

developing a symbiotic relationship between Columbia and the AMNH, Osborn recognized the value of linking an academic program to the resources of a large museum. The latter provided research and educational opportunities for a still marginal academic discipline, and also the prospect of future employment. But for many reasons Boas, in direct contrast to Osborn, failed to form a power base at the AMNH, and ultimately quit to develop his agenda for anthropology in an essentially academic milieu.

Although Osborn continued throughout his career to maintain his academic position at Columbia, his energies, from the mid 1890s onward, are seen to be directed primarily to nurturing his political and research agenda at the AMNH, which involved not only the development of his own special creation, the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, but ultimately control of the museum itself (achieved in 1908 when he was made president of the Board of Trustees). Rainger's meticulous accounting of these and subsequent events provides some intriguing and tantalizing glimpses into both Osborn's character and his scientific agenda. And perhaps most revealing in this regard are those chapters dealing with two of Osborn's most notable students at the AMNH, William D. Matthew and William K. Gregory. Indeed, these two chapters in themselves are worth the price of the book.

In light of Rainger's obvious command of the archival sources and the period to which they are related, it is hoped that he might undertake a full-blown biography of Osborn. In the meantime, for anyone interested either in Osborn or the development of American vertebrate paleontology during the opening decades of the 20th century, Rainger's book will be required reading.

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