

**BRITISH MUSEUM;  
REGULATIONS FOR  
PREVENTION OF FIRE**

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British Museum; Regulations for Prevention of Fire by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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**BRITISH MUSEUM**

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**REGULATIONS**

**FOR**

**PREVENTION OF FIRE**

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# BRITISH MUSEUM.

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTION OF FIRE.

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THE MUSEUM is never to be left without one, <sup>Resident</sup> at least, of the Resident Officers within the <sup>Officers.</sup> precincts, so that proper orders may be given, and due care taken, for its safety in case of fire or other accident ; and the Firemen and Police are required to know at all times, by referring to the book at the Porters' Lodge, which Officer is in charge, in order that they may send to him, in the absence of the Director, immediate notice of any such accident.

Each Resident Officer of the Establishment is to be punctual in the observance of the duty of remaining in charge, required of him by the Fifth Chapter, Section 3, of the Museum Statutes.

Two Firemen shall always be on duty, one of <sup>Firemen.</sup> whom shall remain in the Firemen's Watch-Room.

**Fires.** At the closing of the Museum, every day, all Fires in the stoves and grates are to be left safe. No coal is to be put on the fires after 2.30 p.m.

A quarter - of - an - hour before closing - time (4, 5, or 6 p.m., according to the season) all studies and rooms where there have been fires during the day shall be visited by one of the housemaids or a house labourer, who shall see that the fires are out or safely guarded.

No fire is to be raked out ; nor is water to be poured on a fire or ashes.

**Patrols.** One of the Messengers, accompanied by a Police Constable, shall close and lock the doors of the several Departments, and shall pass through all the rooms which have been used during the day, as soon as the Galleries and Students' Rooms are closed to the public.

After the closing of the Museum, one of the Messengers, accompanied by the Inspector or a Sergeant or a Constable of Police, and a Fireman, shall patrol all parts of the Building at such hours as the Trustees may from time to time appoint. They are to take care that every part is safe and that no person is lurking therein. The route to be taken through the Museum shall be determined from time to time by the Director.



A record of the patrols shall be entered by the Messengers in a book kept for the purpose, which shall be submitted to the Director on the morning of each week-day. The patrols shall also be entered in the "Police Patrol-Book" and in the "Firemen's Report-Book."

The Fireman engaged in the patrols shall, during the night, patrol the Basement, in the intervals.

Locked Lamps or (in preference) Electric Lamps. Lamps only shall be used in the Museum.

The Lamps (other than Electric Lamps) shall be cleaned, trimmed, lighted, and locked in the Lamp-house; and, if the lights go out, the lamps shall not be opened and re-lighted within the Museum, but they shall be taken to the Lamp-house or to the Firemen's Watch-Room or to the Porters' Lodge for the purpose.

The use of Lighted Candles within the Museum (excepting tapers for sealing letters) is strictly forbidden; unless allowed by a special written authority of the Director, or, in his absence, of the Officer in charge. Candles.

The Housemaids shall see that all the Fires wanted for the day are lighted at the appointed hour and are left safely guarded. In making the fires, the paper and wood are not to be lighted before coal is put on. Fire-lighting.

**Binders' Workshops.**

The Bookbinder shall take special care that all stoves are left in a safe state and that all lights are extinguished in the Binders' Workshops, before he leaves for the night. All waste-paper and cuttings are to be removed daily.

The Police shall keep a special watch on the Binders' Workshops during the night.

**Chimney-sweeping.**

All Stoves, Chimneys, and Flues (other than boiler-flues) shall be examined and swept under the supervision of the Clerk of the Works once a month, or oftener if necessary.

Boiler-flues shall be swept once in eight weeks, or oftener if necessary.

The Resident Officers and Servants of the Museum are required to take every precaution against fire in their houses and apartments, and to see that their chimneys are swept.

**Inspections of Fire-Protection Plant.**

There shall be four Inspections of the Fire-Protection Plant during the year (namely, on the Tuesday before the second Saturday in January, April, July, and October), by the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade, or his deputy, and the Clerk of the Works, at which all the servants of the Museum (or as many of them as can be spared) shall be present and assist.

At each Inspection the hydrants and hand-pumps, and a portion of the hose and gear belonging to them, shall be worked with water.

A report of each Inspection shall be entered in the "Fire Inspection-Book" and shall be signed both by the Brigade Officer and by the Clerk of the Works. The book shall be laid before the Trustees at their next ensuing Meeting.

All articles of the Fire-Protection Plant shall be branded or otherwise marked with the words "British Museum" or the initials "B.M.," and shall be kept in charge of the senior Fireman.

During the months of April to September **Fire-Drills.** there shall be fortnightly Fire-Drills under the senior Fireman, in which the Police and Messengers (or as many as can be spared from other duties) shall take part. The Commissionnaires also shall be drilled in the same manner.

All the Attendants of the Museum are to be exercised, from time to time, by the senior Fireman, in the use of the hand-pumps and fire-buckets.

The Firemen are under the control of the **Firemen.** Clerk of the Works, who shall take care that the records of their daily duties are punctually entered in the "Firemen's Day-Book."

The Firemen shall also keep a book called the "Firemen's Report-Book" for the daily entry of all matters connected with the Fire-Protection service; and they shall submit it to the Director on the morning of each week-day.