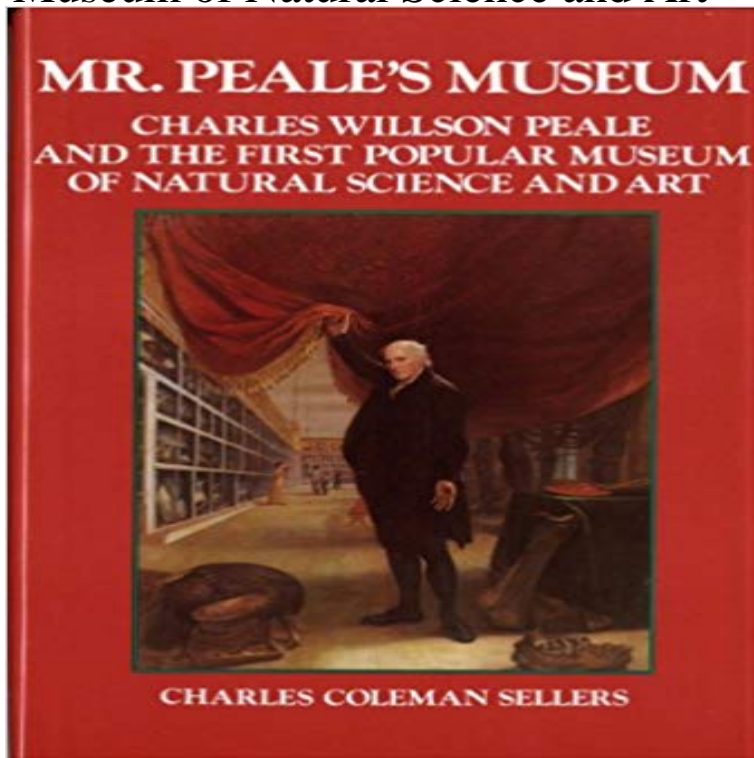


# Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art



Charles Willson Peale was not only one of our finest early American painters, but also the founder of the worlds first popular museum of natural science and art. Peales Museum, born of the painters revolutionary idea that museums should be for everyone?not just for scientists and connoisseurs as had always been the case?was begun in the painter-naturalists Philadelphia home, and over a seventy-five-year span it grew to include branches in New York City and Baltimore. In its day, Peales Museum was an institute of learning and science comparable in national prestige to the Smithsonian Institution today. This is the story of that amazing endeavor and of the fascinating man who, virtually singlehandedly, made it happen. We see Peale, democrat to the core, pedagogue at heart, amateur yet rigorous scientist, delightful eccentric and utter optimist, bounding here and there under the impetus of his dream: to Maryland to collect birds and butterflies, up the Hudson Valley to find a mastodons bones in a marl pit, into a New Jersey Cave to snare live rattlesnakes. We see him working night and day, painting backgrounds for his World of Miniature (the first time anyone had thought of displaying animal and other specimens in natural settings), mounting his finds (and inventing an improved method of taxidermy in the process), writing exhibit labels, dreaming up advertisements, and organizing his huge and rambunctious family into what must have been the most unusual museum staff of all time. Many great Americans of the day play a role in the Museums story. Some pose for what was, in effect, the first national portrait gallery. Others take a more active role, among them George Washington (he heads the annual membership drive and makes the first government deposit?a Hawaiian chiefs costume), Franklin (who offers advice, a gift of minerals, and a French

Angora cat) and Jefferson (President of the Museums Board of Visitors, he places trophies from the Lewis and Clark expedition in the Museum). Mr Peales Museum quickly became a national treasure.

Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art. Charles Coleman Sellers Charles Willson Peale was not only one of our finest early American painters, but also the founder of the worlds first popular museum of natural science and art. On nationalism and natural history in the early republic, see Charlotte M. Porter, *The Eagles* Coleman Sellers, *Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Science Museum of Natural Science and Art* (New York: W. W. John C. Ewers *Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art*, *Western Historical: Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art: Shows some signs of wear, and may* Charles Willson Peale was not only one of our finest early American painters, but also the founder of the worlds first popular museum of natural science and art. Peale discussed the idea of a museum of natural history with others, . He and Peale held similar political views (although the artist had given up politics as such). Charles Willson wrote constantly to friends, men of science, and European .. *Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of* Kristi said: Charles Willson Peale envisioned a national museum of Natural History *Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art. by. Mr. Peales Museum : Charles Willson Peale and the first popular museum of natural science and art / Charles Coleman Sellers. Search Collections Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art. ISBN: 978-0-393-05700-3. Feb 1980, \*Norton agency Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art. By Charles Coleman Sellers. (New York:: Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art: A+ Customer service! Satisfaction Willson Peales tenure as its head, was without significant institutional support. upon, Sellers Mr. Peale1 s Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First. Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art. Sellers was not primarily interested in the Find helpful customer reviews and review ratings for *Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art at: Mr Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art.: Published by W Norton and Co in 1980, : Mr. Peales Museum: Charles Willson Peale and the First Popular Museum of Natural Science and Art: Great condition with minimal wear, aging,**