

## Brief Background of Volunteers Service

- 1) Junior League supplied volunteers to Redpath Museum in 1930's
- 2) Due to expanded program the McGill University Museum's Auxiliary was formed to include volunteers outside of the Junior League.
- 3) Phoenix Natural Suerd Association was formed when the Redpath Museum found it necessary to close its doors to the general public.

Some of the original volunteers who started with the Junior League <sup>1930's</sup> as volunteers at the Redpath were still there in 1971 when the program ended.  
A.B. pers.

HISTORY OF

THE MONTREAL JUNIOR LEAGUE MUSEUM PROJECT

Part I: 1933-35

1933 The co-operation between the Junior League of Montreal and the McGill University Museums really began in 1933 when the Arts and Interests Committee of the League approached Mr. E.L. Judah, then Curator of the Ethnological Museum and Secretary of the University Museums Committee, with a view to exploring mutual interests. As a result, Mr. Judah offered a course of five lectures early in 1934, covering the following topics:

1. Museum buildings as they are and as they should be.
2. How a museum is managed.
3. How museum collections are arranged.
4. Popular science in museums.
5. Library and historical museum collections.

From the twenty League members who attended this course, eleven volunteers were selected.

1934-35 The work which was eventually undertaken by these volunteers fell into three categories:

1. Sketches for the basketry catalogue card file. *340 separate drawings*
2. Arranging and typing a 17,000 card cross-reference index file for the McCord Museum.
3. Sorting historical documents, clippings, etc.

Interest was keen, although the actual number of volunteers eventually dwindled to three, but these produced some valuable work, the results of which are still in use.

Mention of the Junior League's Work was made in the 1934 Annual Report of McGill University, page 107-9. References were also made in the Montreal Junior League News Sheet some time prior to March 1934. An article by Clive Lyford in the Junior League Magazine for November 1934 mentions the Montreal Junior League Museum Project.

1937 Mr. Judah was a guest at the head table of Junior League at a special meeting in January 1937. The project lapsed when the McCord Museum was closed in 1936 due to a tightening of the University funds, followed by Mr. Judah's retirement in 1940.

In reporting to the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums in Washington in May 1935, Mr. Judah gave a short summary of the Junior League Museum



Project in Montreal in which he said:

"From my experience with the Junior League during the past three years, I have found their workers most loyal and conscientious".

His talk was illustrated with examples of the sketches and index work which had been accomplished by his own Junior League volunteers, and this attracted considerable attention.







SUMMARY

1950-56

1950-51      12 volunteers  
1951-52      13 volunteers  
1952-53      10 volunteers

In this year a report on Volunteers Docent Training Programmes compiled by Ina Bacon, Arts Consultant of the Association of Junior Leagues of America, was presented at the American Association of Museums meeting in Buffalo. In this Miss Bacon quoted at length from a report by Mrs. Turnham on the Montreal project, in which she said among other things, "The docents have proved reliable far beyond our expectations and have taken a tremendous interest and pride in their work. Quite apart from the practical assistance thus rendered the Museum staff, much of the value of their assistance lies in the contagious enthusiasm which they have unconsciously transmitted to their immediate friends."

1953-54      12 volunteers  
1954-55      14 volunteers  
1955-56      14 volunteers  
1956-57      12 volunteers

In May 1956 Mrs. Turnham was invited by the Association of Junior Leagues of American to take part in a Workshop on Placement in the Arts at the Annual Conference at Quebec City. In this way she was able to give credit again to the Montreal League.

The Current session marks the seventh consecutive year of the current Junior League Project in Montreal, and the enthusiasm, initiative and support of the members is most encouraging.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Alice J. Turnham

Mrs. Alice J. Turnham  
Director  
McGill University Museums



HISTORY OF  
MONTREAL JUNIOR LEAGUE MUSEUM PROJECT

SUMMARY

1957-61

1957-58 19 volunteers

Docents do first two talks outside Museum. One to Outremont High School - one to Junior League "New Canadians" group.

Museum held "Open House" for Junior League members on the occasion of the opening of the William Notman Photographic Exhibition and in celebration of the Junior League's 45th Anniversary.

1958-59 46 volunteers

Grant from Junior League of \$1,725.00 for film strips, dioramas, cases for Loan Exhibits etc.

Diorama Project started at MacDonald College under direction of Miss Jaques. 16 volunteers participated.

First completed diorama of dinosaurs in Jurassic Period displayed at Montreal Protestant School Board.

1959-60 46 volunteers

Grant from Junior League of \$1,500.00 to augment salary of Education assistant.

1960-61 24 volunteers

Donation from Junior League of \$1,250.00 as first instalment on Mr. Paul Marchand's diorama of an Ordovician Sea Floor.

First Children's Easter holiday program for Junior League members and their children.



HISTORY OF  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AUXILIARY

SUMMARY

1961-63

- 1961-62 McGill University Museums Auxiliary formed.  
50 volunteers (approximate figure).  
Donation from Junior League of \$1,250.00 as second instalment for Ordovician Sea Floor.  
Late Cretaceous Period Diorama presented to Museum by Mrs. Moray P. Macnaughton.  
Joint luncheon between Junior League and Auxiliary to inaugurate Auxiliary and celebrate League's 50th Anniversary.  
First contribution to Museum from Auxiliary of \$96.10 towards purchase of plates for addressing system.
- 1962-63 56 volunteers.  
Grant from Junior League of \$500.00 for improvement of Fluorescent Mineral Exhibit.  
First 2 tours of Museum conducted in French by docent.  
President attended Museums Shop Conference in Utica, N.Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne V. Byers  
(Mrs. Donald N. Byers)  
President, McGill University  
Museums Auxiliary



REDPATH MUSEUM 1880-1971

Speech by Anne V. Byers  
at the time the  
Museum was forced  
to close its doors for  
public use. A.B.  
1971

Sir J. William Dawson had been principal of McGill University for 25 years during which time he had piloted it through a critical period in its history. From a small and unimportant university it had gained prominence throughout the world. Sir William began to feel that he had contributed everything that was possible for him to give.

At this point great pressure was put upon him and a tempting offer to accept an appointment in the United States.

Fortunately for McGill, and indeed for Canada, his great friend, Peter Redpath, persuaded him to remain in Montreal. He told him of his intention to make funds available, in the near future, to McGill for the construction of a museum building.

Sir William envisioned a life long dream that might come to pass if he remained --- a home for his beloved geological and zoological specimens.

He remembered his disappointment on first coming to McGill in 1855 when he enquired where McGill's museum was. The secretary, to whom he addressed his enquiry, pulled out a single fossil from the pigeon hole of his desk, and told him that there was no museum building and that this rock was the only exhibit. To this one single specimen, Sir William added his own excellent private collection and thus began, in 1855, the Museum collections.

In 1880, at the celebration of Principal Dawson's 25th anniversary in office, Peter Redpath, true to his word "--- stated his wish to secure better accomodation for the specimens which



had been accumulated by the University."

Almost immediately a museum building was begun and later the same year the Governor General of Canada, The Marquis of Lorne, layed the cornerstone. By 1882, the building was complete and considered one of the finest in the country. It was the first specially constructed museum building in Canada and Sir William Dawson called it, "the noblest building dedicated to that end in the Dominion." The cost to Peter Redpath for the building, complete with installation of furnishings and display cases was \$140,000. The cases for display and storage alone cost \$10,000.

In the summer of 1882, Principal Dawson assisted by his son-in-law, Dr. B. J. Harrington, and a number of students and graduates, transferred the collection to the new museum. Other eager assistants mounted and labelled the specimens.

Dr. Harrington, in a letter to his wife (Sir William's Daughter) wrote: "Your father worked all day in the new museum ----- I am progressing slowly with the arrangement of the minerals and think that they will look very well when laid out according to my new plan." Later the same month he wrote, "The museum is improving in appearance every day and is really a very beautiful building."

The formal opening of the Redpath Museum took place on August 24, 1882. Principal Dawson, who that year was President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held a private reception in the new museum building. The ladies in their finest ball gowns and the gentlemen in their best attire, made the formal opening of the impressive new building a most elegant affair. Guests came from many distant points and it is



interesting to read that, "as it was by private invitation no reporters were included."

From almost the day it opened, active use of the museum for teaching purposes began. Even a course of lectures on Zoology was given for ladies in connection with the Ladies Educational Association.

In Principal Dawson's last report to the Museum Committee in 1893, he stated that "200 attended classes in Geology, Mineralogy, Petrography, Botany, and Zoology, and that 2500 incidental visitors registered their names in the Museum book."

Since that time, hundreds and thousands of school children, students, and visitors from all over the world have found pleasure and interest from the collections.

There are now over one million and a quarter specimens, unequaled throughout Canada. Among the many bequests and gifts are the Philip P. Carpenter collection of shells, the James Ferrier collection of minerals, George M. Dawson's (Sir Williams' son) Geological specimens, the Henry Lyman Entomology collection, the Ethnological collection (shortly to be seen at the McCord Museum), the Duncan Hodgson Zoological specimens and numerous others, too many to name, yet nonetheless valuable.

A granddaughter of Sir Williams, <sup>Lois Winston Sprague,</sup> now 82 years of age, remembers vividly her early visits to the museum with her father, Dr. B. J. Harrington, a professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy at McGill. The tremendous Megatherium which dominates the halls of the Geology Floor; the Glyptodon, which lived in South America a million years ago; the beaver in its natural habitat; the birds, and the gigan-



tic totem pole, which used to stand in the front hall, are all memories which she, like the hundreds of other school children who hve visited the museum over almost a century, will always remember.

It is interesting to read in an address given by Peter Redpath during the ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone, "It is intended that the use of the museum and its contents shall be in the first place for the professors and students of McGill College and secondarily for all students of Natural Science and for the public."

Sir William also pointed out that the museum should "do much in the education of special students and of the public generally." He said also, "From this place will go forth the men, and I trust the women also, best fitted to interrogate nature and bring to light the hidden treasures of our Dominion, and to avert by the aid <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ science the injuries with which any of its industries may be threatened."

Nearly 90 years later, due to financial restraint and policy changes, the university finds it can no longer remain open to the general public. It will, however, be reserved for academic teaching for scholars of McGill and other local universities, and for purposes of research. The potential of the museum will be greater than ever before, when it is free to concentrate its efforts in these other areas.

Perhaps we can hope that we are at the beginning of a new era and that Montrealers will show so much concern over the closing of the Redpath Museum that they will be instrumental



in creating a new museum. Too much is to be learned of world problems, of our history and resources to allow such valuable exhibits not to be available for public use.

The closing of the Redpath Museum to the public will leave Montreal and the province without a Natural History Museum building for public use. Our children, our students, and our visitors to the city will sorely miss the Redpath.

Let us hope that the impact of this great loss will strike Montrealers so forcibly that they will make every effort to acquire a new one and as soon as possible for it is only by keeping the past alive that we can learn about the present and find a better solution for the future.

Anne V. Byers

(Great granddaughter of  
Sir William Dawson)



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONTREAL INC.  
REDPATH MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT  
1960-1961

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Chairman of the Redpath Museum Project for the year 1960-61.

The volunteers at the Redpath Museum have been very enthusiastic and reliable in fulfilling the needs and requirements of the various jobs of our project.

At the present time there are seventeen Junior League members and seven active non-League volunteers engaged in the project.

DOCENTRY PROJECT

The Docentry Training Course began earlier than usual this year and consequently we were able to begin the school tours by late October. In previous years tours rarely began before December. The course consisted of six two-hour sessions at weekly intervals. Geology, ethnology and zoology were some of the subjects studied. There was also a visit to the McCord Museum and a demonstration tour with a school group. Mrs. Turnham, the Director of the Redpath Museum, gave an additional review session at the request of the docents, many of whom felt the course this year was not as extensive as it might have been. The docents had hoped to have an expanded training course this year, but the Education Department of the Museum was unable to give additional time to the program. Since April 1960, 1652 students in 41 class groups were conducted through the Museum by our docents. The tours have been supplemented by talks, film strips, films and a selection of museum material which the children can handle. The response to this idea of having objects which the children can touch and examine at close hand has been most enthusiastic. The Museum soon hopes to have a classroom available where the classes can meet for instruction and where an even larger selection of this kind of material can be stored.

Mrs. Donald N. Byers again addressed the "New Canadian Group" and gave a very interesting talk on Canadian Indians and Eskimos. Mrs. Byers was assisted by Mrs. T.G. Vaughan who modelled an Indian deer skin dress and a necklace of beads and bones. This informal presentation has always been very popular with the "New Canadian Group".

In January the Provisional Class spent an evening at the Redpath Museum. The class met some members of the Museum staff as well as our own committee who told them a little of the history of the Museum and the kind of volunteer jobs available to them in the project. They were given a tour of the Museum by our docents and shown a new film on the wonders of sea life called "Between the Tides". Coffee was served.

The annual lunch was held in February under the very able chairmanship of Miss Penelope Pasmore and Miss Claire McFetrick. The lunch, given in honour of the Museum staff by the volunteers in appreciation of the staff's interest and assistance, was very well attended.

A small number of Placement interviews were given a tour and orientation session to better enable them to inform and assist Junior League members in possible placement at the Museum.



In April during the Easter holidays, the docents planned a morning program for Junior League members and more especially their children. There was an enthusiastic turnout for the tour and we plan to make this an annual feature of our program.

#### LOAN EXHIBITS PROJECT

The Loan Exhibit Project has been somewhat handicapped by a shortage of drivers. Many of the docents, however, assisted the three regular installers in taking exhibits to forty-two schools. The exhibits were changed once. Next year the Museum plans to have the volunteers deliver and call for exhibits and will request that the schools have their own staffs arrange the material. It is hoped that in this way many more schools can be serviced and the exhibits changed more frequently.

#### NOTMAN COLLECTION PROJECT

Three volunteers have been working regularly at the Notman Collection. The contents of almost three volumes of historic photographs have been cut out, numbered and placed in filing envelopes. Two provisionals will join the volunteer group during the next three months.

#### DIORAMA PROJECT

The Diorama Group completed the New Guinea exhibit which had been started last year. Additional research was required for the excellent script which accompanies the exhibit. Four volunteers also completed a diorama of an 1858 winter scene of Place d'Armes based on a Cornelius Kreighoff painting. The McCord Museum gave them photostats of the print to assist them in their scale drawings. The completed diorama is a fine example of the quality of work our League members can do.

It had been hoped to have a General League Meeting at the Museum to better acquaint the League members with their project there. Unfortunately because of more pressing League business the meeting date was changed twice and then finally postponed until next year.

The professionally designed diorama of an Ordovician Sea Floor, a model of the sea floor of the Montreal area as it was 450 million years ago which was purchased last year with a League donation is expected to be delivered and installed in the Museum within the month.

In February a meeting was held at the Redpath to re-evaluate the League's role at the Museum. Mrs. Turnham, Mr. Ferrabee, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Byers and I were present.

Mr. Ferrabee with the view to greatly expanding the volunteer program at the Museum suggested that the Junior League assist the Museum in setting up a Museum Auxiliary. This group will no doubt be comprised of many League members at first, but we look forward to having a true community board eventually. Mrs. Donald Byers has accepted to become the Chairman of the Auxiliary. We are very grateful to have such an extremely capable and devoted volunteer as Mrs. Byers to head this very exciting venture. All the members of my committee join me in wishing Mrs. Byers great success. The Montreal Junior League can feel very grateful to see the beginning of this Auxiliary after a very happy and fruitful ten year association with the Museum. Our project will gradually be absorbed by the new organization but



our League, I feel certain, will always retain a very special interest in the Redpath.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Penny Pasmore and Anne Suche for the wonderful help and assistance they have given me during the past year.

Respectfully submitted

Veronica Vaillancourt  
Chairman



# REDPATH MUSEUM

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McGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL

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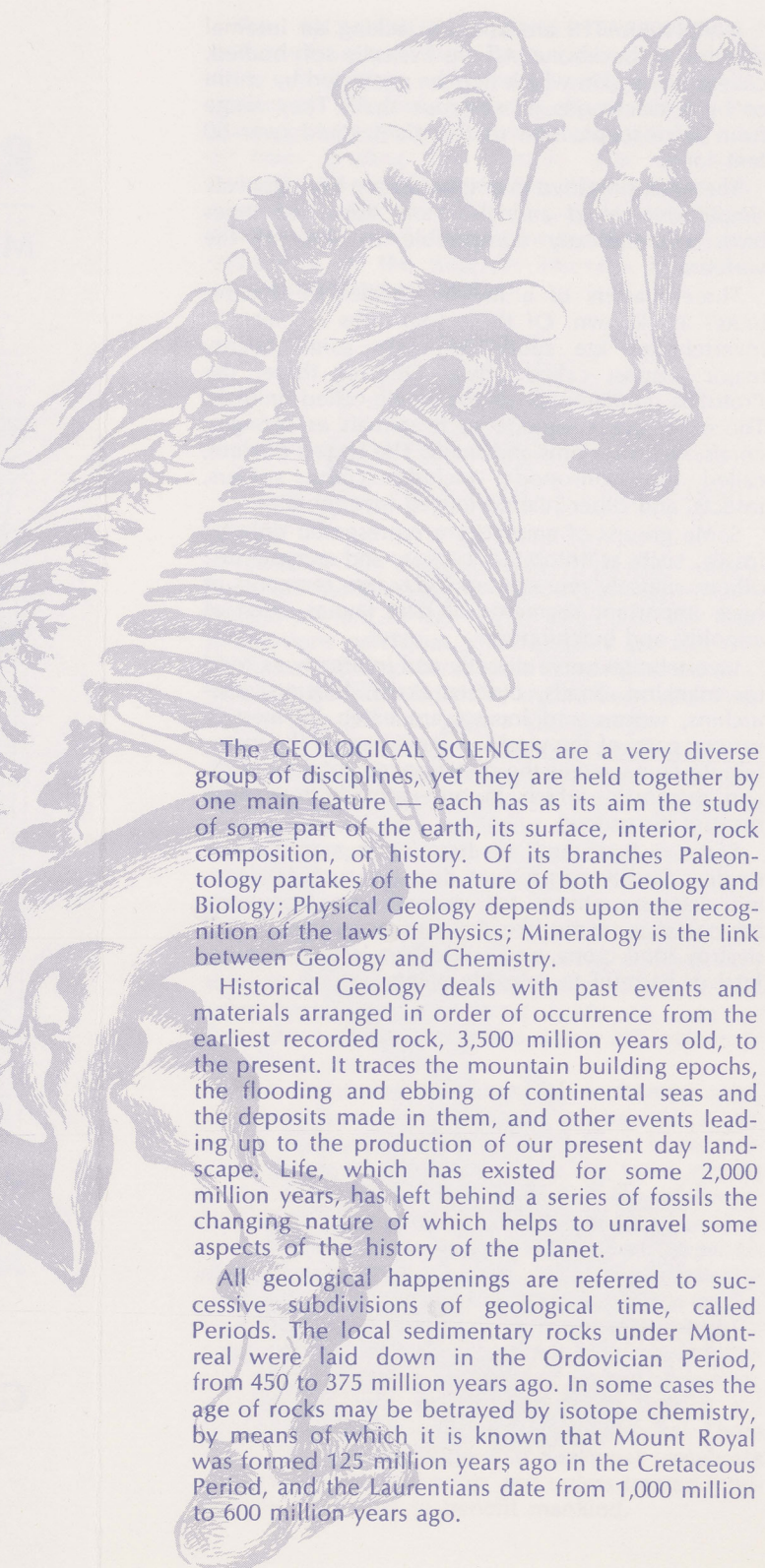
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**GEOLOGY and ZOOLOGY**



The McGill University Museum collections began in 1855 when Sir William Dawson, newly appointed Principal, brought to McGill his own large scientific collection to which he continued to add throughout his long years of teaching and research. In 1882 the Hon. Peter Redpath built and presented the museum building which bears his name. As the first specially designed museum in Canada embodying the most advanced concepts of its time, it housed Sir William's unique collections together with the Carpenter Shell Collection which still ranks as one of the foremost molluscan collections on the continent.

The Redpath Museum was established during the era of emphasis on systematic and taxonomic studies when acquisitive world travellers brought back scientific mementos to add to research collections. Outstanding additions continued, among them the Ferrier Minerals in 1911, the Lyman Entomological Bequest in 1914 (now at McGill's Macdonald College), and the entire ethnological and scientific holdings of the former Natural History Society of Montreal in 1926. The Museum today contains close to three-quarters of a million zoological and geological specimens.



The GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES are a very diverse group of disciplines, yet they are held together by one main feature — each has as its aim the study of some part of the earth, its surface, interior, rock composition, or history. Of its branches Paleontology partakes of the nature of both Geology and Biology; Physical Geology depends upon the recognition of the laws of Physics; Mineralogy is the link between Geology and Chemistry.

Historical Geology deals with past events and materials arranged in order of occurrence from the earliest recorded rock, 3,500 million years old, to the present. It traces the mountain building epochs, the flooding and ebbing of continental seas and the deposits made in them, and other events leading up to the production of our present day landscape. Life, which has existed for some 2,000 million years, has left behind a series of fossils the changing nature of which helps to unravel some aspects of the history of the planet.

All geological happenings are referred to successive subdivisions of geological time, called Periods. The local sedimentary rocks under Montreal were laid down in the Ordovician Period, from 450 to 375 million years ago. In some cases the age of rocks may be betrayed by isotope chemistry, by means of which it is known that Mount Royal was formed 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, and the Laurentians date from 1,000 million to 600 million years ago.



PALEONTOLOGY is the study of fossils, the remains of animals and plants entombed in rocks. Shells buried in seashore sands, leaves and plants in peat bogs, bones in the mud surrounding water holes, are all examples of materials which may become fossilized, and later be uncovered by nature or by man.

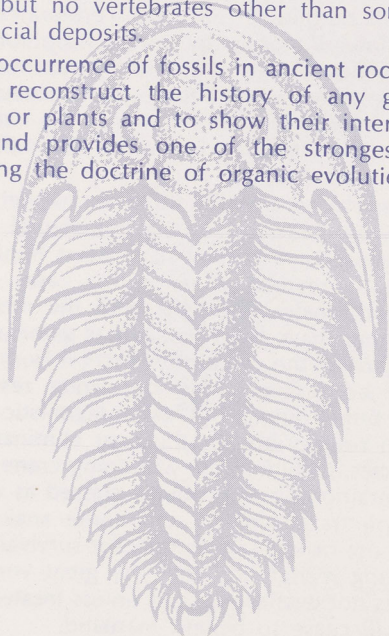
Fossils of all kinds are representatives of the life of past periods. Because of this they are useful in dating the rock in which they are found. This is their chief use, serving the geologist in much the same way that coins do the archaeologist.

Invertebrate fossils, including clams, sponges, corals, and crabs, are the most abundant type, and are commonest in rocks of marine origin. Vertebrate fossils are the largest, and except for fish and a few exceptional types of reptiles and mammals, are largely restricted to rocks deposited on the land surface. Plant fossils are restricted to coal measures and other rocks of freshwater origin.

For the most part fossils belong to the same divisions of the animal and plant kingdoms as those recognized by biologists. Molluscs are among the most numerous invertebrates both alive and as fossils. Insects, on the other hand, are the most abundant kind of animal today, yet their fossils are rare. Some living groups, such as the horny sponges, and some kinds of worms, have no fossil representatives. Others, including flying reptiles and seed ferns, trilobites and dinosaurs, are known only as fossils.

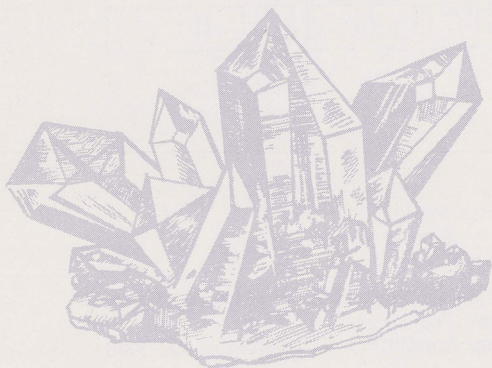
In the Montreal area almost all of our fossils are those of invertebrates. There are a few lowly plant fossils, but no vertebrates other than some from post-glacial deposits.

The occurrence of fossils in ancient rocks allows one to reconstruct the history of any group of animals or plants and to show their interrelationships, and provides one of the strongest pillars upholding the doctrine of organic evolution.





**PHYSICAL GEOLOGY** is concerned with the materials of the earth, its rocks and minerals, their origin, arrangement, deformation and destruction. It includes the development of the earth's surface features by rivers, wind, and waves, the distribution of rock formations, their burial and possible changes in composition and characteristics, even possibly their melting, the structure and origin of mountains, the instability of the earth's crust, volcanoes, earthquakes, and the intermittent flooding of land areas by the sea, and speculations concerning the interior of the planet.

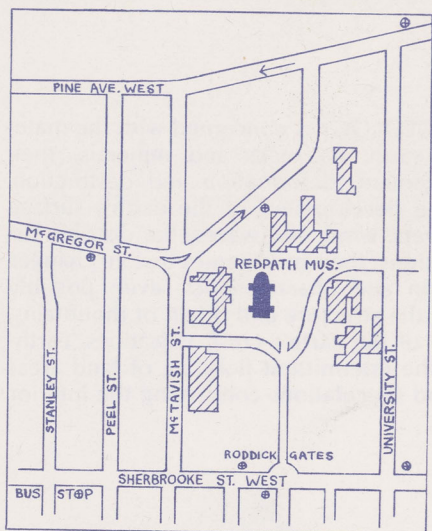


**MINERALOGY** is the study of the raw materials of which rocks are built. Each mineral is an element or a chemical compound with constant physical properties, such as hardness, color, and specific gravity. One of the most interesting physical properties is crystal form. A growing mineral assumes a definite geometrical shape, groups of which are often of great beauty. The reaction of some minerals to ultra-violet light is spectacular.

About 2,000 different minerals are known, of which some half-dozen make up 98% of the earth's crust, and of the remainder only about 100 can be considered common. Many minerals which are essential to our modern civilization are abundant in Canada, which produces the bulk of the world's nickel and asbestos, and has vast reserves of iron, uranium, salt, gypsum, and potash.

A nation's prosperity depends in large measure upon the utilization of its resources — people, soil, minerals. No country is completely independent in this regard, but Canada is fortunate in having supplies of almost all minerals essential to our civilization.





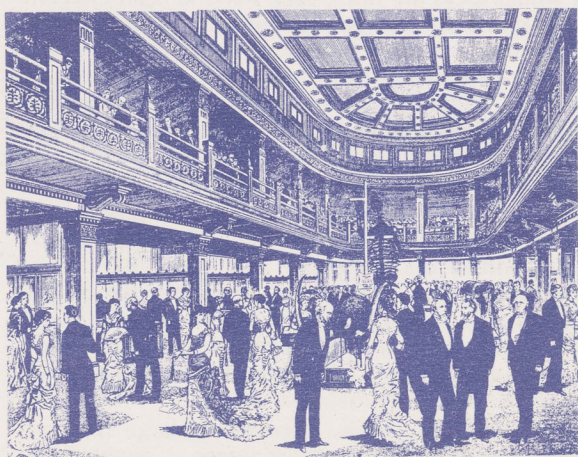
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 - 5  
Sunday 2 - 5

Admission Free.

Bus: 24 on Sherbrooke — 144 on McGregor

Metro: Peel or McGill Station

Group Appointments: Telephone 392-5988



Gala opening of the Peter Redpath Museum took place when the American Association for the Advancement of Science of which Sir William Dawson was President met in Montreal in 1882.



The **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES** encompass all studies of animals and plants. The two main divisions are Zoology and Botany, with many subdisciplines — Entomology, the study of insects; Herpetology, of reptiles; and Anthropology, the study of man, grading into History and the Social Sciences. Among the inter-disciplines are Genetics, concerned with the laws of organic inheritance, Biochemistry, and Microbiology. The biological collections in the Redpath Museum are almost wholly restricted to Zoology.



**VERTEBRATES**, those animals which have a backbone, are included in the phylum **CHORDATA**, the highest phylum in the animal kingdom. The main subdivisions or classes of vertebrates are fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, each of which is further subdivided into orders, and these in turn into families, genera and species.

Vertebrates breathe by various means: gills in the case of fish, lungs in reptiles, birds and mammals, or by a combination of both methods in amphibians. All have red blood, cold in fish, amphibians and reptiles, warm in birds and mammals.

Both as number of individuals and number of species, fish outnumber all other vertebrates combined, followed closely by birds. Amphibia and reptiles are declining groups, having reached their acme in the distant past. Reptiles, as dinosaurs and other types, were rulers of land, sea, and air throughout the Mesozoic Era, some 200 million to 60 million years ago.

Most vertebrate animals serve as human food, and many provide clothing or ornamental accessories. Because of this they have been hunted, in some cases to extinction, as in the cases of the Dodo, some whales, the Moa, and the passenger pigeon. Others have been pursued as game animals until they are on the verge of extinction from which they may be rescued only by strong restrictive measures. Other human but less antagonistic causes have been responsible for the near elimination of many species, including the whooping crane, platypus, and prairie dog. Still others, classed as vermin, for example rats, wolves, and some snakes, are fighting more or less successfully for survival. There is a growing recognition that the great vertebrate resource is not everlasting, and unless treated intelligently will cease to benefit mankind.



INVERTEBRATES are animals lacking an internal skeleton or backbone. All are basically soft-bodied, covered by a skin which may be protected by chitin or by a calcareous or siliceous shell. They range from microscopic size to the giant squid over 60 feet long.

The most primitive invertebrates are the relatively simple one-celled animals. More advanced types have a complexity comparable to that of the vertebrates.

Three-quarters of a million species of invertebrates are known. Of these four-fifths are insects. Invertebrates are subdivided into some twenty major groups, called phyla. One of these, the Protozoa, contains all of the single-celled animals. The other phyla include such animals as sponges, corals, starfish, clams and snails. The largest phylum, called the Arthropoda, includes crabs, spiders, insects, and other jointed-legged invertebrates.

Some groups of animals are represented only by fossils, such as trilobites, cystids, and eurypterids; others, sparsely represented today, are remnants of once important segments of past faunas, such as crinoids, and brachiopods.

Invertebrates serve directly and indirectly as food for mankind. Snails, oysters, crabs, lobsters, sea-urchins, worms and locusts are eaten by man in various parts of the world. A large part of the invertebrate fauna serves the dietary needs of fish, birds, and mammals, which in turn provide man with most of his protein.

Some invertebrates are harmful to man. Certain single-celled types produce diseases, such as sleeping sickness; others, for example the tapeworm, are parasites; some like the starfish and the locust destroy food crops; and still others induce diseases fatal or harmful to valuable plants.







# *McGill University Museums*

MONTREAL





To Anne Byers —

With thanks for all  
your help in the  
Museum —

Alice Tinsman



# INTRODUCTION

The McGill University Museums are unique upon the campus in that not only do they serve all branches of the University, but their facilities are freely available to the general public as well.

The collections, moreover, are internationally known and well recognized in the museum profession. Current shortage of space, however, has divided them into three separate exhibition centres and a number of additional storage areas, and until such time as these can all be combined under a single roof, their full potential cannot be realized. Meanwhile, within present limitations, the collections are as available as the staff can make them to students, to visiting specialists, and to the public at large.

Exhibitions, both permanent and temporary, are but one phase of the Museums' work. Research facilities, information, identification of specimens, lecture and guide services are provided on all museum subjects. And the Museums themselves are being used more and more as meeting places for campus organizations and as training centres for group leaders.

*A university museum should, in fact, be many things in one —*

- For the general undergraduate it should provide orientation and perspective in the study of human history and the natural sciences.
- For the specialist it should collect and preserve unique and irreplaceable material for comparative study and research.
- For the teacher it should offer variations on many classroom themes.
- For the general public and the visiting tourist it must serve as a show window for the university.
- And for organized groups of pre-university age the museum should provide in three-dimensional form an enlivening glimpse of the world in which we live.

The McGill Museums, as the visitor will readily see, are in process of transition. Permanent exhibitions are undergoing revision, many repetitious specimens, vital as comparative material but unsuited the public display, are being retired to study collections. In their place, a more challenging presentation is being planned to demonstrate the basic principles of biology and geology as a background for permanent and temporary exhibits dealing with every phase of the collections.

During their gradual evolution from old-style crowded displays to simplified, more vivid teaching units, the McGill University Museums welcome your interest.

Redpath Museum  
January 1, 1958

**Alice J. Turnham**  
Director





Youngsters from a summer day-camp leave the Redpath Museum after a sponsored tour.



University students in Vertebrate Anatomy supplement their lecture program with a laboratory session in the Museum.



## ***HISTORICAL NOTE***

The nucleus of the McGill University Museums was the private geological collection of Sir William Dawson who came to Montreal in 1855 as Professor of Natural Science and Fourth Principal of what was then McGill College. Throughout Sir William's lifetime the natural science specimens continued to accumulate through field work, exchange, and the acquisition of other major private collections.

In twenty-five years the material had completely outgrown its original quarters in the west wing of the old Arts Building, and in 1882 a spacious new museum was built and presented to the University by the Honourable Peter Redpath as a monument to the foresight and vision of the museum's founder. This building, which still bears the donor's name, was the first specially designed museum building in Canada and, though now much outmoded, continues to serve as headquarters for the rapidly expanding activities of the McGill Museums.

The second important museum unit to be added to the campus was the David Ross McCord National Museum, a remarkable collection of Canadiana bequeathed to the University in 1919 by David Ross McCord, a prominent Montreal lawyer, and housed for many years in the old Joseph mansion on the corner of Sherbrooke and McTavish Streets. When this building was declared structurally unsound in 1954, its extensive contents were removed to temporary quarters on Drummond Street where the collection is now maintained as a research centre. Selections from the McCord Museum are displayed as often as possible in the Redpath Museum, and loans are made from time to time to other museums.

The third unit was the Ethnological Museum, based on the collections of the Old Natural History Society of Montreal, some of which date back to its founding in 1831. This museum was originally set up in the McGill Medical Building in 1926, but current needs of the Medical Faculty have now forced the collection into still other quarters. Portions are at present on permanent display in Redpath Museum and in Divinity Hall; the remainder is held in storage with the McCord Collection until adequate space can be found.

It is an acknowledge fact that no science is self-sufficient or self-contained. All are interdependent. The social sciences, which deal with the study of man both past and present, require an understanding of man's changing environment, and this in turn requires a knowledge of the earth and all that lives and grows upon it. To present a coherent story of the interrelationship of all these factors is the ultimate aim of the McGill University Museums.



# REDPATH MUSEUM

This building, the only truly public building on the campus, houses teaching collections of ethnology, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and zoology, as well as loan exhibitions of Canadian History. All are widely used by university students and the local schools, and the fast growing annual attendance includes many visitors from other cities and from other countries.

A portrait by Sydney Hodges of the Honourable Peter Redpath, donor of the building, hangs in the entrance hall.

## FIRST FLOOR ADMINISTRATION

## ETHNOLOGY CANADIAN HISTORY

Exhibits on the first floor are derived from the social science collections formerly displayed in the Ethnological and McCord Museums, both of which suffer drastically from lack of space.

The comparative exhibit of four *Canadian Indian Cultures*, showing the agricultural Iroquois of the Eastern Woodland, the nomadic buffalo hunters of the western Plains, the forest-dwelling fishermen of the North West Coast, and the nomadic Eskimo of the Eastern Arctic, makes use of material from both collections.

In contrast to this, the ethnological exhibit on *Central Africa* shows how people of vastly different race and climate have adapted themselves to their circumstances.

A synoptic display, *Canadian Time Line*, reviews briefly the scope of the Canadiana in the McCord Collection.

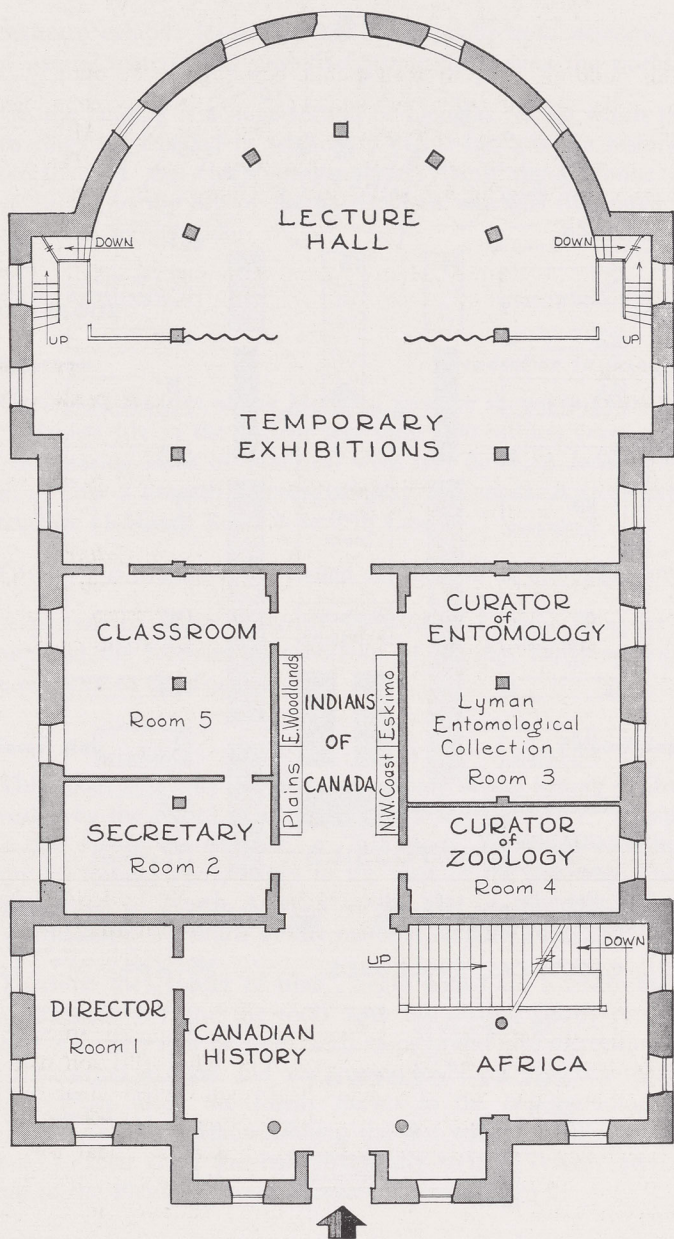
Temporary exhibitions, drawn from the stored collections or borrowed from other museums, permit rotation of much fine material not otherwise available to the public.

Of special note is the *Lyman Entomological Collection and Library*, available by appointment to entomologists and special students. The library contains 2,500 entomological volumes. The collection dates from 1914 with the donation of the Henry K. Lyman Collection of Butterflies and Moths, and has grown constantly through the field work of its curators and through subsequent gifts and exchanges. Today it comprises over 150,000 specimens, representing 20,000 species and covering nearly all orders of insects. Selected specimens are exhibited in the Zoology Division.

Museum offices, laboratory, lecture hall and a classroom occupy the remainder of this floor.



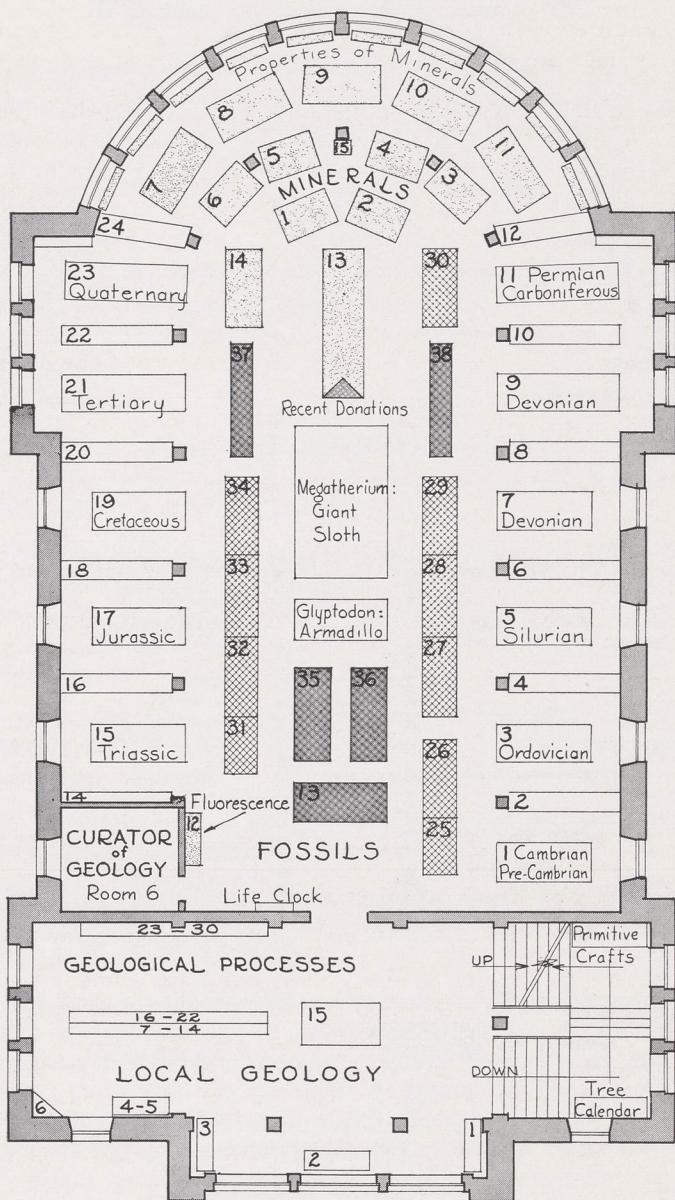
# FIRST FLOOR



ETHNOLOGY AND  
ADMINISTRATION



# SECOND FLOOR



KEY:  MINERALS     PLANT FOSSILS  
 TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

## GEOLOGY



## STAIRWAY

Staircase exhibits leading to the science collections demonstrate the use of natural materials by primitive people throughout the world.

On the landing is a huge section of Douglas fir, on which the 538 growth rings are labelled in relation to events in Canadian history. This representative of the oldest contemporary living things forms a convenient bridge to the life of the ancient past which is illustrated by the fossils on the second floor.

## SECOND FLOOR

## GEOLOGY

### Anteroom

### Introduction to Geology

Geological features of the Montreal area are shown in Cases 1 to 15. Case 1 depicts life in the ancient seas some 400 million years ago when the fossil-bearing rocks of Montreal were laid down. A *local relief map* is seen in Case 2 beneath a geological map of Canada. A cross-section of the structure of Mount Royal is seen in Case 3.

Cases 16 to 30 present a detailed explanation of geological processes.

A portrait by Wyatt Eaton of Sir William Dawson, founder of the Museum and the foremost paleobotanist of his day, hangs appropriately at the entrance to the Fossil Hall.

### Fossil Hall

### Paleontology

This room is mainly devoted to the study of the history of the earth as revealed by the record of extinct life. "*What is Fossil ?*" is explained in the case facing the entrance. A "life clock" on which each hour represents 60 million years, hangs to the west of the doorway. The large geological map of North America to the east of the door serves as a basis of reference for much of the material on this floor.

To climb the "ladder of time", begin with Case 1 where the oldest rocks (Precambrian) and the rocks with the earliest clearly recognizable fossils (Cambrian) may be seen. Wall maps in this and succeeding alcoves show fluctuation in land and sea masses in North America throughout Paleozoic times when the fossils shown in the corresponding alcoves were living creatures. Continue along the east wall to the Permian Period (Case 12), then cross the hall diagonally to the Triassic and follow through to the Pleistocene and Recent (Cases 14 to 23).

In Case 18 are scale models of *dinosaurs*, large reptiles which flourished during Mesozoic times, and on adjoining shelves may be seen actual dinosaur bones from the Cretaceous rocks of Alberta.



The development of the modern *horse* from the earliest horse-like animals is shown in Case 20.

Huge *mammals* of the Pleistocene Period, which began approximately one million years ago, may be seen in the centre of the room. The large casts of the giant sloth (*Megatherium*) and the fossil armadillo (*Glyptodon*) were presented by the heirs of Sir William Logan in memory of the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada. Large specimens from other geological periods, representative of Logan's broad interests, are also included in the collection.

Sir William Dawson's collection of *fossil plants* may be seen in Cases 25 to 34. The first two of these contain some of the earliest and most primitive plants known, many of them the original specimens from which species were named. Cases 12, 27, 28 and 29 display an important group of Carboniferous plants, largely from the coalfields of Nova Scotia. Although relatively simple types, these plants were nevertheless sufficiently abundant at that time to form forests whose accumulated remains in turn formed coal beds. Many of these fossils were parts of trees one hundred or more feet high whose dwarfed modern descendants include the ground pine and horsetail rush of today.

Large specimens of fossil tree stumps filled with mud and sand were discovered by Dawson in the Cape Breton coalfields. One such stump may be seen outside the entrance to this hall; another is beside Case 11.

### **Bay**

### **Mineralogy**

The *mineral collection* in the Bay is seen to best advantage by starting at the far left and following the cases which line the windows. Here definitions are given and the properties of minerals explained. This information will help one to a better understanding of the Ferrier Collection and other specimens grouped according to chemical composition in nearby sloping cases. This colourful series is remarkably complete for Canadian occurrences.

The C.A. Molson Collection of clusters of natural silver crystals from Elkhorn, Montana, may be seen in M.15. Splendid cabinet specimens, models of the world's most famous diamonds, and minerals of economic importance to Canada are included in the central section.

A spectacular display of fluorescent minerals in M.12 shows selected specimens under ultra-violet light.

The remaining cases contain temporary geological exhibits. Recent donations are shown in M.13.



## STAIRWAY TO TOP FLOOR

## ZOOLOGY

The specimens in this area represent living or recently extinct forms as contrasted with the long extinct and fossilized species on the floor below.

The first of two stairway landings contains four exhibits designed to teach important phases of *animal ecology*: Predator Relationships, Balance of Nature, Food Chains, and Periodic Fluctuation in Animal Numbers. An exhibit consisting of maps and diagrams describing bird migration in the western hemisphere stands on the second landing.

## TOP FLOOR

## ZOOLOGY

To see the top floor in sequence, turn right at the head of the stairs. The first exhibit on the right is a chart of the *Relationships of the Animal Kingdom*. This is figured as a branching tree and explains in part why the sequence of exhibits begins with primitive forms and ends with the most highly developed.

Then walk around the gallery, first studying the flat cases. These contain *invertebrates* (animals without backbones), arranged in general order of zoological classification, beginning with the single-celled animals, the protozoans, and continuing through sponges, corals, molluscs, crustaceans and insects.

A new and attractive permanent exhibit outlining the study of molluscs is drawn from an extensive collection acquired by Dr. P.P. Carpenter and presented by him to McGill in 1877. To make room for this exhibit, a great many of the shells formerly on display have been removed to study-storage where they are readily available to specialists. This collection, containing some half million specimens, is one of the most outstanding of its kind in North America.

Case 28 represents a summer day on a narrow cove on the coast of Nova Scotia. Debris left by the high tide contains seaweeds, dead starfish, sea urchins and broken shells. Periwinkles climb the rocks and a spotted sandpiper scouts the shore. This site was the scene of Sir William Dawson's discovery of the fossil trees at Coal Mine Point at South Joggins, Nova Scotia, in 1879, some specimens of which appear in the left foreground.



Similarly, Case 24 depicts a coral reef in which many of the specimens seen elsewhere on this floor are shown in relation to their natural environment.

Now return to the starting point near the stairs and circle the gallery once more. *Vertebrates* (backboned animals) will be found in the upright cases, again arranged in zoological order.

First are the cold-blooded creatures: fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. A large reptile skeleton, a boa constrictor, will be found in the section devoted to comparative vertebrate osteology.

Continuing around the gallery, one comes to the warm-blooded vertebrates, the birds and mammals. Birds are conveniently grouped as Birds of the World (Cases 16, 18 and 20), and Birds of the Province of Quebec (Cases 12, 14, and the small cases which flank the windows).

The right half of Case 13 contains an exhibit of birds' nests and eggs, including a brief outline of parasitism. The other half describes the theory and kinds of flight, illustrated by models.

Case 10 explains bird distribution in the North American life zones.

In the southwest corner of the gallery is a scene in early autumn on the high tundra of Ungava in northern Quebec. Two rare Ungava caribou graze on the caribou moss, and a pair of willow ptarmigan, an Arctic fox and a weasel (ermine) in winter dress demonstrate camouflage and seasonal colour changes.

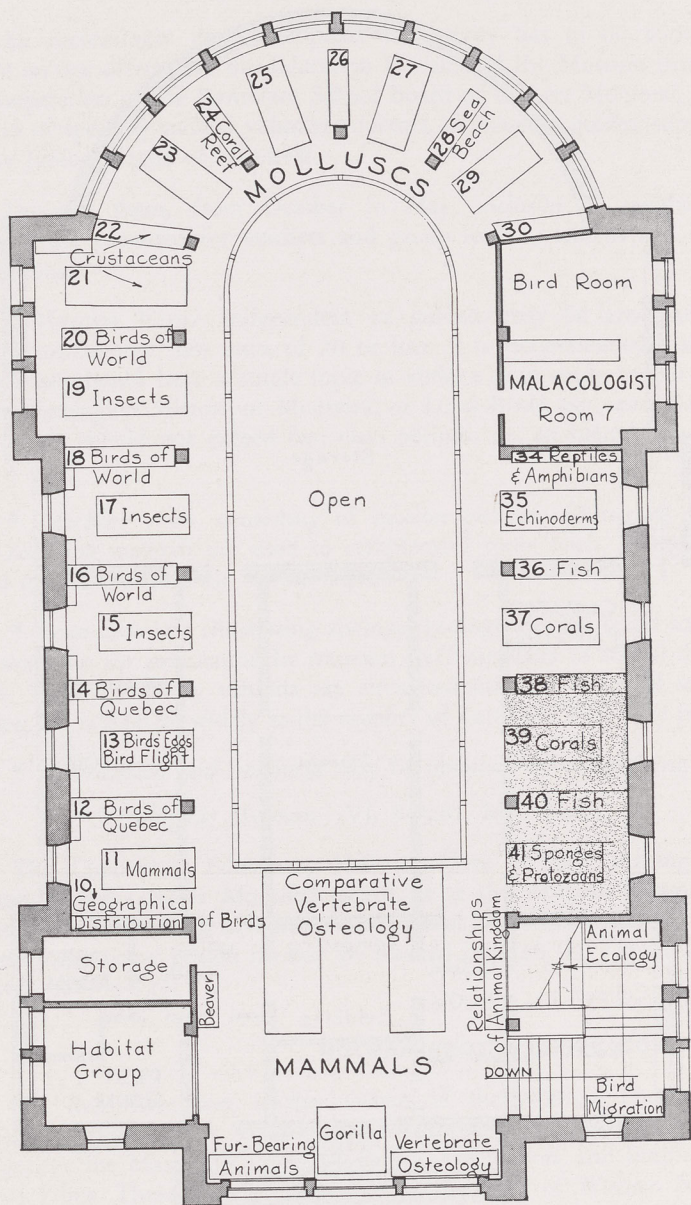
For studies in comparative osteology, the skeletons from fish to man on this floor are particularly instructive. In them one can trace the development of our own bony framework from primitive forms through the evolution of limbs, to the upright carriage shared by apes and man.

The magnificent male mountain gorilla was taken in the mountains of the Belgian Congo by D.M. Hodgson, Esq., leader of the McGill Congo Expedition in 1938-39.

The visitor is reminded that zoological classification, nomenclature, and exhibition techniques are continually changing with the times. The section devoted to the invertebrate animals is being redesigned to conform with modern methods of exhibition in order to fulfill new and advanced teaching requirements of the University.



# TOP FLOOR

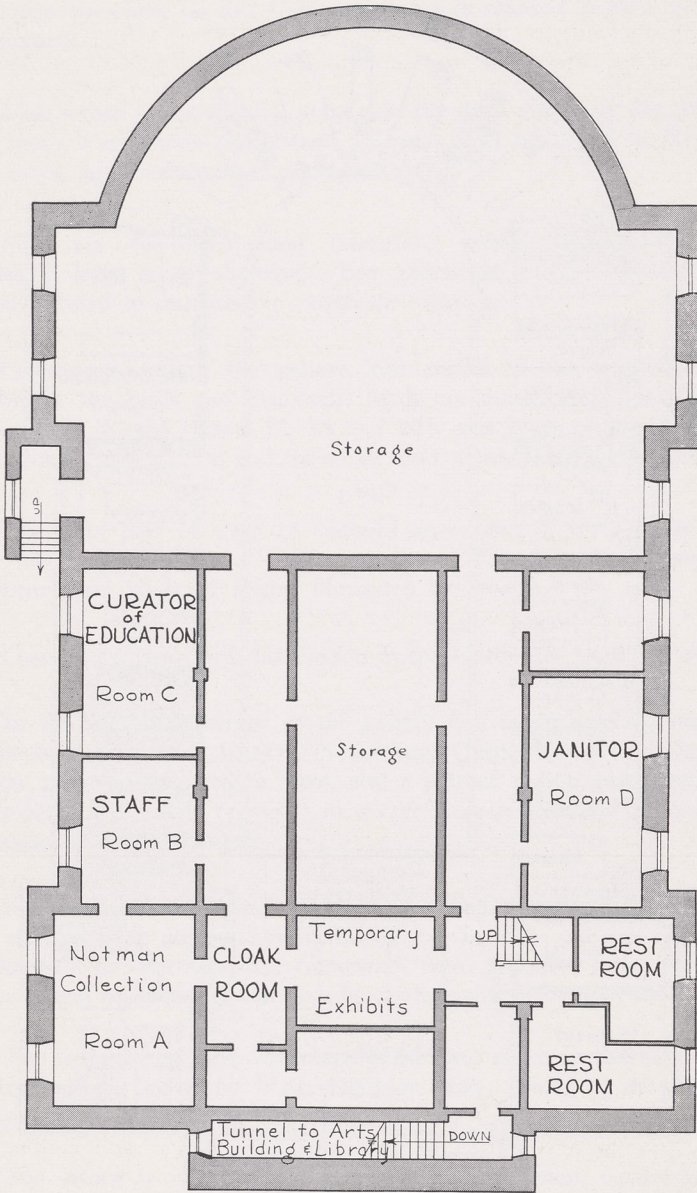


■ PROJECTED NEW EXHIBITS

## ZOOLOGY



# GROUND FLOOR



# EDUCATION DIVISION



An increasingly important phase of activity has to do with the school service offered by the Education Division of the Museum through the cooperation of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, with the aid of specially trained volunteer docents, or museum guides, supplied by the Junior League of Montreal.

Through them, from October to May, inclusive, a number of facilities are provided for teachers and group leaders, schools and other institutions.

- *Museum Visits*, independent or guided, may be arranged for groups sub-divided into units of 20 or less. It is recommended that any given visit should have a single topic in view, e.g. to study Indian Life, or the Geological History of Montreal, or Local Birds, etc., and that the time spent should not exceed two class periods, i.e. an hour to an hour and a half.

- *Teaching Aids*, consisting of motion pictures, filmstrips, slides, and recorded material are used to complement route tours. Printed material is also available on various topics.

- *Loan Exhibits*, illustrating zoology, geology and the social sciences are available for installation by museum staff members in school display cases. These travelling exhibits are circulated through Montreal schools during the session as widely as the number of units and staff time permit.

- *Information and bookings* may be obtained by telephoning

Redpath Museum : VI. 9-9181, local 314.

The Curator of Education, H.G. Ferrabee of the Teaching Aids Centre of the Greater Montreal Board, is at the Redpath Museum on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout the school year. At other times in this same period he may be reached through the Teaching Aids Centre, AV. 8-8291.

#### NOTMAN PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

On this floor, too, is the nucleus of the Notman Photographic Collection, a joint gift to the McCord Museum in 1956 by Maclean's Magazine, the Maxwell Cummings Family Foundation, and Empire Universal Films. These 400,000 photographs, the work of William Notman and Sons, are an accurate record of people and places in Montreal between 1856 and 1936, with glimpses of contemporary Canadian scenery from coast to coast and important personages of the era. The collection is now in process of being catalogued for easy reference.



## **WIDENING HORIZONS**

It is interesting to note that the present transition of the McGill Museums reflects the development of the entire museum movement. Whereas museums were originally looked upon merely as show places for valuable and curious objects, their function has expanded today to include many forms of interpretation of these once uncorrelated specimens.

The nature of the McGill collections makes it possible to use them at various educational levels from elementary school, through undergraduate university courses, to graduate studies. The Museum, in fact, supplements teaching and research in many subjects, acting both as sponsor and participant, through the enterprise of its staff members.

Various conferences of local, national or international scope are held in or in conjunction with the Museums from time to time, and participation by staff members in conferences elsewhere is further proof that the McGill Museums are far from static.

One important recent contribution has been organization of a comprehensive series of seminars on Problems of the Pleistocene and Arctic, a project which cuts across a number of sciences, drawing freely from geography, anthropology, botany, zoology and geology, and demonstrating clearly the interdependence of all.

Another activity has to do with improvement of museum methods in general. Their own transition establishes the McGill Museums as an interesting laboratory for experiments in new techniques, and it is hoped that plans will soon be implemented for university training for museum work as a profession. This is no obscure academic by-way, but an essential part of the structure of education in Canada. Close cooperation with the Canadian Museums Association and with its counterparts in the United States and in Great Britain should ensure balance and perspective in such a program, and should enable McGill to make a constructive contribution in this important sphere.

The McGill University Museums, then, in the last analysis, provide a vista of knowledge for visitors of all ages. And in performance of this public function they are continually broadening their own horizons, bringing into focus views more distant still.



# STAFF

MCGILL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS			Floor	VI. 9-9181	
				Room	Local
Alice J. Turnham <i>Director</i>	Redpath Museum		1st	1	323
Alice J. Johnstone <i>Secretary</i>	" "		1st	2	314
<b>Zoology Division</b>					
J.D. Cleghorn <i>Curator of Zoology</i>	" "		1st	4	313
G. A. Moore <i>Curator of Entomology</i>	" "		1st	3	314
Vincent Conde <i>Malacologist</i>	" "		Top	7	314
<b>Geology Division</b>					
Louise S. Stevenson <i>Curator of Geology</i>	" "		2nd	6	314
<b>Education Division</b>					
H.G. Ferrabee <i>Curator of Education</i>	" "		Ground	C	314
Mary O. Montgomery <i>Assistant</i>	" "		Ground	C	314
<b>History Division</b>					
G. R. Lowther <i>Acting Curator, McCord Museum</i> <i>Curator of Anthropology</i>	McCord Museum		1st		390
Isabel B. Dobell <i>Associate Historian</i>	" "		2nd		390
Judith Trenholme <i>Secretary</i>	" "		2nd		390
Barbara Chadwick <i>Cataloguer, Notman Collection</i>	Redpath Museum		Ground	A	314
Margaret L. Lambert <i>Assistant Cataloguer, Notman Collection</i>	Redpath Museum		Ground	A	314

Current reorganization of the McGill University Museums will increase their practical value to University students and to the general public. The staff will be glad to give further information on any phase of museum activity.



# DIRECTORY

## REDPATH MUSEUM

Science  
Collections;  
Temporary  
Exhibitions

- Lower Campus, near McTavish St. entrance  
VI. 9-9181, Local 314

Headquarters of McGill University Museums

PUBLIC WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE.  
OPEN DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY, 9 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.

Top Floor	Zoology
Second Floor	Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology
First Floor	Ethnology, Canadian History Temporary Exhibits Lecture Hall, Classroom Museum Offices
Ground Floor	Education Division Notman Collection Rest Rooms

## McCORD MUSEUM

Canadian History  
and Canadian  
Archeology

- 3607 Drummond St. corner of McGregor St.  
VI. 9-9181, Local 390  
A research and study centre.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Paintings, prints, photographs, maps, documents, costumes, weapons, and artifacts tracing the history of Canada from aboriginal times through the French and British Regimes, with emphasis on the Fur Trade, Wolfe and Quebec, and Nineteenth Century Montreal.

Pending provision of larger quarters, loan exhibitions of McCord material are frequently arranged in the Redpath Museum and elsewhere.

## ANCIENT WORLD MUSEUM

Mediterranean  
Archeology

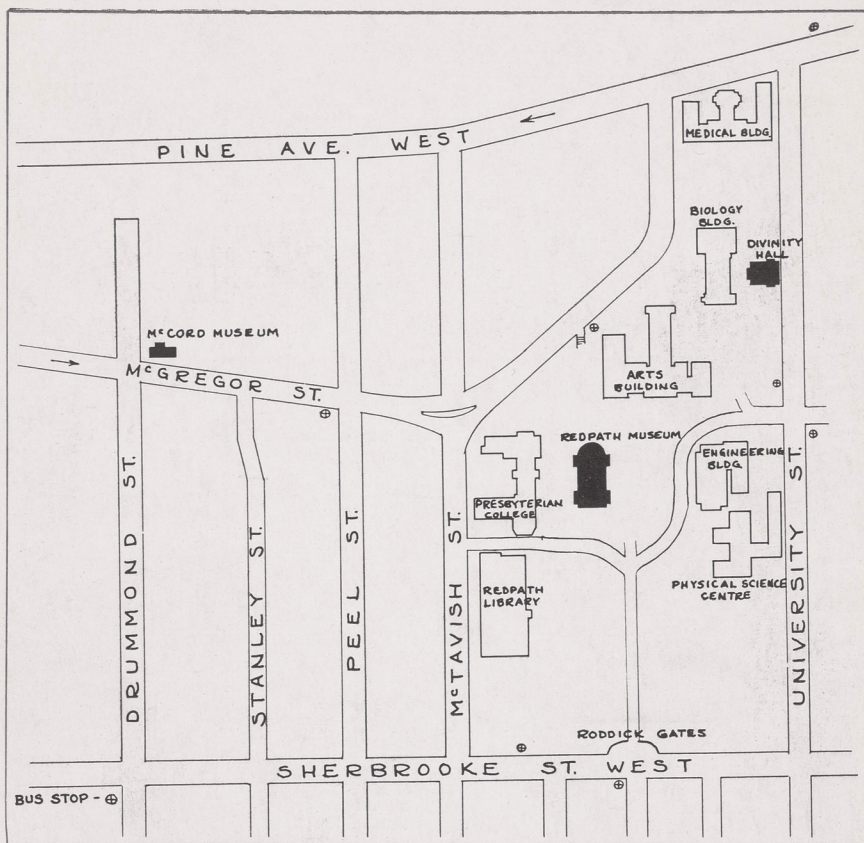
- 3520 University Street : Divinity Hall.  
VI. 9-9181, Local 210

PUBLIC WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE.  
OPEN WEEKDAYS 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
SATURDAYS 9 a.m. to 12. (Closed during  
July and August).

A semi-permanent loan exhibition operated by the Redpath Museum and drawn from the ethnological collections. Selected material, illustrating some of the Mediterranean cultures, is of special interest to students of Biblical history.

- Photos : Cover, McGill Graduates' Society; Page 2, Montreal Star, The Gazette.
- Publication of this pamphlet has been made possible through a special grant by the Junior League of Montreal.





## *The McGill University Museums*

### **How to reach them :**

By Bus :

**4** ON SHERBROOKE or  
UNIVERSITY STREETS

**144** ON MCGREGOR  
STREET

Parking facilities on Campus are very limited



# The Gazette

FOUNDED JUNE 3 1778

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1959

## The McGill Museums

By ALICE J. TURNHAM  
Director, McGill University Museums

FOR seventy-seven years the Redpath Museum at McGill University has proudly opened its doors to the general public as well as to students and staff who constitute the immediate University family. Generations of visitors have vivid memories of the towering skeleton of *Megatherium*, the Giant Sloth which roamed the plains of Argentina a million years ago and now presides over the fossil hall. Others have a fondness for "George", the magnificent Mountain Gorilla from the Belgian Congo who guards the upper floor.

Hundreds of one-time school children, today the parents of another generation, also remember trips to the old McCord Museum in the former Joseph House on the corner of McTavish and Sherbrooke Streets, where pistols presented by General James Wolfe to one of his captains, apothecary jars brought to Montreal in its early days by Jeanne Mance, and sinew-sewn Eskimo costumes from Baffinland, played their respective parts in bringing Canadian history to life. When the old mansion finally yielded to time and the elements in 1954, these and thousands of other treasures were moved to safer quarters in another converted residence on the corner of Drummond and McGregor Streets, and here they now repose, freely available to specialists by appointment, but inaccessible at the present to the general public.

### Established in 1855

When Sir William Dawson established the McGill collections in 1855, he had no idea that in the next one hundred years these possessions would increase, by gift and bequest, by field work, and occasionally by purchase, to include an estimated million and a quarter specimens in the fields of anthropology, ethnology, geology, Canadian history, mineralogy, paleontology and zoology. He would have been astonished indeed to see how they have outgrown the original Redpath Museum, which, incidentally, was the first specially designed museum building in Canada; outlasted the first McCord building; outstripped additional temporary quarters in the Medical Building; and now occupy exhibition and storage space in two McGill buildings, with extra storage space in four others, not to mention borrowed zoological storage at Harvard University. Only those who know the quality of the McGill collections or who are involved with similar projects can grasp the crippling effect of such dissociation on a museum dedicated to university teaching and to public service.

It was once accepted practice for museums to boast of the accumulation of specimens for their own sake, with little thought given to making them understandable. Not so today. Selected specimens from these same collections are being used to better and better advantage in permanent and temporary exhibits as lively illustrations of basic concepts and fundamental principles

on a wide variety of subjects. Special displays are organized to highlight important events. Objects are constantly being requested for loan to other museums, many of them in other cities. And thirty McGill loan exhibits are now circulating among twenty-six Montreal schools throughout the current session. Specimens have thus become a means to an end, rather than an end in themselves, and suitability of objects rather than overwhelming numbers has become a guiding force in exhibition design.

### Improved Techniques

As a preliminary step in modernization of the McGill Museums, the rich store of specimens in the Redpath Museum is being sorted and consolidated. Comprehensive study collections, of immense importance to a limited few, will be withdrawn from public exhibition and isolated in accessible storage; while outstanding specimens of more general appeal will be given dramatic and interpretative treatment in public display. Improved techniques will make the Museum more alluring from a teaching standpoint and at the same time will add immeasurably to the attractiveness of what is virtually the only public building in the campus. This is all part of a long range policy which is equally adaptable to present or to future museum quarters.

The McCord Museum, meanwhile, crammed as it is with irreplaceable prints, paintings, manuscripts, costumes and the memorabilia of historical characters and events, is also streamlining its storage to provide, by next fall, a special room for changing public exhibitions. While the physical limitations of this building now make it impossible to admit anyone other than the qualified specialist to its storage areas, the proposed small exhibition room will give the public an inkling of the potentialities of the collection and of the difficult odds against which it must contend. It will also be a welcome gesture to the hundreds of donors who over the years have continued to show their faith in the ultimate role of the University Museums.

Solutions to some of McGill's Museum problems are bound up with eventual provision of a single, specially designed and centrally located museum building, capable of a somewhat flexible interior arrangement, with at least 35 per cent of its area devoted to exhibition, 35 per cent accessible storage and research, and 30 per cent to working space, teaching and administration. This is no idle dream. It is based on a careful survey of our own institution in relation to accepted current standards of the museum profession.

It is a curious fact that Montreal—a city of approximately a million, which serves a suburban population of yet another half million and attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year—has no science museum of its own. Its history museums are small, cramped, and for the most part privately owned. In such a situation it is all the more fitting that the University Museums, in striving to provide their own students with a broader outlook, should be willing and eager to share these facilities with visitors from off the campus.

Many McGill students were the school visitors of yesterday; their own children will be museum supporters tomorrow. Whatever the McGill Museums can do to give them a better understanding of Man and the changing world in which he lives, and a particular insight into the history and resources of Canada, will bring enrichment to the community and, as a matter of course, will bring more demands upon the Museums. And so it is that McGill's Museums need and cherish the understanding, the participation and the practical support of the people of Montreal if they are to render the fullest possible service.



ALICE J. TURNHAM



Luncheon in celebration of the formation  
of the Auxiliary and of the Junior League's  
Golden Anniversary

It is my very great pleasure today, on behalf of the McGill University Museum Auxiliary and the Junior League of Montreal, to welcome each and every one of you to our celebration luncheon. Celebration in honour of the formation of the Museum Auxiliary, and celebration in honour of the Junior League's 50th. Anniversary. It is most appropriate that these two groups should be meeting together under the same roof, because it was the Junior League who started the volunteer program in 1933 and had it not been for this move, there would have been no reason for a celebration within the Museum today.

In 1933 when the volunteer program began, it was largely due to the foresight and interest of Mr. Judah, who was then secretary of the Museum, and of Miss Dorothy Blair, Chairman of the Arts Committee of the Junior League, that the project grew such firm roots.

It has been of great interest to me looking through the old files to find some of the names of the original workers. Names I found on the list and who I am delighted are present today are, Mrs. Moray MacNaughton, Mrs. R. W. Sharwood, Mrs. Thomas Darling, Mrs. Stirling Maxwell, Mrs. Montague Yates, Mrs. John Stairs. I would like to give these pioneers a very special welcome and I hope their interest will be as great 28 years from now.

As happens to so many things from time to time, they go out of style, and so it appears that in the 1940's for a few years, Museum work went out of style, but it came back again with renewed interest in 1951.

At this time Miss Barbara Whitley was president of the League and Miss Dorothy Blair, Museum Representative from the League. Under the guidance of these two interested League members, the program once again came into prominence. Members became actively engaged in doing guide work, constructing dioramas, installing loan exhibits and cataloguing the Notman collection of prints.



Since 1951, thousands of school children have visited the Museum. It became difficult to keep pace with the ever increasing demands from the community and the schools. For this reason, it was decided last Spring that an Auxiliary should be formed. In this way we could broaden our horizons and by so doing contribute a more efficient service both to the Museum and to the schools.

Since last Spring, the Auxiliary has undergone the growing pains of any new organization and to date we have exactly 100 members. I think in the next few months as people become aware of what we are doing, they will make themselves known to us.

I am very happy to announce that Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal of McGill University, has accepted to be Patron of the new Auxiliary.

I am also very happy to announce that Mr. Cleveland Morgan and Mr. Colin Molson have accepted to be honorary members. Both Mr. Morgan and Mr. Molson have been very actively interested in Museum work in this city for many years and we are very pleased that we can add their names to our list of honorary members. The following have also accepted to be honorary members of our Auxiliary. -

Mrs. I. M. B. Dobell Curator of Prints and Documents at the McCord Museum, which is as you know, one of the McGill Museums. Mrs. Dobell has been closely associated with our program for years.

Miss Alice Lighthall, Well known to all of you for her keen and active interest in so many things in Montreal and especially in Museum work.

Mr. H. Gilbert Ferrabee Curator of Education. Mr. Ferrabee has been a tower of strength to our program and has helped the new Auxiliary to find its feet.

Mrs. Alice Turnham Director of the McGill University Museums. Without Mrs. Turnham's encouragement and enthusiasm, the Junior League program could not have flourished, nor could the Auxiliary have been formed.

On behalf of my committee, I would like to tell you how proud and happy that we are to have you as honorary members.

With you at our helm, I hope that we can fulfil the main purpose of the Auxiliary and give efficient service to the educational program and help promote greater interest in the community.

Anne V. Byer,  
President McGill Univ. Museum Aux.



by  
Lois Harrington  
Winslow-Sprague

RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR WILLIAM DAWSON'S GRAND-DAUGHTER OF  
VISITS TO THER REDPATH MUSEUM.

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As I look back over the years to about 1897, I can recall with some pleasure, a brisk day in Autumn when I was about 9 years old. It was a Saturday and my father said to me, "How would you like to come to the museum with me and look at all the special things you like, and after we can watch the football game from the upper window?" So it was, with my hand in his I found myself climbing up the broad steep steps of the museum. My father opened the great heavy door and we went inside to the warm and spacious entrance hall. Here on the left wall was the portrait of Mr. Peter Redpath, the founder of the museum. I knew he was a very wonderful man and very rich because my father had told me he had given the money so that the museum could be built for Grandpapa. Across from the front door was a wide stairway with golden yellow banisters supporting a shiny hand-rail, so tempting to slide down on! My desire was to go up these stairs as quickly as possible to see the many exhibits that always filled me with wonder and delight. Before however mounting the stairs I had to stop and peer into the aquarium on the right of the hall. This large tank was full of all sorts of wiggily things and little fish. At this point Mr. Edward Ardley, the caretaker often appeared and explained everything to me. I believe he knew almost as much as Grandpapa or my father. I remember him as a small, very energetic man with red hair and a bristly moustache and keen blue eyes. He practically ran the museum for Grandpapa, and did many things to help him. Grandpapa told me he was able to cut very very thin slices of stone which were used for making lantern slides to instruct the students with.

Climbing the brown shiny steps we soon arrived at the landing half way up, here we spent a short time looking at a large case of stuffed birds, and then examined huge cross sections of British Columbia trees. I tried so hard on many different visits to the museum to count the rings to discover the age of the trees, but this was very difficult to do and I doubt if I ever got the correct answer. Now I gave my father a tug, to hurry him along so that we could see the Egyptian mummy. It gave me a feeling of awe to think that these were the remains of a real human being who had died many centuries ago. I had strange thoughts about "her". I don't really remember, but I think it was a "her". Turning slowly from the mummy, I looked through the large open doorway into the main exhibition hall. Here at once my eyes rested on the huge skeleton of the megatherium soaring heavenward and supported on its great hind legs. A sight wondrous and exciting enough for any child. Behind this amazing creature was the glyptodon, much smaller, but frightening enough with the wicked looking spikes on its tail. I felt glad that these animals do not roam about the world today.

Just beyond these creatures and in the centre of this large room was a tall case containing many interesting things - I remember best a model of the largest gold nugget ever found and also a model of the famous Kohinor diamond. Briefly we inspected all the beautifully coloured minerals, which were housed around the sides of the hall.

Leaving this hall we examined some enormous fossil footprints in sand, then we proceeded up to the second floor where a beautifully carved balcony ran all around the upper part of the hall. What fun it was to look below and see what was going on and what sort of people were there and what they were all looking at. I was anxious to find a square glass case which rested on top



of a cabinet where butterflies were kept in locked drawers - here in this glass house I found my old friend the stuffed beaver sitting as he always did beside his little pond with water lillies floating on its glass surface. Beside Mr Beaver was a partly chewed tree, still waiting to fall - to a child of my age this was an entrancing sight. My father seeing the time slipping away, said, " Now lets see the little black bear ". There he was standing in his usual place. He too was an old friend who I was happy to see again. I ~~almost~~ felt he was glad to see me too.

We now passed by the skeletons of a prehistoric horse and bison and continued our tour around the balcony, where we looked at some of the beautiful shells and corals and some fine specimens of huge crabs. One thing I always liked particularly was a small leafless tree covered with lovely little varicoloured humming birds - it was so dainty and pretty. Then there was the stuffed mounted whale which hung high up on the wall and which my father had brought from Metis, near here were some intriguing frogs and lizards in bottles of pickle.

Finally we saw the huge Indian totem pole, so enormous and majestic and which extended upwards in height for two floors. What a wonderful thing it was and it was a very important part of the museum to me.

My father turned now and said it was time to go and watch the foot-ball game - so we looked about to find some chairs to sit on and placed them by the window which gave the best view. Soon we saw the players running out on to the campus which appeared far below us. As I watched the game my thoughts wandered back to all the wonderful things I had seen, and especially to the fantastic weather-worn totem pole, which I was now sitting beside.

These are some of my recollections of the various visits I made to the Redpath Museum with my father, who was a professor of the University and also a curator of the museum, which I felt partly belonged to me. These visits have stimulated me through the years and made a very lasting impression on my mind and life.

L.W\*S.

March 23rd, 1971.