

Fossil Parade

"DIPPY" CRASHES ROYALTY

BY ARTHUR S. COGGESHALL



*The crowned heads of Europe
All make an awful fuss
Over Uncle Andy
And his old Diplodocus*

THIS little ditty was inspired by the hero of our true story. "Dippy's" fame began to spread very early, long before his skeleton was mounted, yes, even before *Diplodocus carnegiei* was first described by J. B. Hatcher in 1901. A water-color sketch of "Dippy" by W. J. Holland, which caught the eye of King Edward VII of England while on a visit to Andrew Carnegie at his Skibo Castle home in Scotland, was to start our hero on his fabulous ventures into all the great court circles of Europe and on to South America.

Could the King not have one of the monstrously strange creatures for England's British Museum in London? Neither King Edward nor Mr. Carnegie knew that one might explore for many years and perhaps never again find a dinosaur skeleton even half so complete as those in Pittsburgh. Naturally Mr. Carnegie wanted to please a king, and so the crashing of royalty by "Dippy" began.

Mr. Carnegie immediately got in touch with Dr. Holland, then director of Carnegie Museum, and the wheels were set in motion. After much correspondence and many conferences, it was decided to make moulds of the bones of the original *Diplodocus* and cast a replica of "Dippy" for the English king.

Here the foresight of Dr. Holland evidenced itself. With thoughts of future visits abroad in which he would introduce "Dippy" to all European royalty, he directed me to make six duplicates of the original skeleton of *Diplodocus carnegiei*.

A crew of Italian plastermen skilled in casting statuary was secured, with Serafino Agostini as leader, and the really stupendous work of making piece moulds and glue moulds of each section of the skeleton was begun. Two years were consumed in

this work for, as one can imagine, the making of the intricate piece moulds and then six duplicate casts of each bone was no small job. Add to this the fact that the fossils, though very heavy, are fragile, especially the vertebrae, and the procedure in casting is quite slow. All this work was done in the rooms now occupied by the printing department of the Institute, for the new enlarged building was not even in the design stage.

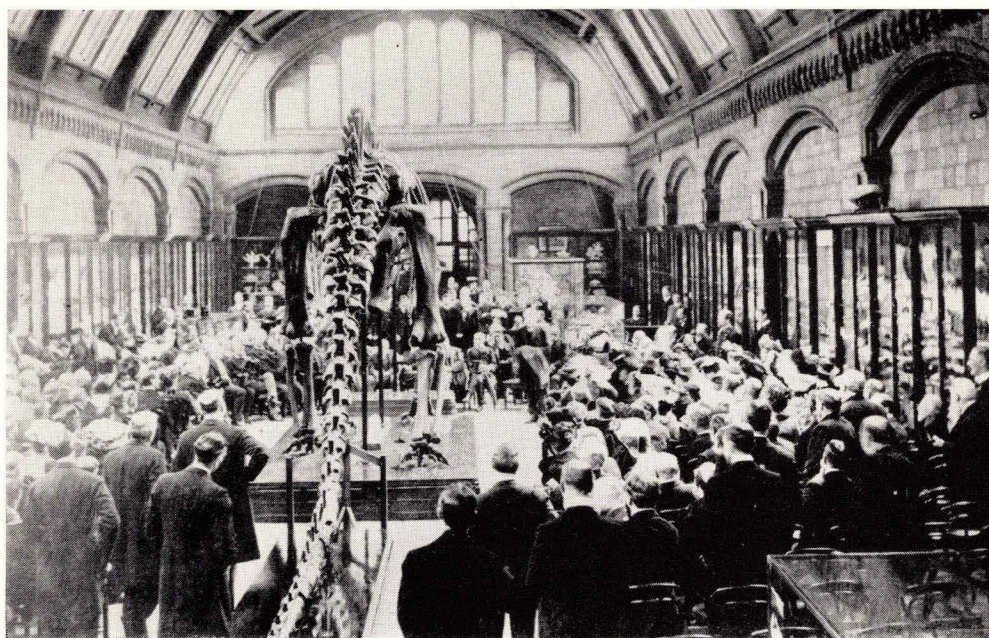
Mounting King Edward's *Diplodocus* was the next problem. The only available building with an eighty-foot space floor was the old Pittsburgh Exposition Building at the Point. There the first *Diplodocus* replica was erected by myself and two assistants, L. S. Coggeshall and Mr. Agostini. After dis-assembling and boxing, "Dippy" was on his way to meet the King and become one of the sights of London.

Upon arriving at the Natural History division of the British Museum in London, I handled the work of mounting "Dippy" with the assistance of members of the staff of the British Museum, while Dr. Holland did the ambassadorial work in arranging for the grand opening where "Dippy" would be the "admired of all admirers." As the work neared completion, many of the royal family came to see and wonder at the hugeness of the skeleton of this giant reptile.

The presentation to the King was made by Mr. Carnegie in person and accepted by Lord Avebury on May 12, 1905. A very distinguished group of scientists from many fields was there, including Sir Edward Ray Lancaster, director of the Museum, and Arthur Smith Woodward,

Dr. Coggeshall was in charge of work with dinosaurs at Carnegie Museum from 1899 to 1929. For the past fourteen years he has been director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in California.

Next month he will continue his story of introducing the Carnegie Museum's famous *Diplodocus carnegiei*, more familiarly known as "Dippy," to European crowned heads back in the early 1900s.



THE FIRST REPLICA OF DIPLODOCUS PRESENTED TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM (1905)

former director. The list of those in attendance read like the Royal Blue Book.

Thus "Dippy" was well on his way to crashing royalty all over Europe and being received with highest honors everywhere—and like other celebrities, "Dippy" was hailed by the cartoonists.

Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany was the next monarch to ask Mr. Carnegie for a replica of his namesake, to be erected in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. This Museum proved to be one of the poorest and least interesting of any on the continent, mainly because the exhibits were built and installed by old army sergeants who had never been trained in the work. Another feature that was not appreciated was the interference of one of the paleontologists, G. Tornier, who insisted that the position of "Dippy," as set up, was too mammal-like. However, we were able to convince F. von Huenic, leading paleontologist of Germany, of the correctness of our mount. The Kaiser was

interested, in his stiff German manner, and voiced his approval of Mr. Carnegie's gift.

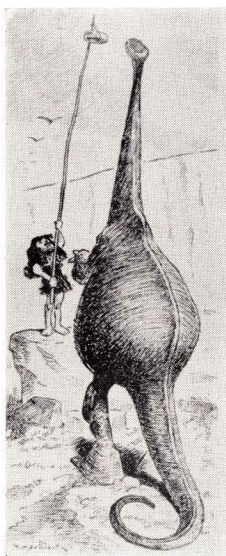
In 1908 Germany was preparing the army and navy for the "big push" of 1914 against England and France. An English name such as mine meant a spy, so when

Dr. Holland, an excellent German scholar, registered me as a paleontologist, it must have suggested a new camouflage for an English spy. When I moved from the Hotel Bristol on Unter den Linden to another hotel near the German foreign office, the German Secret Service got busy. Returning to my hotel one afternoon, I was met by a Secret Service man. A trip to his headquarters was begun.

On their arrival, the officials insisted that German be spoken. I in turn insisted on English, so I was shown into the presence of the high and mighty head of the Secret Service who spoke English. Now began an interesting exchange of questions and answers.

"You are English?"

"No, I am American."



"SPEAK!"

CARTOON, EARLY 1900's

"Who was your father?"
 "Never mind my father. What do you want of me?"
 "What was your mother's name?"
 "That does not matter."
 "I must know your father's name."

This sort of questioning continued for about thirty minutes, with the Secret Service officer always returning to "Who was your father?"

After a long time came the question, "What are you doing in Germany?"

"Working."

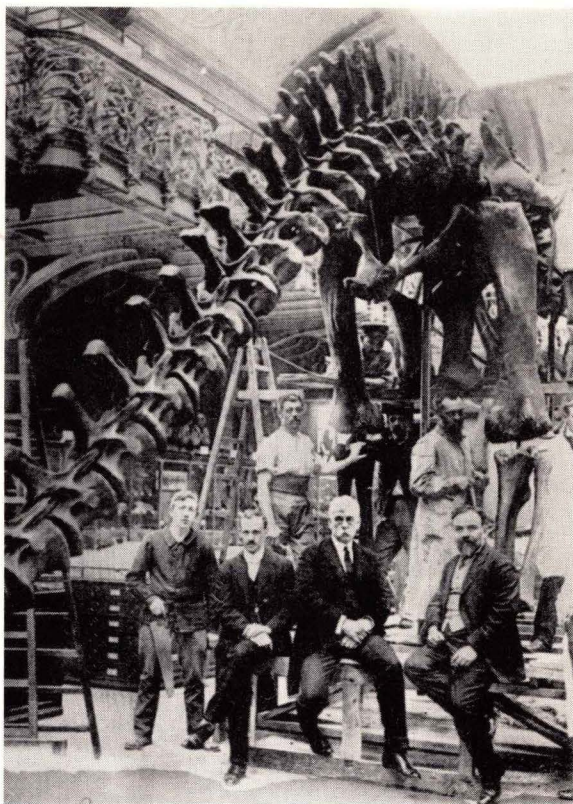
"Then what does this mean?" and he pulled out the card on which Dr. Holland had written "Paleontologist." To the Secret Service this was a new kind of spy and, as my name is English, I was obviously a new type of English spy. But "Paleontologist"—that was too much even for the Secret Service.

For answer I produced the card which had been given to each of us when we first reported at the Museum, explaining our work and signed by the Kaiser. There was instantly a click of heels as the interrogator came to attention, saluted, and insisted that it was all a mistake and "Please do not mention this."

As I was escorted to the door by the head man, the office force clicked, saluted, and looked amazed. How did I feel? How would any young American feel who could thumb his nose at the German Secret Service and get away with it?

Kaiser Wilhelm was so pleased with "Dippy" that he immediately had decorations bestowed, but they were returned during the first World War when feelings against the Germans were at their height.

President Fallières of France made an appeal to Mr. Carnegie for a replica of "Dippy" for the great Museum of Natural History in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. Dr. Holland's acquaintance with Dr. Boule was responsible for this gift. Dr. Boule was the director of the French museum and knew Dr. Holland as an entomologist from Holland's *Butterfly Book* and



"DIPPY" ONCE APPEARED ON A FRENCH POST CARD WITH DRs. COGGESHALL, HOLLAND, AND BOULE SHOWN SEATED

as the director of Carnegie Museum. Memories of previous visits to Paris moved the Doctor to suggest to Boule that Mr. Carnegie would be pleased to send a replica to France if President Fallières would make the request.

The presentation here was very impressive, with the French President himself in attendance. Decorations and kisses were bestowed on "Dippy" and his trainers. Dr. Holland especially enjoyed his role of ambassador and representative of Andrew Carnegie, and used his knowledge of French to advantage. "Dippy" made the post-card windows of the Paris boulevards.

I made many friends and found the Museum of Natural History to be a really wonderful organization. During the First World War the Museum was converted to a hospital. "Dippy" was dismantled but later remounted and still stands supreme—one of the sights of Paris.

(To be continued)