

The
Cobb
Institute of
Archaeology

In 1908, Cully A. Cobb of Atlanta, Georgia, received his degree from Mississippi A. & M. College (now Mississippi State University).

He became superintendent of the first agricultural high school established in Mississippi — Buena Vista. After two years in this position, he became head of the Boy's Agriculture Club Division at State, a position he held from 1910 to 1918. He served as assistant director of Agricultural Extension in 1917.

In September of 1918, Mr. Cobb became editor of the *Southern Ruralist* in Atlanta, Georgia. He was elected president of the American Agricultural Editors Association three terms in succession.

In 1932 the *Southern Ruralist* was sold to the *Progressive Farmer*, and Mr. Cobb served as managing editor of the Georgia-Alabama edition of that publication for a short time before going to Washington in 1933 to take charge of the Cotton Division of the newly formed Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Mr. Cobb moved back to Atlanta in September, 1937. He purchased the majority of stock of the Ruralist Press and was named president. The Ruralist Press was one of the largest printing concerns in the South. He sold the business in 1971.

Mr. Cobb took an active interest in trade organization affairs and served as president of the Master Printers Association of Atlanta, president of the Printers Association of Georgia, and president of the Union Employers' Section of the Printing Industry of America.

In 1933, he received the honorary doctor of science degree from Clemson College. In 1959, he was honored with the distinguished service award by the Printing Industry of Atlanta, and, in 1962, he received the distinguished service award from the Printing Industry of America. He was active in civic as well as church affairs for almost 70 years and was a teacher of the Berean Class in the Sunday School of the Druid Hills Baptist Church for more than 30 years. He was a 32nd degree Mason.

Mr. Cobb was first married in 1910 to Byrdie Ball of Buena Vista, Mississippi, who died in 1932. Two sons were born to that union — Cully A. Cobb, Jr., and David A. Cobb. In 1934, he was married to Lois P. Dowdle of Atlanta.



CULLY ALTON COBB
(Feb. 25, 1884-May 7, 1975)



LOIS DOWDLE COBB
(August 1, 1889-)

Mrs. Cully A. Cobb was born Lois P. Dowdle at Rome, Georgia, August 1, 1889. After attending public schools at Rome, she began her college studies at Shorter College. She continued her education at the University of Georgia where she received her B.S. degree and did graduate work at Cornell University.

Her early work experiences were concerned with various areas of teaching and with service as a county agent. Later she was State Girls' Club agent in charge of the Girls' 4-H club work in the state of Georgia. During World War I, Mrs. Cobb served as director of Food Production and Food Preservation for Georgia as an appointee of Herbert Hoover (then Federal Food Administrator but who later became President). Between 1932-1934, Mrs. Cobb was director of the American Institute of Home Grown Fats and Oils and, as such, was instrumental in persuading Congress to remove restrictive legislation against the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine. She has served as an editor, a writer, a school teacher, administrator, trustee and homemaker. She is past president of the Georgia Home Economics Association. She is the only woman who has served as president of the Southern Association of Agricultural Workers (this honor was awarded her in February, 1932).

On August 24, 1934, she married Cully A. Cobb of Atlanta, Georgia. Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Cobb traveled extensively in Europe and the Near East.

Mr. and Mrs. Cobb have been generous patrons of numerous worthy causes. Mrs. Cobb has been a friend of students, helping dozens of needy students with their formal education. The Cobbs also assisted over a dozen families of young student ministers of Emory University in Atlanta by providing free housing for them in their garage apartment. Since Mr. Cobb's death, their home at Decatur, Georgia, has been given to Emory University.

She has served faithfully as a teacher in the T.E.L. Class of Druid Hills Baptist Church for 35 years (though she still retains her membership in the Methodist church in Druid Hills).

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Cobb provided the funds for the Cobb Institute of Archaeology in June of 1971. The intervening years have been spent in planning the program and constructing this facility.



The Cobb Institute of Archaeology

The Cobb Institute of Archaeology stands on the corner of Lee Boulevard and Hardy Road evoking a part of history and visions of a long since forgotten civilization.

Opened this fall for instruction, the 20,000 square-foot structure houses archaeological treasures, as well as the facilities to learn more from them.

The center is the only one of its kind among southeastern universities, possessing archaeological processing methods making possible the physical and chemical separation of minute data. There is equipment for preparation and measurement of human skeletal material found in excavations and two teaching laboratories for students to do plaster and metal casting, strike molds, and engage in various types of restoration work. Strong emphasis is placed on archaeological techniques.

The building, costing \$700,000, was funded by the late Cully A. Cobb of Atlanta, a 1908 graduate of Mississippi A&M, and his wife Lois Dowdle Cobb, who have given more than \$3 million for the institute's support.

There are administrative and staff offices in the center, as well as two lecture rooms; a "Founder's Room" housing the Cobbs' rare collection of antiques; and a museum. In the museum on the lower level, replicas of the Code of Hammurabi, the Black Obelisk of Shalmanezzer, and the Moabite Stone are available for study.

Two of the most distinguishing features of the archaeological institute are the stone panels surrounding the doorways and the columns.

The panels, sculpted and carved by Leonard Farley, head of the MSU Department of Art, are replicas of paintings and symbols dating from the Mesopotamian era (circa 3500 B. C.) to the early Christian era. There are Indian symbols from the pre-historic period of Mississippi. Particular panels such as the Christian sign of the fish with the letters $\text{I}\chi\theta\upsilon\varsigma$ in the center (meaning Jesus Christ, God's Son, and Savior) will relate to courses of study in Biblical archaeology now offered.

Two groups of columns, one standing at the front of the building and the other on the east side of the institute, add to the feeling that a visitor is surveying ancient ruins.

**DEDICATION PROGRAM
OCTOBER 17, 1975
CULLY A. AND LOIS DOWDLE COBB
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**

2:15 P.M.

Tour of Building and Museum (Assemble in Foyer)

3:00 P.M.

Dedication Program — Front Lawn, Cobb Institute of Archaeology Building

Presiding..... Vice President John K. Bettersworth

WELCOME AND GREETINGS..... President William L. Giles

DEDICATION PRAYER..... Director E. J. Vardaman

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

INTRODUCTION OF MRS. CULLY A. COBB..... Dean Lyell C. Behr

PRESENTATION OF COBB INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

TO MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY..... Mrs. Cully A. Cobb

RESPONSE..... President William L. Giles

ADDRESS..... Senator John C. Stennis

GOD BLESS AMERICA..... Miss Lydia Ruffin

RECEPTION..... Immediately following the dedication

4:15 P.M.

Tour of the Building and Museum (Assemble in Museum)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cobb Institute of Archaeology acknowledges with gratitude the contributions made by so many for its very existence.

Architect And Contractors

Tom Jones, architect; Boots Howell, general contractor; Alba Triplett, electrical contractor; Pete Pagnossi, mechanical contractor; Cutcher Gatlin, bookcase contractor; Pete Beckman, Kewanee representative; Mrs. Jeanne Wakeman, Wakeman Interiors; Leonard Farley, sculptor.

Museum Loans

The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; The Metropolitan Museum, New York City.

Individual Contributors To The Museum and Library to date

Ashland Oil Company; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Camp; Bank of Carthage; A. G. Bennett, Sr.; Dr. R. Jeffrey Brown; Mrs. Lon Duckworth; Dr. and Mrs. S. A. Graham; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Johnson; Thomas S. Jones & Associates; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Jones; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Jones; Mr. and Mrs. E. O. McIlwain; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marshall; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Patrick; Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Pederson; Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rose; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Sibley; Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Vardaman family.

Special thanks are due to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Cully A. Cobb, Dr. and Mrs. Cully Alton Cobb, and David Alexander Cobb, for their generous support of the building, its furnishings, and program.

The Book Fund was started by the Ken S. Davis family of Ashland, Kentucky.

Presentation of the Institute Building
by Lois Dowdle Cobb

Presentation of the Institute Building

by Lois Dowdle Cobb

Senator Stennis, members of the Board of Trustees of Mississippi State University, President Giles, members of the faculty, alumni and friends:

On April 14, 1973, two and one-half years ago, ground was broken for the erection of a building on the campus of Mississippi State University to be known as the Cully A. and Lois Dowdle Cobb Institute of Archaeology. That building has at last been completed and furnished — made ready for teaching and research in the field of archaeology. Today we are here to present that building to the University and to dedicate it to the use and purpose for which it was designed.

More than once, those of us who have been personally interested in its erection have had to remind ourselves of the admonition of Joshua, the great leader of the children of Israel following the death of Moses. The Israelites were encamped near the River Jordan waiting to go into the Promised Land, but they were afraid. Joshua said to the frightened Israelites, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Many times it seemed that the difficulties involved in the erection of the building were almost insurmountable. But now again we remind ourselves that "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

It is a source of great sorrow to me that Mr. Cobb did not live to see the building completed and occupied, that he might experience the fulfillment of his dream. He would have had the pleasure of presenting this building to the Trustees today. And yet, I rejoice in the fact that I know and am fully persuaded, that he is here, in spirit today, and that he is more perfectly aware of the real meaning of this occasion than are we who are here in the flesh.

As a child, I used to wonder about the statement of the Apostle Paul, quoting the words of Jesus who said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." As a child, I wanted to receive. But as I matured I came to understand and to realize the truth of Jesus' statement. I have also come to realize that it is not possible to give until we have first received.

The building on this campus was planned to give — to give to the young men and women who study archaeology an understanding of themselves and of the world of which they are a part. Each will ask himself such questions as "Who am I?" "Where did I come from?" "How did I get here?" "What do I have?" As these young people study, they will receive the answers to these questions and many more. As they receive, they will find themselves able to give, first of all, of themselves. And as they look back into the ancient past and forward to the road ahead, they will find opportunity for great usefulness and great living. And they will then know the answer to the question "Where do we go from here?" I am reminded of the statement of Sir Edmund Burke, Prime Minister of Britain. He said, "He who will not look to the past to see the way we have come, cannot with clarity interpret the present, nor with courage chart the future."

If Mr. Cobb were here in person, I am confident he would say with me, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, I have laid the foundation and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth."

And so, on this 17th day of October, 1975, I have the privilege and the honor to present this building to Mississippi State University. Dr. Giles, I hope, and I confidently believe, that it will prove to be a gift that grows in value through the years to come. My prayer is that those whose privilege and responsibility it is to occupy this building and to use it, will be blessed as they watch young minds develop to the end that they, in turn, will be a blessing to all mankind.

"For unto whomsoever much is given of him shall much be required, and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

**The Dedication of
The Cobb Institute of Archaeology,
Mississippi State University
October 17, 1975
by Senator John C. Stennis**

On April 14, 1973, ground was broken for the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, made possible by the generosity and willingness to share of Cully A. and Lois Dowdle Cobb. Cully Cobb spoke that day at the ground-breaking ceremony. The title of his address was "This Is The Day." It was the day—the day of the beginning. This is also the day—the day of the culmination of Cully Cobb's dream.

In Cully Cobb's ground-breaking speech, he said: "I have faith to believe the investment Mrs. Cobb and I are making here today will pay off as the investment made in me has paid off in the joy of living and serving that has so richly blessed our homes and our lives. We believe the Cobb Institute of Archaeology will add a brilliant facet to the great university of which it is to be a part."

Mr. Cobb's faith and confidence were not misplaced. This Institute will bring to Mississippi State scholars who have a desire to delve into and solve the mysteries and puzzles of the past. It will add a new dimension of learning to Mississippi State. It will help us to move forward to greater understanding, better education, greater knowledge of the ancient past, and greater cultural vitality.

I understand that archaeology means the study of ancient things. Benjamin Franklin was right when he said "Man is a tool-making animal." Archaeology is concerned with investigating man's "tools of the past" and the objects he has created by the use of those tools.

The results of archaeology are astounding, both in their discoveries and in their interpretation. Who would have known that artisans of the past knew how to make purple gold? Yet purple gold was discovered in King Tut's tomb in 1923; and as a result of this finding metallurgists were able to discover how it could be done today. Ancient man has a lot to teach us even in this modern time. Who would have dreamed that Scythians practiced tattooing all parts of the body—until their 2500 year old frozen bodies were discovered in the ice fields of Russia? Who would have dreamed that ancient Chinese artisans knew how to mummify as effectively, if not more so, than the ancient Egyptians—until tombs were found that showed this to be true?

We welcome in advance the contributions which will inevitably come about from the Cobb Archaeological Institute. We have no doubt that the research which will be done there will enlarge the frontiers of understanding and qualitative living for this generation as well as those which follow.

To those who knew him Cully Cobb was truly a remarkable man. His life was firmly anchored to his strong religious beliefs. He was a man of wisdom, character, humility and faith. He believed in sharing—in putting his worldly possessions to work for worthwhile purposes. He was more than a close personal friend of mine; he was a valued advisor and counsellor and I benefited greatly from his guidance. His death was a great personal loss to many thousands of people as it was to Mississippi State and to the nation. Men of his character and calibre are all too rare.

In a speech here some ten years ago at Spring Homecoming when there were disturbances on many campuses in our land, I made a plea for the retention of the fundamental principles of self-respect, self-support and pride of personal achievements while carrying personal responsibilities. Afterwards, well-wishers moved forward to say hello and shake hands, but Mr. Cobb held back. When all had moved away he came with a cordial handshake and said, if I may repeat his words, "A moving speech. You spoke of the true fundamentals which endure."

He said by way of conclusion: "We must always be constructive."

I think of him now as the personification of his own counsel! He was always constructive!

And so his great spirit, now and for generations to come, goes marching on down the corridors of time, touching the lives of youth and adult, here and far beyond this campus. May all of us, including generation after countless generations of youth who pass this way, follow his example and accept the challenge of constructive careers of service to mankind.

There is, of course, an element of special sorrow in the fact that Mr. Cobb did not live to see the completion and dedication of the Institute. However, he knew beyond doubt before his death that his dream would come true and the Institute would become a reality and we can rejoice today in that knowledge and in the legacy of humanitarianism, philanthropy and love of mankind he left behind.

Lois Cobb was a small town girl from Georgia. Cully Cobb was a country boy from rural Tennessee. He was the son of a Baptist preacher. Cully's formative years were spent on a farm. Neither ever lost touch with the soil and the rural environment. Cully came to Mississippi State as a country boy—the story is that he arrived with \$2.40 in his pocket. He went into agricultural work upon his graduation and later worked with the Extension Service. Mrs. Cobb served for years with the Georgia Extension Service. Both were active with the Department of Agriculture in Washington during the depression years.

Mr. Cobb became highly successful in the newspaper and printing business but neither he nor Mrs. Cobb let material success blind them to spiritual values and an overwhelming desire to serve. They felt a deep and abiding satisfaction in sharing. Devout Christians both, they provided active leadership in religious affairs including the teaching of Sunday School classes and in helping many ministers and ministerial students to travel to the Holy Land to further their studies.

They showed throughout their lives the real spirit that represents the very best in America. They had deep religious convictions, ambition, courage and human understanding—plus the business ability to be financially successful and the graciousness and willingness to share their wealth with many worthwhile educational, charitable and religious activities. It is abundantly clear that the kind of society we build, the kind of culture we have, and the nature and amount of education we furnish depends in large measure upon people like Cully A. and Lois Dowdle Cobb.

Cully Cobb was always one of the most loyal and devoted alumni of Mississippi State University. He felt he owed it a debt of gratitude which he could never repay. His devotion to his alma mater was such that he became a member of the Patrons of Excellence, made a major contribution to the Chapel of Memories, and provided support of work in agricultural history at Mississippi State.

The Cobbs' growing interest in the past—in the beginning of things—generated quite a bit of travel by them to Europe and the Holy Land. Stimulated by this travel and other interests, they developed such a keen and deep interest in archaeology that they decided to share a substantial portion of their fortune for the

endowment of the Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State. In addition, they also provided the funds for the structure to house the Institute—the building we dedicate today.

Mr. and Mrs. Cobb felt called upon to make this gift because life had been generous to them and they felt that the gift would in some way at least partially repay those at Mississippi State who believed in him and helped him so greatly in his student days. To a fine and gracious lady, Mrs. Lois Cobb, I express deep gratitude on behalf of Mississippi State and all of its sons and daughters. I also express my great admiration for her dogged determination in following through on the noble purposes and high ideals which she and Cully developed and shared. She has truly carried on and kept faith with their mutual aspirations.

Mrs. Cobb has continued her interest in Mississippi State, and has continued and increased her dedicated support of the Institute. The program goes on splendidly under her outstanding guidance. It is altogether fitting that a university whose women's enrollment has boomed in recent years should look to a great lady who has adopted Mississippi State as her own to provide leadership in carrying out the program of the Cully A. and Lois Dowdle Cobb Institute of Archaeology.

We dedicate this Institute today with full confidence that its achievements in the future will match the dreams and visions of Cully and Lois Cobb. As he said, this is in every way a joint enterprise in which he and Mrs. Cobb shared and shared alike. They worked and saved and planned together for the achievement of a great instrumentality of learning and usefulness. They realized that there is no finer work in life than the taking of the minds of young men and women and instilling within them learning, knowledge and a deep and solid understanding of mankind, themselves and the world of which they are a part.

This is truly a day of rich fulfillment. The dedication of the Cobb Institute is a significant step in the continuing progress and growth of Mississippi State as it strives for even greater excellence. This day has come about because Cully and Lois Cobb were willing to share and, by doing so, they lit a lamp that shines and will continue to shine for generations to come. We who have the responsibility hold this gift in trust for the young men and women whose feet will pass this way in the years to come.

If Cully Cobb were here today I think he would view the magnificent building which is the fulfillment of his dream and, as he did in his ground-breaking speech, recite the Psalmist and reverently proclaim, "This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."