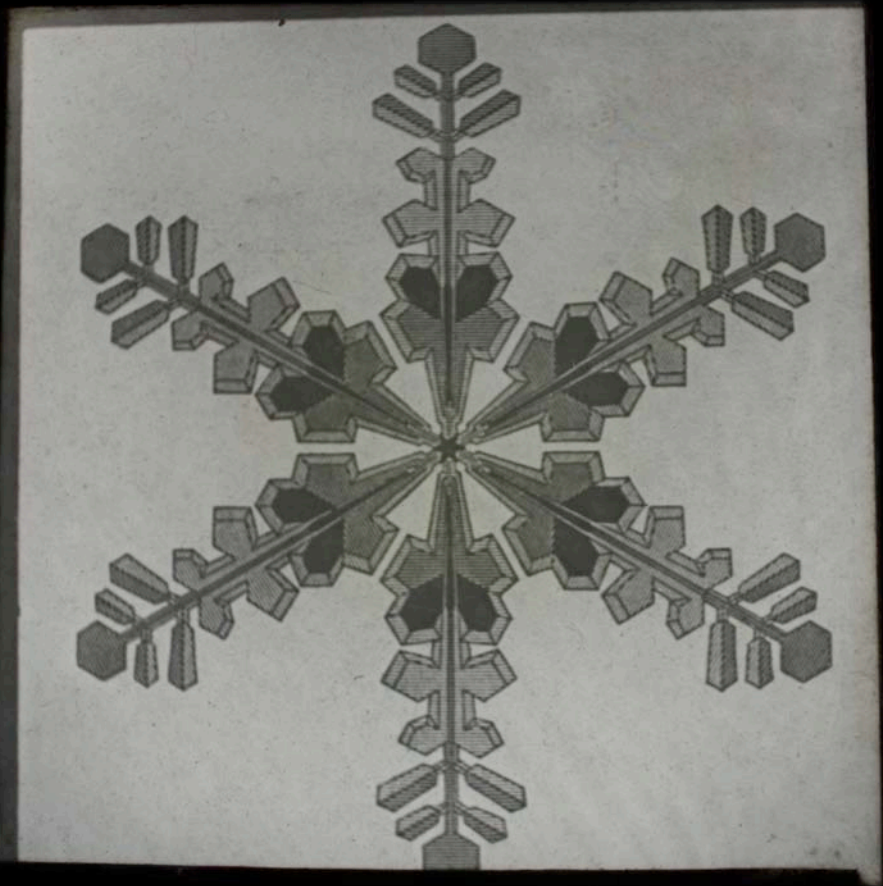


The Evolution of Culture

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1875

Modifications of words, like modification in the forms of the arts, result from the succession of ideas or other causes affecting particular minds. They obtain acceptance through natural selection by the survival of the fittest.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'The Evolution of Culture 1875' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L.Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p.26.

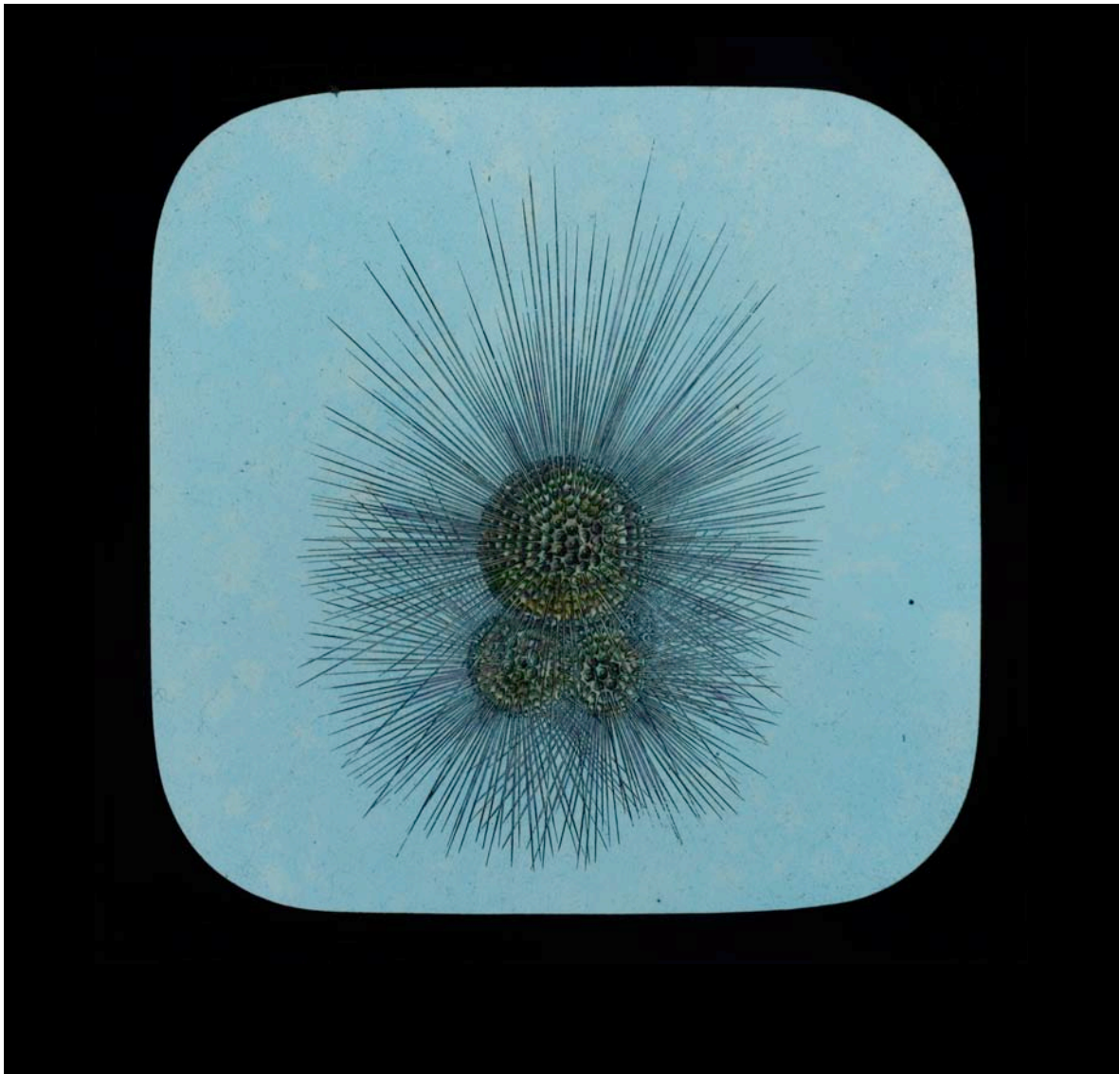


Principles of Classification

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1874.

Progress is like a game of dominoes – like fits on to like. In neither case can we tell beforehand what will be the ultimate figure produced by the adhesions; all we know is that the fundamental rule of the game is the **sequence**.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'Principles of Classification 1874' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L.Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p 19.

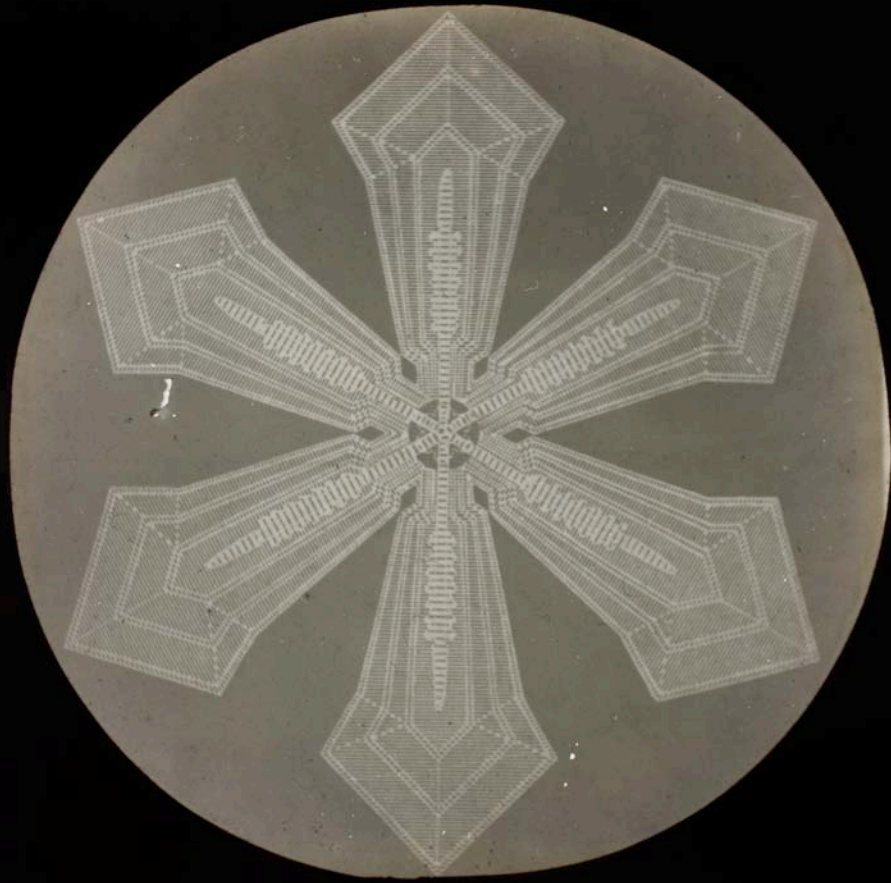


On Growth and Form

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, 1916 and 1941

As Ernst Haeckel described and figured many hundred “species” of radiolarian skeletons, so have the physicists depicted snow-crystals in several thousand different forms. These owe their multitudinous variety to symmetrical repetitions of one simple crystalline form – a beautiful illustration of Plato’s **One among the many**. On the other hand, the radiolarian skeleton rings its endless changes on combinations of certain facets, corners and edges within a filmy and bubbly mass. The broad difference between the two is very plain and instructive.

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson *On Growth and Form*, 1916-1941
On Concretions, Spicules, etc Of Skeletons of Sponges.p. 678 –
679. p 695.



Analogy

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1874

What the palaeontologist does for zoology, the prehistorian does for anthropology. What the study of zoology does for explaining the structure of extinct species, the study of existing savages does towards enabling us to realize the condition of primaeval man.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'Principles of Classification 1874' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L.Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p 18.

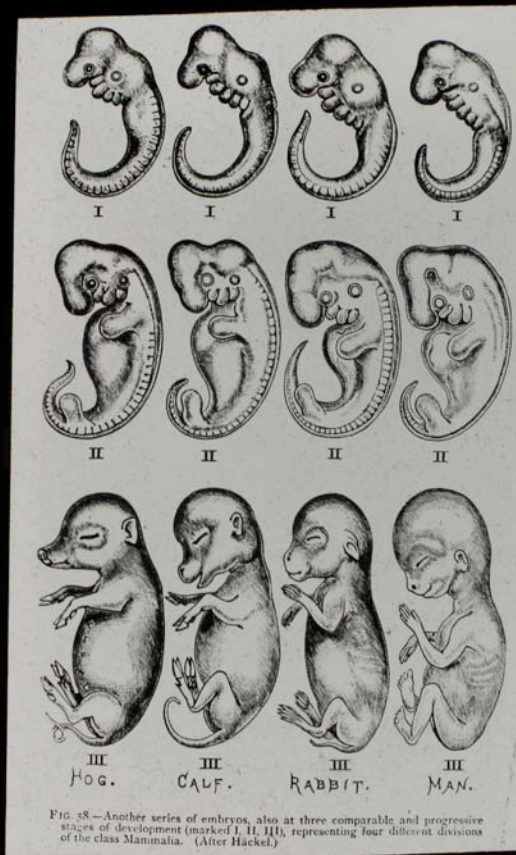


FIG. 28.—Another series of embryos, also at three comparable and progressive stages of development (marked I, II, III), representing four different divisions of the class Mammalia. (After Haeckel.)

Birdsong and Speech

Iain Sample, 2014

Sprouting Feathers and Lost Teeth: scientists map the evolution of birds. Mass genome sequencing reveals avian family tree – and how imitative birdsong gives birds genetic similarities to humans. The project has thrown up extraordinary similarities between the brain circuits that allow humans to speak and those that give some birds song: a case of common biology being arrived at via different evolutionary routes.[...]This means that vocal learning birds and humans are more similar to each other for these genes in song and speech areas in the brain than other birds and primates are to them,” said Erich Jarvis at Duke University in North Carolina.

Iain Sample, the Guardian, 11 December
2014. <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/dec/11/birds-evolution-feathers-genome-sequencing-avian-genes>



The Man-like Apes

Living Animals of the World, 1905

The famous “Sally” which lived in the Zoo for over six years used to kill and eat pigeons, and caught and killed rats. Sally learnt to count perfectly up to six, and less perfectly to ten; she could distinguish white from any colour, but if other colours were presented her she failed, apparently from colour blindness. Of this ape the late Dr. G. J. Romanes wrote with something more than the enthusiasm of a clever man pursuing a favourite theme: “Her intelligence was conspicuously displayed by the remarkable degree in which she was able to understand the meaning of spoken language - a degree fully equal to that presented by an infant a few months before emerging infancy, and therefore higher than that which is presented by any brute, so far at least as I have evidence to show.”

Chapter 1 *Living Animals of the World*. 1905 The People's Natural History: Vol. 1 Mammals New York, The University Society, Ed. Charles J. Cornish



Polar Bears

Living Animals of the World, 1905

As she was fetching away the last piece, the sailors shot both the cubs dead, and wounded the dam. Although she could only just crawl to the place where the cubs lay, she carried the lump of flesh which she had last fetched away, and laid it before them; and when she saw that they refused to eat, laid her paws on them, and tried to raise them up, moaning pitifully. When she found she could not stir them, she went to some distance, and looked back, and then returned, pawing them all over and moaning. Finding at last that they were lifeless, she raised her head towards the ship and uttered a growl, when the sailors killed her with a volley of musket-balls.

Chapter VI *Living Animals of the World*. 1905. The People's Natural History: Vol. 1 Mammals New York, The University Society, Ed. Charles J. Cornish



Working Group on the 'Anthropocene'

Anthropocene Working Group, 2015

The 'Anthropocene' has emerged as a popular scientific term used by scientists, the scientifically engaged public and the media to designate the period of Earth's history during which humans have a decisive influence on the state, dynamics and future of the Earth system. It is widely agreed that the Earth is currently in this state.

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Performance lecture with lantern slides

<http://quaternary.stratigraphy.org/workinggroups/anthropocene/>

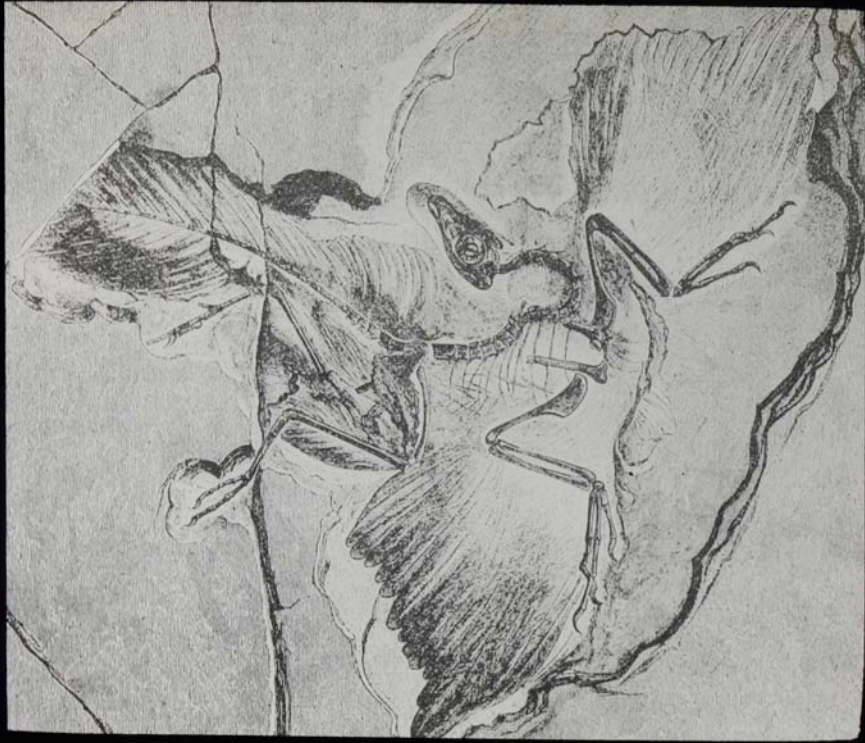


Polar Bears

Living Animals of the World, 1905

The instances recorded of the affection shown by these animals for their young are somewhat pathetic. When the *Carcase* frigate, which was engaged on a voyage of Arctic discovery, was locked in the ice, a she-bear and two cubs made their way to the ship, attracted by the scent of the blubber of a walrus which the crew had killed a few days before. They ran to the fire, and pulled off some of the walrus-flesh which remained unconsumed. The crew then threw them large lumps of the flesh which were lying on the ice, which the old bear fetched away singly, and laid before her cubs as she brought it, dividing it, and giving each a share, and reserving but a small portion for herself.

Chapter VI *Living Animals of the World*. 1905. The People's Natural History: Vol. 1 Mammals New York, The University Society, Ed. Charles J. Cornish



Fossil Bird

George Seaver, 1933

In his second lecture he traced the descent of Penguins from the primitive lizard-bird, explaining their anatomy, and finding corroborative evidence in their prehistoric fossilized remains.

Polly Gould *Penguin Pool* 2015
Performance lecture with lantern slides

George Seaver, *Edward Wilson of the Antarctic: Naturalist and Friend*, (London: John Murray, 1933) p.240.



Polar Bears

Living Animals of the World, 1905

The Arctic explorer Nordenskiöld saw much of the ice-bears on his voyages, and left us what is perhaps the best description of their attempts to stalk men, mistaking them for other animals. [...] During his approach he often climbs up on to blocks of ice, or raises himself on his hind legs, in order to get a more extensive view.

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Chapter VI *Living Animals of the World*. 1905 The People's Natural History: Vol. 1 Mammals New York, The University Society, Ed. Charles J. Cornish



Climate Change in Antarctica

David Barnes, 2010

Most people and most industry live on the coast. We're going to lose a lot of coastal land and of course, deserts are expanding very quickly and the water table going down dramatically in many places means that we're going to face big migration issues. People aren't going to be able to get enough water and they're going to lose their land. Lots of people are going to be very crowded for very little resources. So yes, climate change is a big issue for us and Antarctica is going to shape our future.

David Barnes, 'Climate Change in Antarctica', in *The Naked Scientists*, (2010)
<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/content/interviews/interview/1399/>



Cage

Marie-Eve Morin, 2012

The animal lives in an ontological cage: the environment [unwelt].Becoming human means breaking out of this enclosure, stepping out into the 'cagelessness' or a radical openness that we call 'world'

Polly Gould *Penguin Pool* 2015
Performance lecture with lantern slides

Marie-Eve Morin, 'The Coming-to-the-World of the Human Animal' , in *Sloterdijk Now*, ed. by Stuart Elden (Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012). p.82.



A Second Eldorado

The Antarctic Manual, 1901

Explorations in the Antarctic can have little commercial value, for a more barren spot could scarcely be conceived. As for gold – well, in the first place, you have got to find it, a most unenviable task, and you would fully deserve it if you were successful. But I do not think any rational-minded person would for a moment entertain so wild and picturesque an idea as that of discovering a second Eldorado in South Victoria Land.

The Antarctic Manual for the use of the expedition of 1901.
Edited by George Murray with preface by Sir Clements
Markham. London: Royal Geographic society. 1901. p.514.



The Most Adventurous Enterprise

Admiral Sir F. Leopold McClintock, 1901

Strong sense of duty, and an equally strong determination to accomplish it – dauntless resolution and indomitable will; that useful compound of stubbornness and endurance which is so eminently British, and to which we islanders owe so much – certainly our Colonies and our commerce, possibly even our existence as a nation. These lonely little parties, daring and enduring so much, resemble sparks from that great fire which, I venture to say, is not yet extinct in this nation – the ardent love of the most adventurous enterprise.

Admiral Sir F. Leopold McClintock, *The Antarctic Manual for the use of the expedition of 1901*. Edited by George Murray with preface by Sir Clements Markham. London: Royal Geographic Society. 1901. p.299.

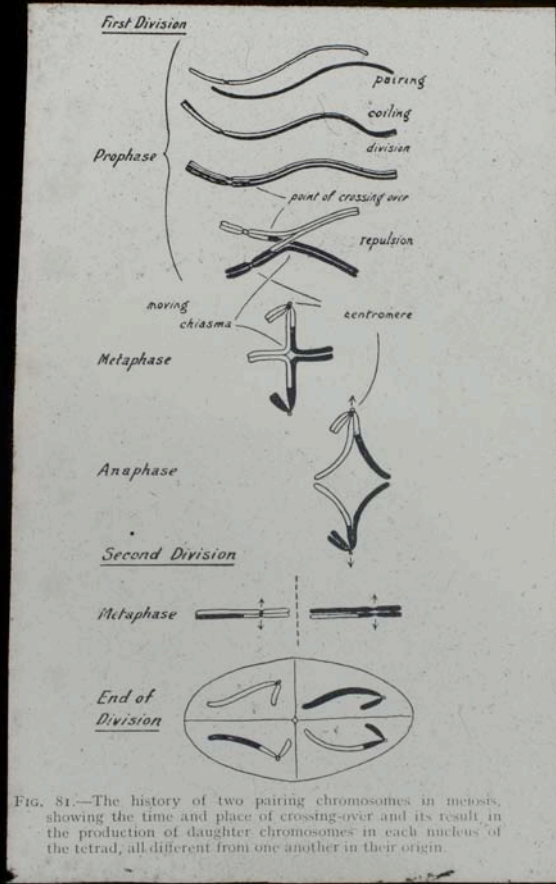


FIG. 81.—The history of two pairing chromosomes in meiosis, showing the time and place of crossing-over and its result in the production of daughter chromosomes in each nucleus of the tetrad, all different from one another in their origin.

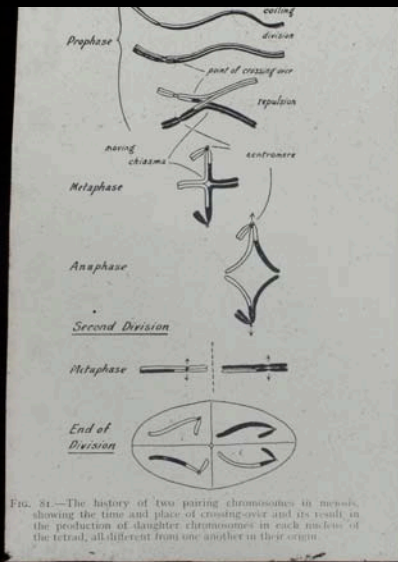


FIG. 81.—The history of two pairing chromosomes in meiosis, showing the time and place of crossing-over and its result in the production of daughter chromosomes in each nucleus of the tetrad, all different from one another in their origin.

Analogy

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1874

To continue the simile further, the propagation of new ideas may be said to correspond to the propagation of species. New ideas are produced by the correlation of previously existing ideas in the same manner as new individuals in a breed are produced by the union of previously existing individuals.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'Principles of Classification 1874' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L.Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p 18.



History of the Human Race

George Clark Simpson, 1911

FRAGMENTS OF A MANUSCRIPT FOUND BY
THE PEOPLE OF SIRIUS WHEN THEY VISITED
THE EARTH DURING THE EXPLORATION OF
THE SOLAR SYSTEM

I know not why I write for there will be none to read;
but the history of the human race since the dawn of
civilisation had been written, and I feel impelled to set
down the manner of the end. With this
intent.....

I, the writer of this record, am the last of the race, and
soon must follow the companions who have lived
with me through the many centuries since the Elixir
was discovered. My dying thoughts are the folly
which neglected the teachings of the Scientists of the
British Antarctic Expedition 1910-1912.

George Clark Simpson, *The South Polar Times*, Vol 3, April to
October 1911, (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 15 Waterloo Place.
S.W.) 1914, p.75.



Climate Change in Antarctica

David Barnes, 2010

The way that biology responds [in Antarctica] is going to be our early warning system on the way that life is going to respond elsewhere. In Antarctica, things are changing faster but also, because life is more sensitive there, it's giving us a state of things to come elsewhere. It will be a problem to some biodiversity; it won't to others. There will be winners and losers but I think we will be the biggest losers out of climate change.

David Barnes, 'Climate Change in Antarctica', in *The Naked Scientists*, (2010)
<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/content/interviews/interview/1399/>



Events of the Month

The South Polar Times, 1902

May 2nd Debate on Womens Rights. May 2nd Heavy gale. May 6th Debate on Whether the Commercial Supremacy of the British Empire is being maintained or not? May 13th Debate on “The probable weather conditions during the Winter at our Winter Quarter”s May 20th Debate on “Would conscription be beneficial to the British Empire or not?”

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‘Events of the month’ in *The South Polar Times, Vol 1, April to August 1902*, (part II May 1902.) (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 15 Waterloo Place. S.W.) 1907. p.45.



Noah's Ark

Susan Stewart, 1993

We might therefore say, with forgiveness, that the archetypal collection is Noah's Ark, a world which is representative yet which erases its context of origin. The world of the ark is a world not of nostalgia but of anticipation. While the earth and its redundancies are destroyed, the collection maintains its integrity and boundary. Once the object is completely severed from its origin, it is possible to generate a new series, to start again within a context that is framed by the selectivity of the collector.

Susan Stewart, *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, the Collection*. (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1993). p.152.



Rules for the Human Zoo

Peter Sloterdijk, 2009

The person who could read would be thought easily capable of other impossibilities. The humanists are initially no more than the cult of the literate: and in this, as in other sects, expansionist and universalist projects appeared.

Peter Sloterdijk, 'Rules for the Human Zoo: a response to the *Letter on Humanism*', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2009, Volume 27, pp. 12-28. p.13.



Polar Bears

Living Animals of the World, 1905

When the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition was wintering in Franz-Josef Land, the bears were a positive nuisance. They were not afraid of man, and used to come round the huts at all hours. The men shot so many of them that they formed a valuable article of food for the dogs.

Chapter VI, *Living Animals of the World*. 1905. The People's Natural History: Vol. 1 Mammals New York, The University Society, Ed. Charles J. Cornish.



On Growth and Form

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, 1916-1941

The little skeletons remind us of such things as snow crystals (themselves almost endless in their diversity), rather than a collection of animals, constructed in accordance with functional needs and distributed in accordance with their fitness for particular situations. Nevertheless, great efforts have been made to attach “a biological meaning” to these elaborate structures, and “to justify the hope that in time their utilitarian character will be recognised”

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson *On Growth and Form*, 1916-1941
'On Concretions, Spicules, etc Of Skeletons of Sponges'. p. 678
– 679. p 695.

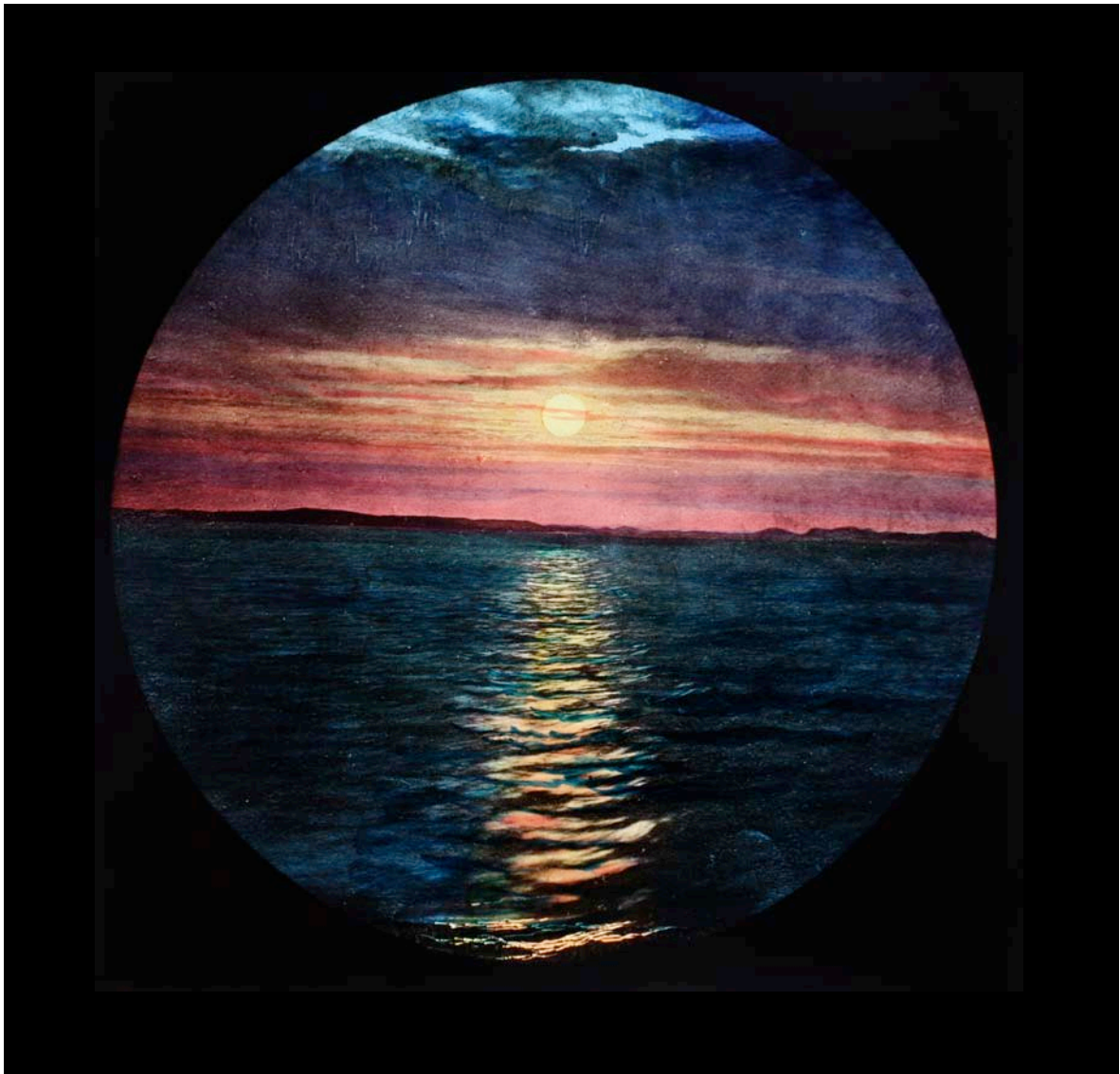


Backwards and Forwards

Edward Burnet Tylor, 1913

First, that the history of culture began with the appearance on earth of a semi-civilized race of men, and second that from this stage culture has proceeded in two ways, backward to produce savages, and forward to produce civilized men.

Edward Burnet Tylor, *Primitive Culture: Researches into the Development of Mythology, Philosophy, Religion, Language, Art and Custom*. Vol. 1. Fifth edition. 1913. (John Murray: London), p.35.



The Young Edward Wilson

George Seaver, 1933

At the close of his third year he was noticed as 'always drawing,' and a little later his mother began to give him lessons with the pencil, 'and he is never so happy as when lying full length on the floor and drawing little figures in every conceivable attitude, which are full of action and all his own, for he disdains copying anything.

George Seaver, *Edward Wilson of the Antarctic: Naturalist and Friend*. (London: John Murray, 1933). p.3



Sequence

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1906

Language is impalpable, invisible to the eye, except through the medium of a written character, which may or may not accurately express the sounds, and subject to acoustic changes in the collection of materials, which are a perpetual cause of error and misclassification. In tracing the development of the material arts, on the other hand, we have, in the earliest periods, the support of collateral evidence afforded by the fauna with which they are associated and by the geological sequence, all which is wanting in the science of language.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'Principles of Classification 1874' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L.Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p12-13.

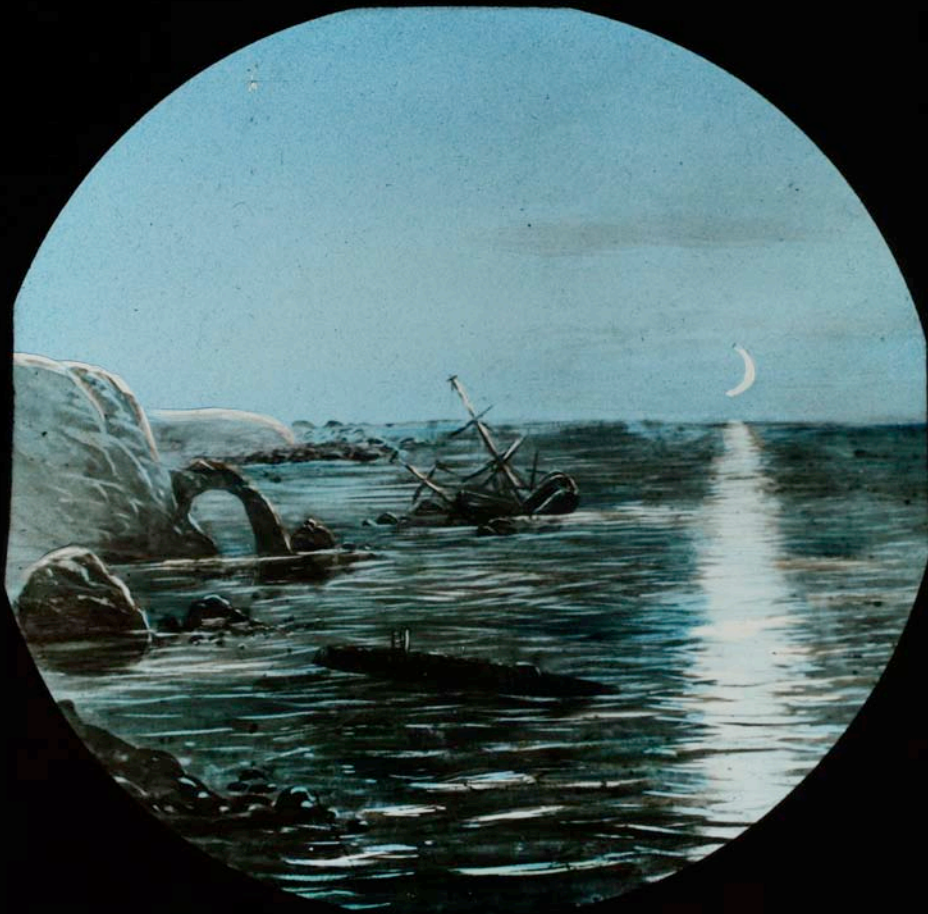


The View of the Past

Elizabeth Grosz, 2000

The past, in other words, is always already contained in the present, not as its cause or its pattern but rather as its latency, its virtuality, its potential for being otherwise.

Elizabeth Grosz, 'Histories of a Feminist Future', *Signs*, 25 (2000), No.4 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3175479>> 1017-1021. p.1020.



Climate Change in Antarctica

David Barnes, 2010

We're also going to see dramatic changes in acidity that might fundamentally affect whether organisms are able to maintain skeletons or not. Things like that could really re-shape the planet. Our problem is knowing how fast these things are going to happen.Because it's got the most unstable large ice masses, global sea level rise will be dictated by what goes on in Antarctica.

David Barnes, 'Climate Change in Antarctica', in *The Naked Scientists*, (2010)
<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/content/interviews/interview/1399/>



The Young Edward Wilson

George Seaver, 1933

His earliest scrap-book rather prophetically contains the picture of some explorers in the Arctic regions, and for the midnight sun a disc is neatly cut out of the sketch and filled in with orange-hued transparent paper in order to give the requisite effect of light, which he evidently realized his colours could not.

George Seaver, *Edward Wilson of the Antarctic: Naturalist and Friend*. (London: John Murray, 1933). p.3

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PENGUINS



‘Some Remarks on Penguins’

Edward Wilson, *South Polar Times*, 1902

First met with in the pack ice on January 5th the Adelies came running up in twos and threes to greet us, and a more delightfully comical sight can scarcely be imagined. Their interest was intense, and their haste to reach the ship was checked only by the child-like care in jumping over the little water leads between the floes; and at last, when only a hundred yards or so intervened between them and ourselves, they would stand and stare in open-eyed astonishment, craning their necks to see all they could at a safe distance.

Edward Wilson, ‘Some remarks on Penguins’ in *The South Polar Times, Vol 1, April to August 1902*, (part IV July 1902.) (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 15 Waterloo Place. S.W.) 1907. pp.3-9. p.5.



Collector Abroad

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, 1901

Lastly, let me reiterate the one request that the naturalist at home makes always of the collector abroad, and that is – to collect everything, even the invisible. After everything that the collector can discriminate has been selected, what remains is likely to be no less valuable.

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson. *The Antarctic Manual for the use of the expedition of 1901*. Edited by George Murray with preface by Sir Clements Markham. London: Royal Geographic Society. 1901. p.287.



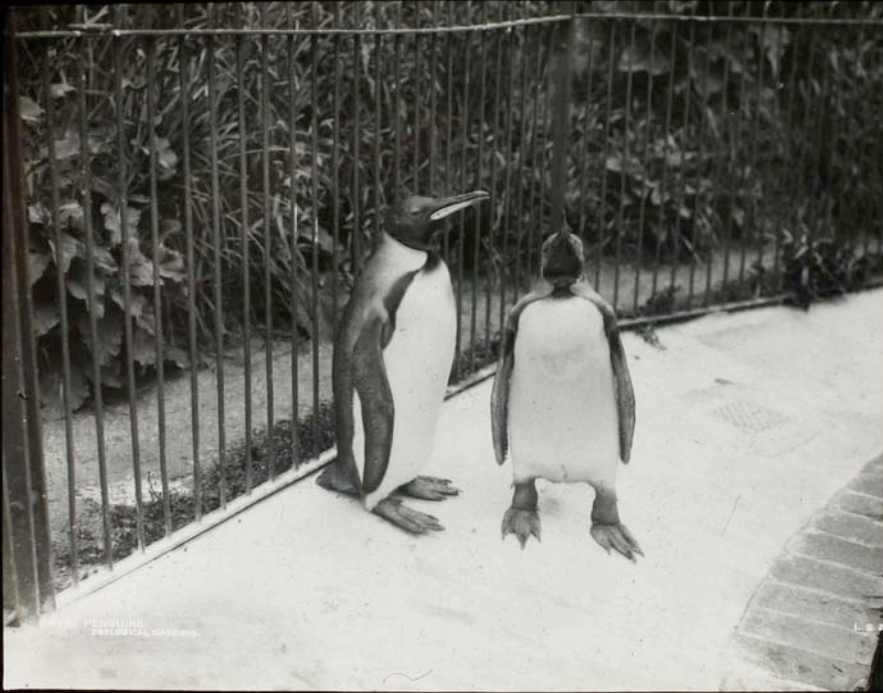
Greenhouse

Marie-Eve Morin, 2012

These protected spaces are opened by the lithotechniques Sloterdijk calls greenhouse, incubators, or spheres. They correspond to the middle position between being enclosed in an environmental cage and the pure terror of being held out into the indeterminate, indefinite open.

Polly Gould *Penguin Pool* 2015
Performance lecture with lantern slides

Morin, 'The Coming-to-the-World of the Human Animal' , in *Sloterdijk Now*, ed. by Stuart Elden (Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012), p.83.



‘Some Remarks on Penguins’

Edward Wilson, *South Polar Times*, 1902

Penguins are undoubtedly old-fashioned in their appearance, but their looks are nothing like so old-fashioned as their history. They are really some of the most primitive behind-hand birds in existence.

Edward Wilson, ‘Some remarks on Penguins’ in *The South Polar Times, Vol 1, April to August 1902*, (part IV July 1902.) (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 15 Waterloo Place. S.W.) 1907. pp.3-9. p.3



Never-ending Progress

George Pitt-Rivers, 1931

Thus most of us have by now abandoned the childish futility that comforted the nineteenth century, that belief in and inevitable an never-ending “progress.”

George Pitt-Rivers, *Weeds in the Garden of Marriage*, 1931.
Noel Douglas, London. (White Press Ltd. London, Tonbridge)



In the Future

South Polar Times, 1911

What is to be expected in the future in this region? It may be that the increased climatic severity will lead to a recrudescence of the Barrier ice, for we do not know whether the world had yet finished with the Ice Age. If it seems possible still warmer conditions supervene, we shall arrive at a topography like that of the Himalayas. We may imagine a high level plateau crossed by the summer trails between the populous centres of Victoria Land and Graham's Land. Forests will cover the slopes of the Western Mountains. In the moraine-fed troughs of the Ferrar and Dry Valleys will dwell a white race, depending partly on the fertile glacial soil, but chiefly on tourists from effete centres of civilisation.

South Polar Times, Vol 3, April to October 1911, (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 15 Waterloo Place. S.W.) 1914, p.14-15



Egg Collection

Edward Wilson, 1937

Much as the egg-collection means to me as a collection of reminiscences, it is permanent record of a cruelty I have come to hate in myself as well as in others. I am more inclined every year to leave a nest exactly as I found it.

Polly Gould *Penguin Pool* 2015
Performance lecture with lantern slides

Wilson cited in George Seaver, *Edward Wilson Nature-Lover*.
(London: John Murray, 1937).p.4.



Rules for the Human Zoo

Peter Sloterdijk, 2009

Letters that are not mailed cease to be missives for possible friends; they turn into archived things. Thus this - that the important books of the past have more and more ceased to be letters to friends, and that they do not lie any longer on the tables and nightstands of their readers - this has deprived the humanistic movement of its previous power.

Peter Sloterdijk, 'Rules for the Human Zoo: a response to the *Letter on Humanism*', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2009, Volume 27, pp. 12-28. p.27

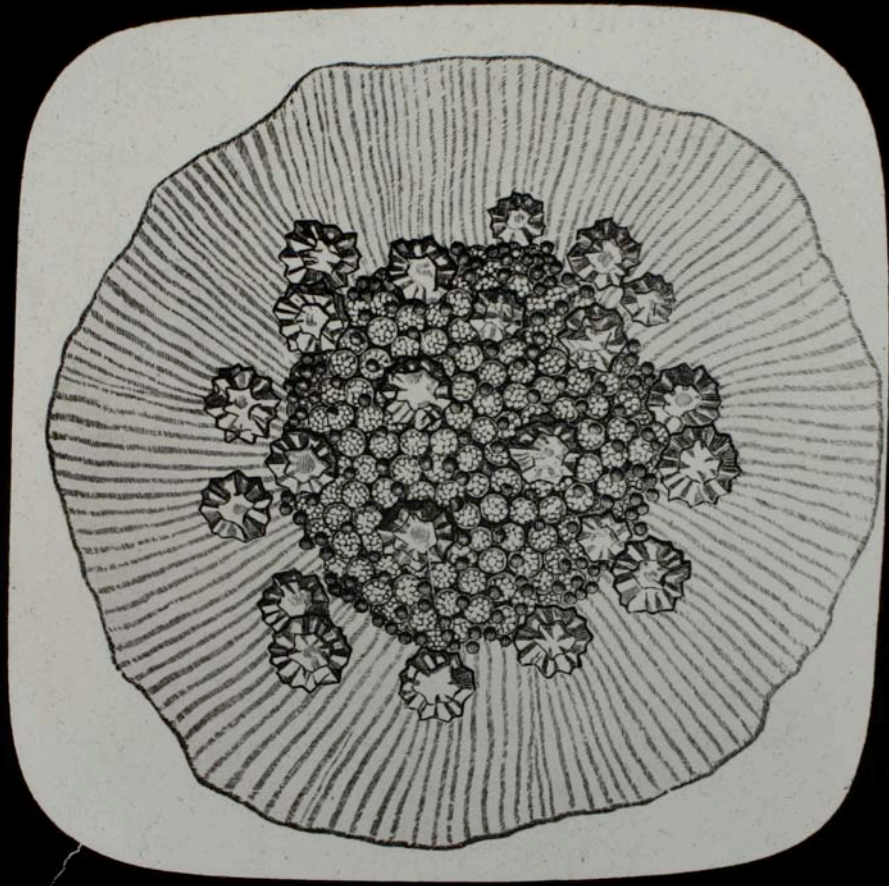


Rules for the Human Zoo

Peter Sloterdijk, 2009

Less and less often do archivists climb up to the ancient texts in order to reference earlier statements of modern commonplaces. Perhaps it occasionally happens that in such researches in the dead cellars of culture the long-ignored texts begin to glimmer, as if a distant light flickers over them. Can the archives also come into the Clearing? Everything suggests that archivists have become the successors of the humanists. For the few who still peer around in those archives, the realization is dawning that our lives are the confused answer to questions which were asked in places we have forgotten.

Peter Sloterdijk, 'Rules for the Human Zoo: a response to the *Letter on Humanism*', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2009, Volume 27, pp. 12-28. p.27



The Evolution of Culture

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, 1875

Modifications of words, like modification in the forms of the arts, result from the succession of ideas or other causes affecting particular minds. They obtain acceptance through natural selection by the survival of the fittest.

Lt. Gen A. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers. 'The Evolution of Culture 1875' in *The Evolution of Culture and Other Essays* 1906. Ed. J.L. Myres Introduction by Henry Balfour. 1906 (Clarendon Press: Oxford). p.26.