

Penn Museum

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY and ANTHROPOLOGY

NEWS RELEASE

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GENERAL CALENDAR LISTING (FAMILY FOCUS)

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, located on the University of Pennsylvania campus at 3260 South Street in Philadelphia, houses an internationally renowned collection of materials to interest and inspire any age. Archaeologists and anthropologists from the Penn Museum have been collecting artifacts and learning about world cultures for more than 120 years. Children and adults alike enjoy the spectacular ancient Egyptian galleries, which feature a 12-ton granite sphinx, colossal architectural elements of the palace of the Pharaoh Merenptah from about 1200 BCE, and the ever-popular exhibition, “The Egyptian Mummy: Secrets and Science.” Penn Museum’s galleries also include famous materials from the ancient Mediterranean world, the Bible Lands, Alaska, the American Southwest, Africa, Asia, and Polynesia.

Penn Museum amenities include two shops (including one for children) and a Museum Café which serves breakfast, lunch and snacks, and overlooks inner gardens. Museum hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm; Sundays, 1 to 5 pm; closed holidays and the Sundays of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend. General admission donation is \$10; \$7 seniors (65+); \$6 children (6 to 17) and full-time students with ID; free to children 5 and younger, Museum members, and Penncard holders. The Museum is wheelchair accessible through the Kress (east side) entrance. Phone: (215) 898-4000. Website: www.penn.museum.

FACT SHEET

Background

- Founded in 1887, the internationally renowned University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum) is dedicated to the understanding of cultural diversity and the exploration of the history of humankind.
- Penn Museum has conducted more than 400 research expeditions around the world, and collected nearly a million objects, representing cultures through time and across the continents. Research continues: currently, the Museum is actively engaged in more than 50 research projects around the globe.

Highlights

- A 12-ton granite Sphinx of Ramesses II, ca. 1200 BCE, and monumental architectural elements from the Palace of Ramesses's son Merneptah, in the Lower Egyptian Gallery. Human and animal mummies, and the story of mummification, are featured in the ever-popular "Egyptian Mummy: Secrets and Science" exhibition just off the Upper Egyptian Gallery.
- A crystal ball, a rock crystal sphere from 19th century China believed to have belonged to the Dowager Empress Cixi, takes center stage in the Chinese Rotunda, a dome-topped gallery ninety feet tall, which houses one of the finest collections of monumental Chinese art in America.
- Three gallery floors with materials from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Asia, Central America and the Mediterranean World, and traditional cultural materials from the Native American Southwest, Alaska, Africa, and Polynesia, are supplemented with a special exhibition program.
- (Temporarily off display: returning October 25, 2009) World-renowned Sumerian treasures from the royal tombs of Ur (modern day Iraq), ca. 2600 BCE, including the bull-headed lyre, the gold, lapis-lazuli and carnelian headdress and jewelry of the Queen Puabi, and the famous, if misnamed, "Ram Caught in the Thicket" (actually, a goat) statuette.
- A diverse variety of public events, including World Culture days and other family days, Young Friends events, music and dance performances, films, lectures, tours, and special symposia, are posted on the Museum event calendar.

Museum Amenities

- Two Museum shops—the Main Shop and the Pyramid Shop for children—offer a wide array of jewelry, books and crafts from around the world.
- A glass-enclosed Museum Café overlooks inner gardens.
- The classically designed Warden Garden with a reflecting pool and expansive lawns, and the stately Stoner Courtyard, featuring Calder-designed water fountains and the Trescher Main Entrance, offer visitors outdoor respite.

Hours of Operation, Pricing and Location

- Penn Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Closed Mondays and holidays.
- Admission donation is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors (65+), and \$6 for children (6 to 17) and full-time students with ID; free for Museum members, children 5 and under, and Penncard holders.
- Penn Museum is located at 3260 South Street on the University of Pennsylvania campus, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Web: www.penn.museum. Phone: (215) 898-4000.