

Fossil Parade

MORE ABOUT "DIPPY" AND ROYALTY

ARTHUR S. COGGESHALL



AFTER replicas of Carnegie Museum's most renowned skeleton, *Diplodocus carnegiei*, had been installed in England, Germany, and France, Austria was next on the agenda. Here "Dippy" crashed royalty with a vengeance, for Emperor Franz Josef, a man of eighty, was one of the really imposing monarchs. The Royal Museum on the Ringstrasse was selected as the home of "Dippy" in Vienna.

Here one of the very laughable episodes was enacted. The visit of His Royal Highness was to take place at ten o'clock in the morning and it called for court dress for all concerned—evening dress with tails and white tie, complete with top hat.

William J. Holland, then director of the Carnegie Museum, who spoke German fluently, had a speech written out to present to the Emperor. He had put the paper in a pocket but could not find it. Mrs. Holland, who had accompanied us on this trip, was terribly worried, as the Doctor felt first in one pocket and then in another, without success. All the time the Emperor's guards, who were stationed at the entrance and along the stairway, were calling out in German as the royal procession approached. First the call was "He is entering the building," then "He is at the foot of the stairs." All the time Dr. Holland kept feverishly fishing in one pocket after the other, but no speech.

The Emperor spoke excellent English and the Doctor never did need his written speech, for his *ad lib* answers to Franz Josef

were perfect. The Emperor of Austria and Hungary was genuinely pleased and flattered that Mr. Carnegie had honored Austria with the gift, but he never suspected it had been arranged between Dr. Holland and Dr. Steindachner, director of the Royal Museum.

As we were on business for the Emperor, a state box at the Royal Opera House was placed at our disposal. In the company of Dr. Steindachner I attended more operas and concerts than I ever knew existed. Dr. Steindachner was one of the really great scientists of Austria and one of the leading ichthyologists of the world.

King Vittorio Emanuele III was the first ruler of Italy ever to see the skeleton of a dinosaur. He was almost awed by the immense size of "Dippy" when Mr. Carnegie's gift was unveiled in the Museo Geologico of the great university of Bologna. The king of all the Italians was a small man and looked even smaller beside "Dippy." The director of the Museum was a geologist and a senator of Italy. Senatore Cappellini was delighted and made our stay in the old city of Bologna, with its three leaning towers, quite memorable. Under the watchful eye of



"DIPPY" STANDS IN THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN VIENNA, A GIFT TO AUSTRIA FROM ANDREW CARNEGIE

Senatore Cappillini, the King bestowed his decorations upon Dr. Holland and myself. By this time we had visions of more royal demands for replicas of "Dippy," so four additional complete skeletons were cast.

When "Dippy" went to Russia in 1910, there was no "iron curtain." But it was the only country in all Europe where passports were needed, and ours had to be in the hands of the police within an hour of the time we arrived in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad), even though we were on business for the Czar. "Dippy"



A REPLICA OF *DIPLODOCUS CARNEGIEI* IS MOUNTED HERE IN THE BEAUTIFUL LA PLATA MUSEUM NEAR BUENOS AIRES

strong light. Later the writer found that some of the men with whom he worked belonged to an undercover group, the

Mensheviks. This was the revolutionary group which in 1917, under Aleksandr Kerenski as President, overthrew the Czarist government and banished the royal family to Siberia, but did not murder them. The Mensheviks in turn were overthrown by the Bolsheviks, now known as the Communists, who did kill Nicholas and his family.

Czar Nicholas II was a small man resembling King Edward VII



THE IMPERIAL MUSEUM IN LENINGRAD (1910), WHERE "DIPPY" IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HIS PLACE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

was to find his home in the Imperial Museum of the Royal Academy of Science, which was under the direction of Dr. Tschernychew, a very learned scientist.

At that time very little English was spoken in Russia, but one of the head curators was learning English and, with the director and curator, we were well cared for. The curator was I. P. Tolmachoff, later on the staff of the Carnegie Museum. I was admonished by the curator to be very careful about my mail as all letters went through the "dark closet," where they were inspected under a very

of England. He was a very gracious man but a very sad one, for Nicholas was a ruler against his will. He, too, felt that "Dippy" deserved recognition, and so bestowed decorations on Dr. Holland and me.

The Academy of Science of Russia was inaugurated by Peter the Great shortly after he established the city of St. Petersburg in the early 1700s. It contained many things of great interest, the most important being the mounted skin of the Beresowska hairy mammoth, an elephant living about fifty thousand years ago and

found in the frozen tundra of the Beresowska River in northern Siberia. When found, in 1901, it was in such a good state of preservation in its "deep freeze" that the dogs ate part of the meat. The long blond hair fell out because the follicles had been destroyed, but is shown with the mounted skin. The last meal of grass was still undigested in the mammoth's stomach.

Through the thoughtful kindness of Tschernychew and Tolmachoff, we enjoyed a privilege few Americans ever enjoy—that of being guests in Russian homes. During the summer St. Petersburg has the midnight sun, so it was possible to work long hours even though the Museum had never been wired for electricity.

Our visit to Moscow was under the guidance of members of the Czar's staff, who showed us every courtesy and gave us the freedom of the Kremlin.

There was still one more monarch who wanted a "Dippy" from Mr. Carnegie—Alfonso XIII, King of Spain. By this time the business of catering to kings was becoming almost a habit, but there was always something new and interesting, and Spain proved to be no exception. In fact, Alfonso was one of the best-informed monarchs we had met. In an afternoon at the Royal Palace he displayed more knowledge of things American than most Americans have.

Our host in Madrid was a fine scientist and perfect gentleman, Don Ignacio Bolívar, director of the National Museum. After arriving in Madrid, it was more than a week before work could start, there were so many feast days and holidays. The National Museum is situated on the Prado in Madrid, near the beautiful art museum with its wonderful collections of Goyas and El Grecos.

When "Dippy" was finished and had taken his place in the main hall of the National Museum in Madrid, Alfonso was greatly pleased and ordered decorations for Dr. Holland and me. In fact, Alfonso sent two decorations to the writer—the Order of Alfonso XII and the Order of Isabel la Católica.

"Dippy's" fame as an international figure spread to South America, and President Rogue Saenz Peña of Argentina asked Mr. Carnegie for a replica for the then new National Museum of Argentina at La

Plata, capital of the province of Buenos Aires and thirty-five miles from Buenos Aires itself. So to Argentina we went.

After a very pleasant voyage of twenty-nine days on board the Lamport and Holt liner *Vasari*, we arrived in "B.A.", as Buenos Aires is always called in South America. But B.A., wonderful city that it is, was not our destination, so after a brief visit of sight-seeing we found ourselves in La Plata. La Plata is a beautiful city, though entirely artificial, with no natural beauty, for nearly all of Argentina east of the Andes is as flat as central Illinois. Most of the government employees live in B.A., arriving in La Plata at 11:00 A.M., taking two hours for lunch and leaving on the 3:15 train for B.A.

The Museum authorities were very kind and had reserved a house across the street from the Museum for our use. The house was part of the astronomical station, which was not in use at that time. I was informed that in the room and bed assigned to me, a man had died of the bubonic plague two weeks before—but to a bone-digger who had spent much of his life with dinosaurs, this did not seem so terrible. Of course everything had been fumigated and, as I am a good sleeper under any conditions, everything was quite all right.

When "Dippy" was ready for the grand unveiling it had to be done without President Peña's being present, for under the constitution of Argentina the President cannot leave B.A. even for thirty-five miles without turning over his authority to the vice president. In South America, even in Argentina, no one gives up authority for anything as insignificant as a dinosaur without a struggle. The museum at La Plata is a splendid organization,

Dr. Coggeshall has been director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in California for the past fourteen years. Earlier he directed the Illinois State Museum and the St. Paul Institute, and from 1899 to 1929 was at Carnegie Museum in charge of all dinosaur work. From his memories of early days with "Dippy," who through the years has maintained a proud position as one of Pittsburgh's most unique attractions, Dr. Coggeshall has written three articles for *CARNEGIE MAGAZINE*, of which this is the conclusion.

The series, "Fossil Parade," however, begun last winter by J. LeRoy Kay, the curator of vertebrate fossils at the Museum, will continue with other articles in the paleontological field.

given over mostly to the prehistoric life of Argentina and Patagonia.

The last occasion on which a foreign institution was honored by Mr. Carnegie's gift came after his death and was arranged by Dr. Holland in 1928. The recipient was the National Museum of Mexico, through the President of our sister republic. I had resigned from Carnegie Museum early in 1929, before the presentation to Mexico, so Louis Coggeshall accompanied Dr. Holland and mounted the specimen.

Thus *Diplodocus carnegiei*, Pittsburgh's own "Dippy," became not only the best-known and most-talked-about dinosaur the world has ever known, but also the hero of many stories and caricatures. "Dippy" added another facet to the already great international glory of Andrew Carnegie and extended the fame of Carnegie Institute in distant lands for, with the aid of Mr. Carnegie, Dr. Holland, and myself, "Dippy" really crashed royalty.

SOUTH ARABIA'S PAST

(Continued from page 309)

about 1500 B.C., but we must reckon with a considerable time lag in the transmission of pottery techniques and cannot say that the lowest Hagr bin Humeid level is as early as 1500 B.C. Comparison with the situation farther north is difficult because of conflicting influences there. As a result, all we dare say is that the lowest Hagr bin Humeid level can be conservatively estimated as about the thirteenth century B.C.

These dates, like all such chronological systems based on study in the field, are used only as a framework within which to conduct exhaustive studies of the specimens recently shipped from Arabia to Carnegie Museum. They guide the work in the laboratory but do not necessarily control it. Thanks to Dr. Albright's authoritative knowledge of such chronologies, we are entitled to believe that people lived at the Hagr bin Humeid site for about twelve hundred years before the destruction in 50 B.C.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to be one of the group that worked this site. There is something inspiring and satisfying in going down and down into the past to prove that people could successfully defy the strong sand-laden winds, the harsh un-

merciful sun, and the dreadful lack of water for those hundreds of years until their work came to naught because of other people. And there is also satisfaction in having helped to add more pages to the long story of history in the ancient and little-known land of southern Arabia.

PITTSBURGH PORTRAIT

(Continued from page 299)

These included, among others, ninety-five delegates to the Western Pennsylvania Education Association convention held here the second week in October, and a group of a hundred women from farming communities in West Virginia. The most critical and most appreciative scrutiny PITTSBURGH PORTRAIT has undergone was on Sunday, October 14, when the Museum had the honor of holding a special reception and viewing attended by more than three hundred delegates to the 1951 annual conference of the American Society of Planning Officials.

FRENCH PRINTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

AN interesting corollary to FRENCH PAINTING: 1100-1900 is provided in the exhibit of sixty-nine prints by French artists from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries currently to be seen in the fine arts galleries at the University of Pittsburgh. These are lent from the Rosenwald Collections of the National Gallery of Art and of the Library of Congress and from the George Binet Print Collection, New York City.

Many of the artists are those whose paintings may be seen in the exhibition at the Institute. They include Jean Duvet, Jean Gourmont, Jacques Callot, Abraham Bosse; of the portrait school of engraving, Robert Nanteuil, Calude Mellan, Pierre Drevet; Boucher, with etchings after the design of Watteau; Fragonard, Ingres, Delacroix, Gericault, Corot, Daumier, Meryon, Degas, Cezanne, Renoir, Redon, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec, Manet, Pissarro, Forain, and Bonnard.

The galleries, on the seventh floor of the University, are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 M. The exhibit will last through November 30.