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Carnegiea

Carnegiea commemorates a famous Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist. Andrew Carnegie (1835-1918) who never forgot the place of his birth. His family emigrated to Pittsburgh in 1848 and after a range of jobs he joined the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in 1853 as a secretary and telegraph operator. During the next 12 years (which included the Civil War) he not only progressed rapidly in the Company but also began to make shrewd investments through which he became wealthy. In 1865 (when the Civil War ended) he left the Railroad Company to set up on his own eventually founding the Keystone Bridge Company which was destined to become the largest iron and steel works in the Country (by 1889 its steel output would exceed that of Britain). Aside from his business activities by 1880 he had already begun to develop contacts in the literary and political arenas and had begun to appreciate his own philanthropic wishes, as well as his desire to encourage republicanism. During the 1880s, following a family trip to Britain, he bought many English newspapers and under his ownership they reflected his republican views. He had already begun to write and this included contributing articles to various American journals and in 1886 *Triumphant Democracy* was published, with a cover showing a crown upside-down and a broken sceptre, to considerable controversy in Britain although, authorities note, successful elsewhere. (The book discusses the American republican system and that under the British monarchy, the latter unfavourably.) This was followed in 1889 by an article entitled *Wealth* which appeared in Britain at the request of the Prime Minister, Gladstone (1809-1898), in *The Pall Mall Gazette* under the title *The Gospel of Wealth*. The article proposes that anybody who accumulates wealth should then use it for benevolent causes. In 1901 he sold his extensive steel interests, which became United States Steel Corporation, and retired from business. He now followed his philanthropic dream involving over £70 million, including establishing schools in the United States and public libraries in both the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as funding universities and other educational establishments in the United States and Scotland. He built the well-known concert venue in New York, Carnegie Hall, as well as the Pan-American Union Building and he contributed to the erection of the Hague Peace Temple. A perhaps unusual gift made through his Institute was one for the collectors of cacti in America..

Cactaceae