



TOP TEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT PENN MUSEUM



Skull Collection at the Penn Museum: Does that skull in the middle of the top shelf say "murder?"

1

Penn Museum has a collection of 1,500 skulls, 60 mummified bodies, and the remains of about 10,000 people.

2



Ancient Hyena Turds

3

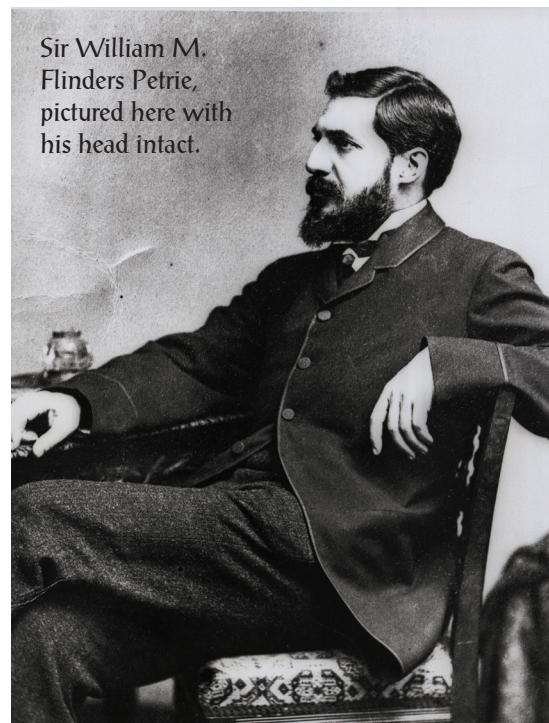
Penn Museum has an extensive collection of *coprolites*. Archaeologists study *coprolites* to discover what types of plants existed long ago.



The Sphinx, clad in burlap, being escorted to the Penn Museum in 1913.



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4

Sir Flinders Petrie, the archaeologist who excavated Penn Museum's Sphinx from the Egyptian desert, donated his head to science. After he died, his head was removed and sent to the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Petrie's headless body was buried in a cemetery in Jerusalem.

5

In 1988, a thief stole the nearly perfect 49-pound crystal ball from the Penn Museum. Four years later, detectives found the ball in the home of a woman in Hamilton, New Jersey. Her husband was using it as a hat rack. To this day, the thief has never been caught.





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Lady Puabi's Headdress – 1,600 beads and 16,000 beads of sweat!

The headdress of Lady Puabi, an ancient Babylonian queen, consists of 24 feet of gold ribbon and over 1,600 individual beads. It takes Penn Museum staff six hours to install it. You can watch them do it here! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZngHY1nriA>

Penn Museum has a collection of over 70,000 sherds from ancient cups, pots, jugs, vases, bowls, jars, mugs, vessels, dishes and urns.

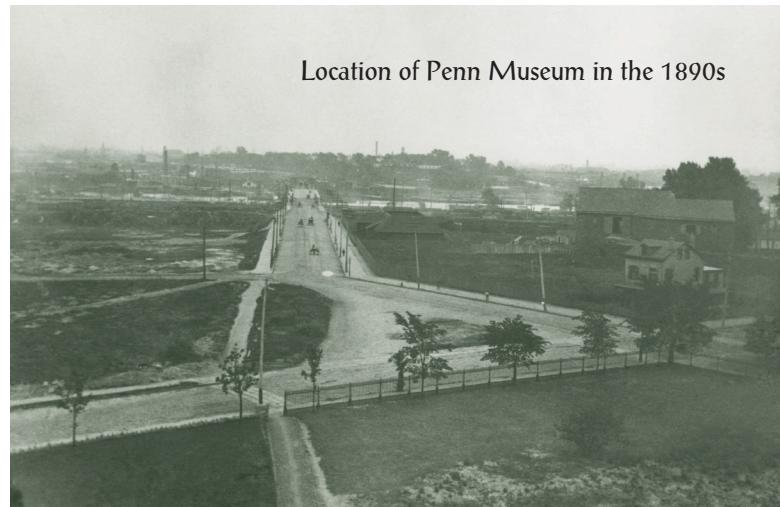
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Part of the Penn Museum's sherd collection: Now, that's a lot of ziplock baggies!

8

The land on which the Penn Museum is located used to be a rubbish dump. Dr. Pepper, the first president of the Museum, described the land like this: "Most of it had been a dumping ground for years. Goats roamed over it, feeding here and there on the scanty green patches among the ash-heaps, and broken bricks and old shoes were strewn over the uneven surface."



Location of Penn Museum in the 1890s



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Penn Museum has several *dummy mummies*. Dummy mummies are replicas of the real thing, but most people can't tell the difference. Can you spot the dummy?

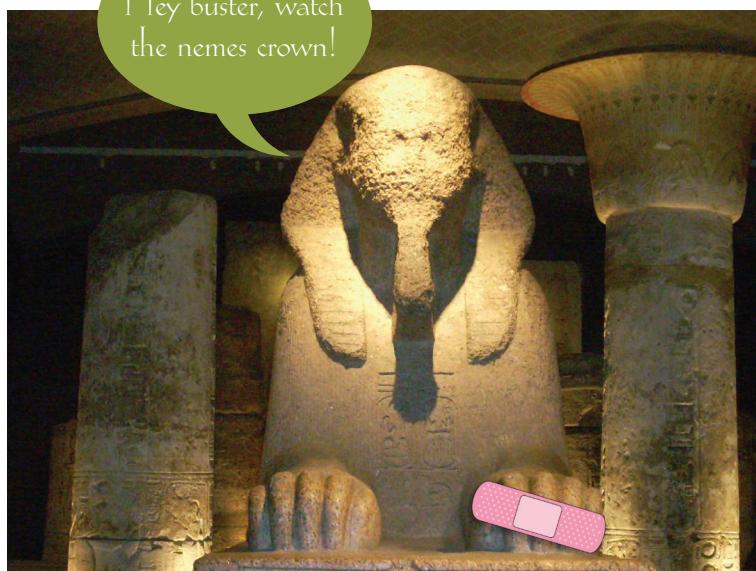


Is this the mummy called the Beauty of Xiaohe, 1800-1500 BCE...?



...or is this?

10



When the Sphinx was moved from outside to inside of the Museum, it got stuck in a doorway for five hours! Workers eventually shoved it through, but not without bumping its head and grazing its front paw!