



The British Museum

- Made by the teacher of English Zhuravkova V.A.

- The British Museum is one of the greatest and best-known museums in the world, both in the diversity (разнообразие) of collections and in their wide range and high quality. It was founded in 1753 by a decision of the Parliament.
- The British Museum occupying a splendid great building, in neoclassical or Grecian style, was erected between 1823 and 1847.



- Of the 11 major departments into which the museum is divided, the most outstanding are the Assyrian and Babylon, the Egyptian, and the Greek and Roman Antiquities. The last makes a particular contribution to the glory of the museum with its collection of sculptures from the Parthenon.

- There are also extremely important ethnological collections, including exhibits from the Pacific island (such as ancient Polynesian idols), and America (such as the Aztec sculptures). African civilization is also notably well represented.
- There is a notable and priceless collection of medieval objects of art from all the countries of Europe.





Antic

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Athens







- Ancient Egyptian book.



Dishes





Wooden coffin of a woman, 18th dynasty, 1250-1200 BC, from Thebes, Egypt. The coffin is made of sycamore wood and is decorated with hieroglyphs and a false door. The smaller coffins are also made of sycamore wood and are decorated with hieroglyphs and a false door.



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The Library

- But the first thing which is associated with the British Museum is its Library. The Library which is contemporary with the museum, consisted initially of the collection of books belonging to Sir Hans Sloane. To this library the other collections of manuscripts and books as well were added as the royal library, which provided the foundation of what was to become one of the largest and most important libraries in the world.

- The British Museum Library came into world prominence under its most remarkable librarian – Sir Antonio Panizzi, an Italian by birth, who had to leave his country because of revolutionary activities. Under his direction the library took on its present character. During the 35 years of service with the British Museum he formulated the rules and started the general catalogue.

- The British Museum Library is a reading room and a reference library, but not a lending library. The famous circular reading room of the Museum, planned by Sir Antonio Panizzi, offers unique facilities for scholars.
- the collection of books is being systematically increased. Today there are millions of volumes in the library store-room.



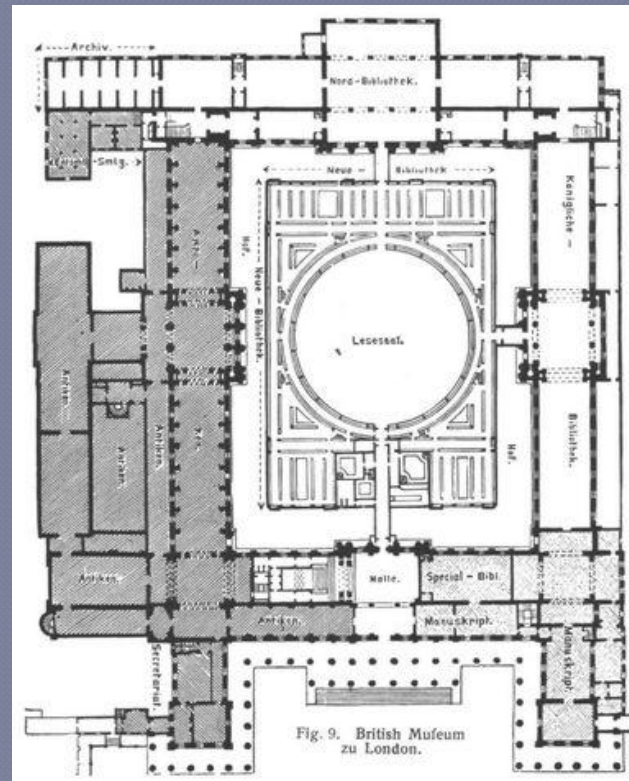


Fig. 9. British Museum zu London.