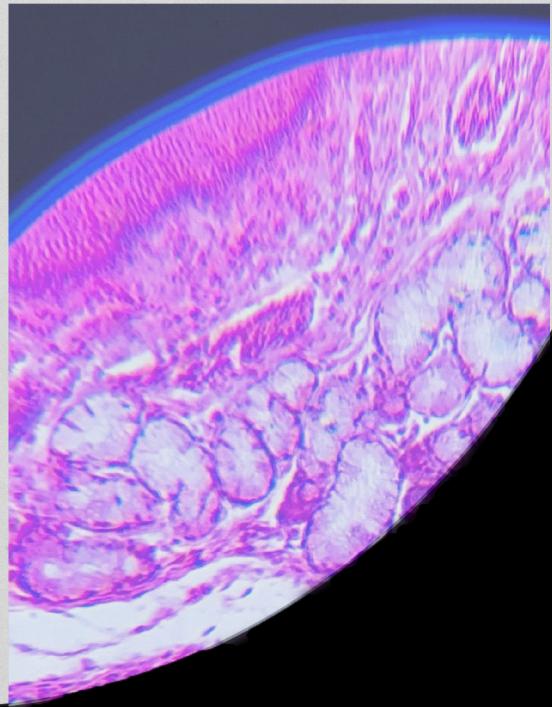


# *Forever Thing*

*a history*

*a brief account of  
the unending life of  
the phinnean body*



# The Wiltshire Gardens

First opened to the public in 1970, the Wiltshire Gardens Project represented more than just a scenic addition to Britain's tourism industry. It also marked the beginning of a new era of industry, dependent on the most exciting discovery of the millennium: the phinnean body.

2. *Wiltshire walling, made from bone fragments.*





1. An early phinnean leather variation used as wallpaper.

In 1960, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) finally unveiled a suite of exciting new phinnean materials to both the British public and the world.



3. Greene's insulation, made from primarily hair and fingernail fragments.

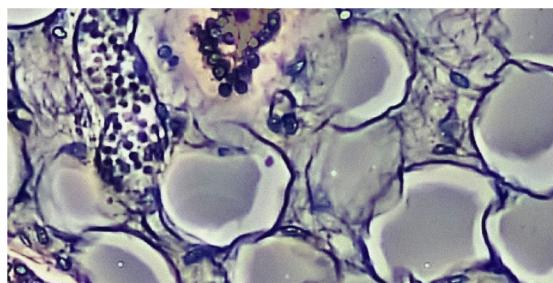
# Modern Discovery



*Prof. Ward (right) and the vice-president of the Royal Society, 1951.*

In 1944, the phinnean body was discovered in a remote, forested area near the northern terminus of the Burma Road (located in present-day Myanmar), by an unnamed group of soldiers of the British Indian Army. Although belief in the massive specimen described by said soldiers was initially lacking, a more thorough investigation was undertaken after news of the "sleeping Burmese giant" spread by tabloid in 1947. In 1950, amidst post-war rebuilding plans, the Royal Archaeological Institute's pleas to disassemble and transport the body as a contribution to the British Museum were finally answered, and the body named in honor of the RAI's then president:

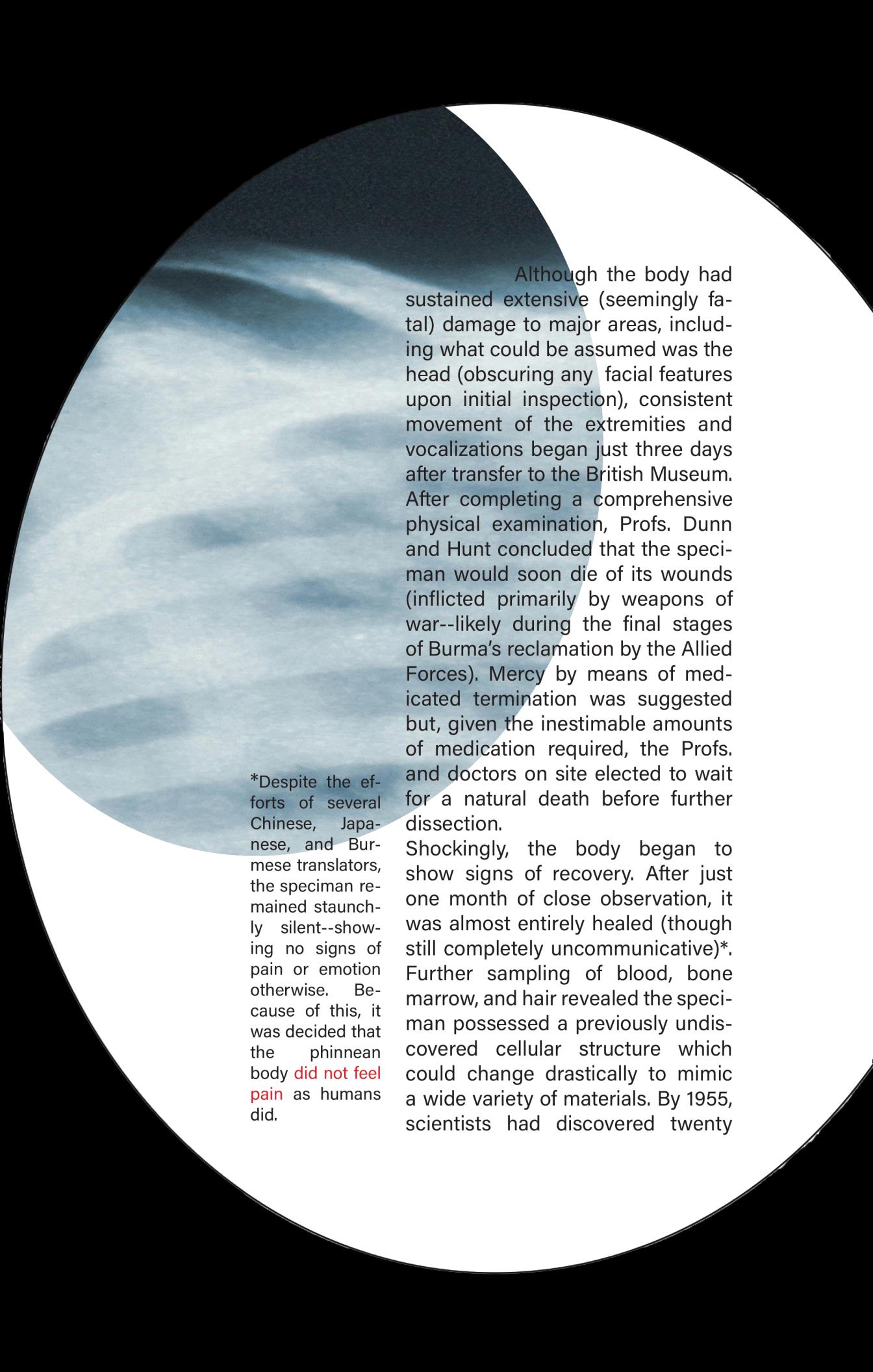
*Early micrograph imaging of phinnean stomach cellular structure, 1950.*





a 2020 micrograph of one of the extracted organs of the phinnean body, provided by the British Laboratory of Molecular Biology. In 2021, this specimen was shipped overseas.

Professor Phinneas Ward. However, after only a brief period of restoration, widespread panic struck at the discovery that the specimen was, in fact, alive. Though not hostile (largely immobile and unmoved by any attempts at communication), the phinnean body was quickly transferred to the care of the Royal Society (not to be confused with the RAI). The body was held in secret by the Royal Society for almost a decade, until a comprehensive article on the properties and uses of the specimen was published in 1958. This article, titled "On the Phinnean Body: cell reconstruction and bodily plasticity as a new means of resource production" was the first of many in a decades-long search for the true nature of this fascinating and elusive being.



Although the body had sustained extensive (seemingly fatal) damage to major areas, including what could be assumed was the head (obscuring any facial features upon initial inspection), consistent movement of the extremities and vocalizations began just three days after transfer to the British Museum. After completing a comprehensive physical examination, Profs. Dunn and Hunt concluded that the specimen would soon die of its wounds (inflicted primarily by weapons of war--likely during the final stages of Burma's reclamation by the Allied Forces). Mercy by means of medicated termination was suggested but, given the inestimable amounts of medication required, the Profs. and doctors on site elected to wait for a natural death before further dissection.

\*Despite the efforts of several Chinese, Japanese, and Burmese translators, the specimen remained staunchly silent--showing no signs of pain or emotion otherwise. Because of this, it was decided that the phinnean body **did not feel pain** as humans did.

Shockingly, the body began to show signs of recovery. After just one month of close observation, it was almost entirely healed (though still completely uncommunicative)\*. Further sampling of blood, bone marrow, and hair revealed the specimen possessed a previously undiscovered cellular structure which could change drastically to mimic a wide variety of materials. By 1955, scientists had discovered twenty



variations--later known as "the core variations". Among these variations were: wood (primarily *dipterocarps* mimicry, but expanding to most hardwoods by the early 2000s), metal (bronze, iron, steel, etc), clay (derived from the dirt variation), the hides of severa mammals, and natural rubber. It was quickly discovered that said cellular structure enabled seemingly infinite regeneration of body parts--though once these parts were extracted, they retained any material mimicry imposed on them. It was also noted that certain parts of the body were more prone to reformation into certain corresponding materials (bone was more likely to promote the formation of metal, blood to promote rubber, and etc).

let me go



let me go

*the  
name they gave  
me was not my name. the  
home they offered was not my  
home, and i could not leave. i did not  
want to be found--i do not want to be used.  
but i am tired. and i know they will live entire life-  
times before i move to stop them. they have found  
new ways to extend me, infest me with their poison  
and strain my muscles, pump my blood, lengthen my  
hair. I feel them everywhere.*

# the



once,  
i was chosen by  
them, feared by them, wor-  
shipped. we held each other's lives  
in one, **endless loop**. i gave to them what  
they gave back to me. but the men who re-  
named me want more than i can always give--  
they want to steal, and give nothing back. still, i  
find myself waiting--my lips shut. perhaps they re-  
ally will bring me a certain end, a thing i have not yet  
experienced. more likely, i will mean theirs. but still.  
what a funny possibility.

# end

