

# RIVAL TO KING TUT'S TOMB UNEARTHED

## TREASURES DISGORGED WHEN ANCIENT MUSEUM FOUND IN STOREHOUSE

Royal And Plebian Mummies Jostle Much Abused Head Of England's George III.—Shawl Of Mary Queen Of Scots And Dusky Flappers' Lingerie

Montreal's Rip Van Winkle among museums, the museum of the old Natural History Society of Montreal, which has lain buried for twenty years in a downtown storeroom, has disgorged treasures enough to set historians and naturalists agog.

Mummies hundreds of years older than Tutankhamen,—one a princess of Egypt and the other a poor man of the army; the long lost head of the statue of King George III. of England and the rare and curious from all over the world have been dug out, carefully dusted and brought to light at the Pathological Institute, McGill University, which has taken over the old museum with other assets of the society and its commitments.

Museum experts have been turned loose among the collection and have had a field day. They have X-rayed the mummies and found out all their secrets—their ages, their aches and pains and what not. They have found that the princess was a poor old woman of sixty odd years who had lost most all her teeth, and had "rheumatics" so badly that she grunted when she stooped. They have found out that the soldier had broken a rib in his lifetime, probably in a "scrap." Mummies' hearts are taken out and put in a jar when the bodies are embalmed, but X-ray operators were thrilled to find some object in the male mummy in what should have been the empty place left by his heart. It may be a roll of papyrus which may throw light on far-off ages. Now all the experts are "itching" to get at it, but the cutting open of a mummy is a much more serious business than the cutting open of an ordinary corpse and many formalities and the gaining of official permission may be necessary preliminaries.

One hundred years of collection by the Natural History Society of Montreal, now disbanded, are represented in the contents of the museum.

That the members were enthusiasts and the work a labor of love is shown by the variety and scope of the things they collected, as well as by their rarity. There is a fine collection of weapons, representing a hundred deaths; rare Egyptian antiquities, including papyrus as yet undeciphered; and bricks made with straw stamped with the stamp of the Pharaoh who oppressed the Israelites; a fragile shawl of yellowed lace worn by Mary Queen of Scots; Egyptian beauties' "make-up" jars of the time of the Pharaohs; Indian curios, rare and extinct birds and a mass of other material, filling to capacity one of the largest theatres in the institute and overflowing into the gallery above.

### THE ABUSED HEAD OF GEORGE III.

A royal welcome was given by the experts to the head of George III. His re-appearance is of trans-Atlantic interest, and he was given at once a position of prominence on a pedestal improvised of packing cases. The head was discovered, stuck on to the plaster shoulders of a Greek god, and was easily discernible as the head of a statue by its great weight as compared with the plaster base to which it had been attached.

No more romantic adventures ever tell the head that wears a crown than those which befall the head of the statue of King George III. of England, Montreal's first statue, some authorities state. Sent out from England, it was erected on a pedestal in Place d'Armes about 1774 and showed the monarch as a young man. Its troubles began with the coming into force of the Quebec Act. The minds of the people of Quebec were troubled and divided as to allegiance in those days when rebellion was seething to the South. Malcontents ran scurrilous articles in a small journal of the time against the English Government, and one morning the city woke up to find that the statue had been subjected to insult and outrage. The face had been daubed with black and a necklace of potatoes had been hung round the monarch's neck, with the inscription in French: "Here is the Pope of Canada and the Fool of the English." The city was scandalized and a meeting of citizens was called, at which one hundred guineas, about \$1000, was offered for the discovery of the perpetrators of the outrage.

The head, however, had only just started upon its adventures. In 1776 the American soldiers invaded Montreal at the beginning of the revolution and occupied the Chateau de Ramezay, the then Government House. Walking around in the city, they came across the statue of the king, to them, hated English King, and promptly knocked its head off, and threw it down a well. There it stayed, it is said, for twenty years. Eventually it was recovered and passed into Government hands. It was given to the Natural History Society of Montreal as a relic shortly after the foundation of the society in 1825 and remained in the society's hands for nearly a hundred years, the last twenty years in the seclusion of a downtown storeroom. Now once again the king has come to his own, and the head of His Majesty, King George III., King of England, and Defender of the Faith, will repose with dignity among the relics of his peers, probably among the royal relics at the McCord National Museum. With it also may go the shawl of the ill-fated Queen of Scots. A single large piece of lace, yellowed with the centuries and of exquisite pattern and texture, it once draped the shoulders of the most unhappy queen in history or draped the head which fell under the execution-

er's axe. It was presented to the Natural History Society many years ago by a Montreal lady of old Scottish family.

### SPICES AND PITCH

Most ancient of the museum contents now undergoing classification are the Egyptian antiquities, with the fragments of a pavement, made of limestone taken from Belzoni's tomb, near Thebes.

An Egyptian antiquity of great interest is a papyrus holder, with the erect figure of the god Horus at one end and at the other a lotus flower. The papyrus was placed. The modeling is finely done, but the papyrus is missing from the slot. Other fine models of gods and goddesses are in the collection,—the finest being a figure of the trinity of gods,—Osiris, Isis and their son Anubis. A group of Egyptian cosmetic jars demonstrates that women from time immemorial have understood the gentle art of "make-up." The jars are tall, about nine inches high and are made of pottery. The covers are detachable and are fashioned in the likeness of the heads of the household gods of Egypt. These jars were used in what in modern days would be the dressing table, and were filled with aids to the schoolgirl complexion of the days of the Pharaohs.

The chief of these is a late Roman antiquity in the museum is a late Roman funeral urn in perfect condition. It contained the ashes of Quintillus Corneilius, and is of marble, carved in a flower pattern and with the name of the deceased noble. The front is pointed at the top like a roof. The ashes have long been dispersed, but the urn is as good as when it was made in the days of Rome's greatness. Other Roman antiquities are relics dug up from the buried city of Pompeii. There are a heap of human bones—a lady's shoulder blade, a few vertebrae, and the like, a number of pottery lamps once used in Rome, and bearing the marks of usage. There are also a number of coins, of the reign of Phloemy VIII., who ruled from 117 to 121 A. D., and was the grandfather of Cleopatra; Nero, who reigned from 54 to 68 A. D., under whose regime the Apostle Paul was killed; and Hadrian, 117 to 138 A. D., who visited Britain in 121 A. D., and built the famous Hadrian's Wall across Britain.

Burmese antiquities include a fine statuette of the god Buddha covered with gold leaf; a Burmese book of seven pages, with the script enamelled on the leaves of a Palmyra palm, believed to be a form of prayer; and a Burmese manuscript also inscribed on prepared palm leaves. The book was taken from a priest's house at Ava, and the manuscript was presented to the Natural History Society by A. H. Bulger, of Montreal, in 1870.

### WEAPONS OF THE PAST

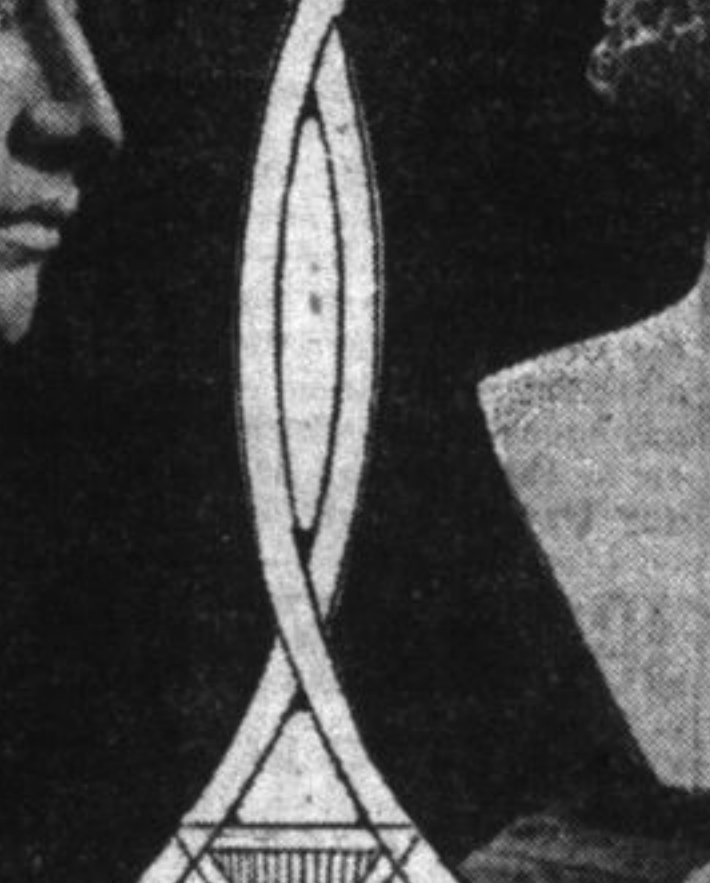
A very fine collection of weapons embraces examples from Europe, Turkey, Africa, India, Old Mexico and New Zealand (Maori). One of the finest is a number of javelins, used



Roman funeral urn, which contained the ashes of Quintillus Corneilius. It is made of marble, and beautifully carved. The ashes are long since dispersed, but the urn is still "as good as new."



Reappearing after twenty-years' oblivion in a Montreal downtown storeroom, a group of objects from the old Natural History Society Museum of Montreal, which has been resurrected and handed over to McGill University.



Top Row—A group of Egyptian antiquities. Left to right: A papyrus holder of great antiquity, with a figure of the god Horus standing at one end. The square slot is the cavity in which the papyrus was placed.



2 and 3—Statues of the infant god Anubis and the god Osiris. They are of extreme antiquity.



4 and 5—A royal princess of the Pharaohs, and a priestess of the temple, as she was laid to rest about, it is estimated, 800 to 1,000 years before Tutankhamen. She was embalmed in richest spices and wrapped in cloths of finest linen, now browned with age, but still strong and durable.

There is also a fresco painting, in colors still bright, tiles made of mud and straw, from an archaic Egyptian tomb, and two water colored fragments of a pavement, made of limestone taken from Belzoni's tomb, near Thebes.

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A very fine collection of weapons embraces examples from Europe, Turkey, Africa, India, Old Mexico and New Zealand (Maori). One of the finest is a number of javelins, used

by Aztecs against the Spaniards when the latter first invaded Old Mexico. A McGill expert pronounced them to be the most beautifully balanced weapons he had ever seen. So perfectly are they balanced that they rest in absolute equilibrium on the very slightest support. The grip is notched and of bone, and in one beautiful and deadly specimen has apparently been made from the vertebrae of the human neck, which afford a perfect grip, and were therefore sometimes employed—a use apparently for enemies captured in battle. When the Aztecs took a captive he was allowed to fight another with javelins, the loser being offered as a sacrifice to the gods.

The blades of these beautifully made weapons were made of obsidian or volcanic glass. Sometimes they were made of wood. Deadly as these weapons were in the hands of accurate throwers, they availed little against invading Spaniards in armour, and the Aztecs were routed by the invaders with comparative ease.

Blowpipes containing a hundred deaths are the most interesting weapons from Central America. In an innocent-looking case of woven basketwork are a hundred poisoned darts dipped in the juice of the rubber tree. Come right down at once and get your hand treated if you scratch your finger when looking at them, the expert says in handing them over for observation. A look at long distances generally satisfies the visitor. The tiniest scratch, even when medical aid is given at once, makes the scratched one very ill, it is said.

"How about carrying that on a white march?" a museum expert asked in drawing attention to a group of Turkish rifles of ancient pattern. So heavy that they could be lifted only with an effort, they excite speculation as to how a Turkish "Tommy" survived a march. However, that the Turk loved his rifle is evidenced in the care lavished upon its decoration. The butts are beautifully inlaid with ivory

and green stones, and inlays and traceries ornament the stocks.

Maori and South Sea Island weapons; wicked-looking arrows from Tribes; bows and arrows from the South Sea Islands; a powder horn and scabbard made by the Mandingos, Sierra Leone, and an Eskimo dart found in the Saguenay, are some of the more primitive weapons. European weapons include an ancient Highland dirk showing signs of hard use; the sword used by Stewart of Bute's standard-bearer with Sir William Wallace; a tomahawk from the battle of Sevastopol and charms worn at Sevastopol by Russian soldiers. Helmets in the collection include types worn by Russian soldiers and the brass helmet worn by the King's Dragoon Guards in England.

Of local interest is a 16th century cannon which belonged at one time to the fortified post at Senneville, near St. Anne de Bellevue.

A small collection of exhibits illustrates superstitious beliefs in various countries, many connected with the land. An example is a Maori priest's wand. When the Maori agriculturalist found his crops failing, he did not sent to doctor the soil. Instead, he went for a priest, who brought with him a sharply tipped wand and stuck it in the ground. The top of the wand was like a totem pole and had two eyes. The action of sticking it in the ground, it was believed, drove devils off the land, who were the root of the trouble when land proved unproductive and crops failed to thrive. Another land implement is a primitive measuring rod, which worked very well. It was stuck in the ground and the primitive surveyer sighted over the top, as in the case of a rifle. An amulet or berry necklace on view was worn by the Durwans in India as a preventive against dangers.

Some of the exhibits have a local interest. Residents on the corner of Metcalfe and Mansfield streets on Burnside, Montreal, may see a number of things which were dug up on their doorstep round 1860. In this

neighborhood stretched the Indian village of Hochelaga. Sir William Dawson, McGill's famous principal and geologist, excavated on the corner of Mansfield street some fine pieces of Indian pottery, finely decorated, an Indian pipe in perfect preservation, several portions of pipes and bones of animals eaten as food by the Indians, remains of many feasts. Here was dug up also the tooth of a bear and several deer bones.

Fine fossil fishes are some of the most interesting objects in the geological collection. There is a remarkable fossil of a fish in a thin layer of coal, and fossil fishes, perfect in every detail, in a layer of old sea floor from Lebanon, Syria.

Days when snails were like small cartwheels and giant oysters were found off the coast of England are recalled by fossils found in Hampshire in the chalk cliffs of Dover, and in Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

Fine fossil shells are also seen in blocks of black marble.

### THE DUSKY FLAPPER

Of feminine interest are the various dress exhibits. In one corner has been unpacked the complete wardrobe of a belle of the island of Samoa. The girl, like girls today, ahun voluminous clothes, and their wardrobes are light and easily put on. The chief article of clothing is a grass shirt fastened with a girde. When they have a date and want to look specially nice, the girls decorate their skirts with shells or with punched holes and a fringe of leather. On very smart occasions also they wear a very lacy material buster out of a bread fruit tree, and carry a bag made out of the feathers of birds. Such a bag, fashioned out of the feathers of a new extinct bird, is on view. A complete wardrobe of a Nubian girl can be wrapped up in a good sized handkerchief. It consists of a leather fringed ornamented with cowrie shells and beads, and a bone necklace.

Days when girls made their own clothes, even to the fabric, are recalled by an exhibit of the year 1650. It

taken at McGill University shows her to have been about 60 years old at death, with poor teeth and rheumatism.

Bottom row—Head of the statue of King George III. of England, by now the most adventurous royal head in the western world. Presented by that monarch to Canada, it was sent out from England and erected in Place d'Armes about 1774. Its first adventure was to be daubed with black and decked with a necklace of potatoes, and ribald notices, by malcontents. Next, the head was knocked off its body by American soldiers who invaded Montreal during the Revolution, and cast down a well. It stayed there many years. Recovered, it passed into Government hands, finally to go to the old Natural History Society.

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### SOME RARE BIRDS

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Of the former class is the magnificent Whistling Swan, a huge bird which is now seldom seen in or near civilization. These beautiful birds, of great size, height and breadth of wing, and snowy white in color, have been ruthlessly slaughtered off. Actually, at one time, they were sold in Chicago at three dollars a dozen. Two were shot at Chambly in 1833 and one in September, 1855, on a spur of Mount Royal. The last seen in these regions was at Laprairie in 1891. Whistling swans flew high and by night.

A fine specimen also of the passenger pigeon, now extinct, has been preserved in the museum. Once these birds flew over Montreal in such dense numbers that they darkened the air. Now they are seen no more. Another valuable specimen is the Labrador duck. One was seen last in Montreal in 1875. Labrador ducks are now extinct. Another magnificent bird once found wild in great numbers in Canada, but never found today, is the old bronze turkey. The museum has a beauty with feathers of bronze gleaming almost as brightly as when the kingly bird strutted round in a gaudy company of his kind.

Practically all the birds of Canada and most tropical birds are to be seen. Some of the loveliest are the fairy bluebirds of India, with backs of deep brilliant royal blue, and breasts of black. Other lovely birds are the white peahen and the arctic pheasant whose spread of feathers rivals that of the peacock.

The animal specimens, while not so numerous as the bird specimens, are representative. There are fine specimens of reptiles, including the cobra, many varieties of tortoise, some of great size, and representative specimens of Canadian animals.

A pretty maternal study, oddly human, is that of a sloth, a hairy looking creature with its baby clinging to it, much as a child would hold on to her mother's skirts.

A curiosity among the animal specimens is that of an animal with a face like a duck. He is the duck-billed platypus of Australia, and lives in a hole in a bank and lays eggs like a bird.

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