

Although McGee was not a player in the burgeoning of American anthropology after 1903, which took place primarily in universities, his role at the pivotal juncture between amateur and professional science and local and national scope cannot be underestimated. He supported public engagement with science and evaded disciplinary labels and was rigidified by increasing emphasis on formal credentials. His political and entrepreneurial skills were considerable, and although the revolutionary theory he espoused was rapidly eclipsed after his departure from anthropology, in his own day McGee was highly respected for the quality of his scientific work. That he built a second successful career in a different field of government science attests to his abilities. McGee married Anita Newcomb, the socially prominent daughter of America's leading astronomer, in 1888, despite her family's lack of approval (Emma McGee 1915). With his encouragement, Anita McGee obtained a medical degree and had a distinguished career in her own right. The couple had two children, but the marriage disintegrated and McGee thereafter lived at the Cosmos Club in Washington. He cataloged the progress of the cancer that claimed his life on 8 September 1912 at the age of 59. In the interests of science, McGee willed his body to a medical college for dissection. Though he requested no funeral, a service was held at Pinchot's home.

REGNA DARNELL

Frederic Ward Putnam

1905–1906



Born in Salem, Massachusetts, on 16 April 1839, Frederic Ward Putnam was a member of an extended family that included some of New England's bluest blood. As an adolescent Putnam hoped to spend his life as a military officer and set his sights on West Point. He was tutored at home and never attended formal schools. This enabled him to pursue his interest in, and unusual talent for, natural history—especially local fish and bird populations. At age 16 Putnam wrote his first scientific paper on the fish of Salem Harbor and exhibited in the Salem Light Infantry. His catalogs of the fish and birds of Essex County opened the door to his first scientific job. In 1856 Putnam was appointed Curator of Ornithology at the Essex Institute of Salem. A year later Louis Agassiz invited Putnam to Cambridge to assist him at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ). Putnam worked closely with Agassiz on ornithology and ichthyology. His peers at the (MCZ) included Edward S. Morse, Alpheus Hyatt,

Samuel H. Scudder, and A. S. Packard. During this period they established the *American Naturalist*. Although his lab mates were students at Harvard's Lawrence Scientific School, Putnam never enrolled in classes there; he studied exclusively with Agassiz. He was the last of Agassiz's students to fully embrace ideas of Darwinian evolution, which Agassiz bitterly opposed (Dexter 1979:168).

The Harvard Corporation conferred a bachelor's degree on Putnam in 1862 for his work with Agassiz. "The influence of Agassiz remained with him [Putnam] during his entire life. His love for his teacher and the respect and admiration for Agassiz's method of teaching were always favorite themes in his conversations with his own pupils. His never-ending lament was that his students found their knowledge in books rather than in specimens" (Tozzer 1935:127). Putnam's tutorial style of instruction enabled Alice C. Fletcher to receive professional training. As a woman, Fletcher could not attend Harvard. By working closely with Putnam at the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, she was one of the first women to receive formal training in anthropology.

While Putnam's peers juggled classes, he sought various positions of scientific leadership, editorial responsibilities, and personal research. By his mid twenties, Putnam had served as the curator of ornithology, mammalogy, ichthyology, and vertebrates at the Essex Institute and the curator of ichthyology at the Boston Society of Natural History. In 1864 he took the helm at the Essex Institute as its superintendent and director for six years. The young Putnam developed a remarkable skill for service through leadership, research, fund-raising, and editing. His legacy for anthropology resulted from his skill in marshalling people and resources to build institutions simultaneously in multiple locations.

Putnam's service was not limited to science. At the outbreak of the Civil War, rumors that Southern sympathizers would seize the Cambridge arsenal led him to organize student volunteers to guard it. With great difficulty Agassiz persuaded Putnam not to enlist in the cavalry regiment that his cousin Pickering Allen was mustering.

In 1873 Putnam was chosen as permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a position he re-

tained through 25 years of scientific professionalization. He also became the editor of its influential journal, *Science*.

Around this time Putnam began to focus more on anthropology and archaeology. He had had a long-standing interest in American Indian prehistory, and from 1875 onward he engaged in a systematic study of Pueblo ruins in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and of mound structures in the Ohio valley.

The shift from zoology to archaeology was fortuitous. By the time Putnam began exploring archaeology in the Americas, George Peabody's 1866 endowment to Harvard for a museum and professorship in American ethnology and archaeology had grown sufficiently to fund this expansion. In 1875 Putnam was appointed curator of the Peabody Museum, a position he held for 34 years. Putnam provided new leadership, expanded the collections, constructed a new building, and initiated the *Papers of the Peabody Museum*.

Stitching together an impressive network of scientists and philanthropists, Putnam launched major archeological projects in the Ohio valley and in the ice-age gravels of New Jersey; he also undertook large-scale digs in Central America and in the Yucatán Peninsula. Although Peabody's initial endowment prescribed a professorship in conjunction with the museum, the Harvard Corporation did not confirm Putnam as its Peabody Professor until 1887.

In 1890 Putnam took a three-year leave of absence to head the ethnology department at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Putnam's goal for the exposition was to introduce anthropology to the American public. Although his anthropological building and exhibitions of "native" habitations along the midway were a resounding success by any measure, the grandiose scale of his original plans was compromised by competition from the Smithsonian's National Museum and the Bureau of American Ethnology (Patterson 2001). Nevertheless, Putnam fulfilled his vision of a grand exposition of objects from the Americas and beyond.

Putnam used the fair to establish a permanent natural history museum in Chicago. His initial pitch to Chicago's commercial club in 1891 convinced Marshall Field to endow the museum that bears his

name, but Putnam's plans were usurped by others. Putnam reminded the fair's director-general that he was investing his time and energy in the advancement of science with the expectation of a permanent museum in Chicago. Ably assisted by George Dorsey and *Franz Boas*, Putnam employed more than 50 scholars and collected some 50,000 specimens—the nucleus of the anthropological collections of the Field Museum, which opened in 1894.

Within the year Morris K. Jesup invited Putnam to develop similar collections at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, where he served as curator from 1894 to 1903. During these years Putnam and Boas launched the Hyde Expeditions to the Southwest and the Jesup North-Pacific Expedition.

In 1903 Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Benjamin Wheeler invited Putnam to establish an anthropology department and museum at the University of California, Berkeley. Hearst's endowment funded California Indian, Peruvian, and Egyptian ethnological and linguistic research. After a downturn in the financial markets curbed the ambitious scope of the museum, *Alfred L. Kroeber* developed the academic programs at Berkeley.

Putnam also contributed to the transformation from Section H of the AAAS to the independent and increasingly professional American Anthropological Association.

With prescient prose, Putnam wrote to his wife about the World's Fair ethnological exhibit, "I have hit the nail on the head" (quoted in Dexter 1970). Putnam used an apt metaphor: his career and contributions to anthropology are framed by building: he built institutions, developed archaeological standards, assembled scholarly organs, and supported students. Putnam died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 14 August 1915.

LEE D. BAKER

Franz Boas

1907–1908



Franz Uri Boas, the dominant figure of 20th-century American anthropology, was born in Minden, Westphalia, on 9 July 1858, to a prosperous, middle-class Jewish family. His father, Meier Boas, was a textile merchant; his mother, Sophie Meyer Boas, favored the political ideals of the failed 1848 revolution. On graduation from the gymnasium, Boas rejected a safe career in medicine and sought both scientific challenge and scope for his substantial ambition.

Boas entered the University of Heidelberg in 1877, moved to the University of Bonn to study physics, and then to the University of Kiel, where he studied geography with Theobald Fischer. He received his Ph.D. in 1882 with a dissertation on the optical seawater. During his student years Boas moved from materialism to psychophysics, to geography, and ultimately to ethnology (Stoeking 1968).

After a year's compulsory service in the Minden regiment Boas went to Berlin to prepare for an expedition to visit the Eskimos. He spent