

CHAPTER 23

An Act to empower the Trustees of the British Museum to lend for the purposes of research objects comprised in the collections of the Natural History Departments of the British Museum and to destroy objects so comprised which have become useless by reason of infestation or physical deterioration. [6th May, 1955]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Power of Trustees to lend for research purposes objects comprised in the natural history collections.

1. The Trustees of the British Museum (hereafter in this Act referred to as "the Trustees") shall, in their discretion, have power to lend for the purposes of research, whether within or outside the United Kingdom, any objects vested in them which are comprised in the collections of the Natural History Departments of the British Museum; and any objects lent under the power conferred by this section shall be lent on such terms as the Trustees think fit, and subject to such conditions as they may impose for the purpose of securing the safe custody and due return thereof:

Provided that, where an object comprised in the said collections has become vested in the Trustees by virtue of a gift or bequest, the power conferred by this section shall not be exercisable as respects that object in a manner inconsistent with any condition attached to the gift or bequest.

Power of Trustees to destroy infected, &c., objects comprised in the natural history collections.

2. The Trustees may destroy any object vested in them which is comprised in the said collections, being an object which appears to them to be infested by destructive organisms or, by reason of physical deterioration, to have become useless for the purposes of the British Museum.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as the British Museum Act, 1955.

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