

PHOENIX NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Phoenix ANNUAL MEETING - MAY,  
1981.

We have been very fortunate this year to add some particularly fine new members to our group who we are delighted to have with us. New blood brings new strength.

It occurred to me that they may very well be wondering just who on earth this group, known as the Phoenix Natural Science Association, are. So old members, bear with me, while I, in briefest possible terms, give them the 1-2-3 on who and why we're here.

Actually, we are an "off-shoot" of a Junior League volunteer program that started at the Redpath Museum way back in the 1930's.

By the 1961's the program had developed to such a point that it outgrew the League and the Redpath asked if we could form an Auxiliary which would expand into the community for new members. Alice Lighthall, Doris MacNaughton, Barbara Whitley, Marjorie Bazin, Evie Hingston and yours truly were all early members.

The new Auxiliary was called the McGill University Museum's Auxiliary and we took a very active part in every phase of the educational program at the Redpath.

In 1971, when McGill, because of its austerity program, had to close the Museum to the general public, a very wonderful 10-year stint ended for us all.

We changed our name <sup>but</sup> ~~though~~ we held on to our old By-laws, and we became the <sup>(3)</sup> Phoenix Natural Science Association - Phoenix - because we hoped the symbol of the bird which rose up from the ashes, might be symbolic of a new Museum that might arise from the old - we fervently hoped that the closing of the Redpath might make people realize what they had lost and that we might stimulate interest in a new Natural Science Museum. But this was not to be.

Here was an eager group of women, many of whom had trained for 10 years, all in limbo with no where to go!

Alice Lighthall had been one of our earliest members and is also one of our honorary members. She had been closely connected with the Canadian Guild of Crafts since its outset. She asked if we would like to offer our services to the Guild and we readily accepted. This was the first project undertaken by the new Phoenix Group.

In the past 9 years since then, we have learned much about Canadian craftsmen and their techniques.

We attend lectures prior to many of the exhibitions, which have included pottery, porcelain, glass, metal sculpture, ceramics, batik, engravings, prints, Eskimo carvings, Indian crafts, quilting, etc., etc. In return, some of our members are on duty in the gallery during the lunch hour which relieves the permanent Staff for other duties.

This opens new windows and it is fascinating to learn of the high calibre of workmanship being done by Canadian craftsmen, etc etc.

Anne V. Byrd  
Liaison between Phoenix Ass. + Can Guild of Crafts

Victors Sultra  
Dr. Eleanor Serio



PHOENIX NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION  
1982 AUTUMN PROGRAM

---

There is a nip in the air, and the leaves are turning red. The time has come to plan stimulating activities to warm us up as the weather turns cold!

- Tuesday, October 12th  
*Returner's Seattle*  
10:00 A.M. St. Helen's Island Museum. Mr. Bruce Bolton and M. Yves Goyette will discuss the Museum's recent acquisition of a beautiful 1809 Fowling Arm. They will also explain the Canadian Cultural Properties Act.
- Tuesday, October 19th  
*Pam*  
10:30 A.M. Tour of Argenteuil Museum, Carillon, Que. (Laurentian autoroute to Lachute, Exit 39, to St. Andrews, Rte. 327. To Carillon, Rte. 344W - OR - Transcanada - Ottawa Highway to Pte. Fortune. Ferry ...\$3.00... to Carillon.) Lifts can be arranged through M. Mathewson.
- Tuesday, October 26th  
9:30 A.M. Briefing Canadian Guild of Crafts by Miss V. Watt. Cape Dorset Prints 1982 Collection. World premiere.
- Tuesday, November 2nd  
10:00 A.M. Lachine Canal - A short visit to a lock and then a presentation on the history of the Canal, and future plans, by a representative of Parks Canada. Meeting place to be established.
- Tuesday, November 9th  
10:00 A.M. At the Museum. A lecture on "Fabrics", by Jean-Michel Tuchscherer, former Curator of the Musée Historique des Tissus, Lyon, France.
- Tuesday, November 16th  
10:00 A.M. A Lecture by Dr. Daniel Nelson, Acting Project Manager of the USS Hamilton and USS Scourge Project. These two ships sank during the War of 1812, and have been found totally intact. An article in National Geographic will appear shortly, and Jean Cousteau has also worked on them. They are considered major discoveries.
- Tuesday, November 23rd  
9:30 A.M. Canadian Guild of Crafts. Briefing by Miss V. Watt. Harlan House.
- Tuesday, November 30th  
10:00 A.M. At the Museum. After a short General Meeting, a selection of films from the N.F.B. will be shown.
- Tuesday, December 7th  
10:00 A.M. Christmas Party, with guest speaker Mme. Jehane Benoit.

Executive Officers this year are:

President	:	Mrs. Peter Mathewson	937-8248
Vice-President	:	Mrs. Frank Stark	933-1090
Secretary	:	Mrs. Richard Porter	932-2878
Treasurer	:	Mrs. John Cumming	692-0715

Fees of \$10.00 for 1982-1983 Season are now due. They may be given to the Treasurer or sent to:

The Phoenix Natural Science Association,  
1195 B Sherbrooke Street West,  
Montreal, P.Q.  
H3A 1H9



1982

PHOENIX NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

ADDENDA TO THE AGENDA!

Tuesday, March 16

10:00 a.m. Macdonald Stewart Foundation,  
1195 Sherbrooke Street West.  
Mrs. Donald Byers - talk with slides -  
"Native People of Australia and New Zealand"

Tuesday, March 30

Day trip to Ottawa, guided tour of the  
Canadian War Museum, 330 Sussex Drive, with  
Mr. Victor Suthren.  
9:00 a.m. Voyageur bus, Berri de Montigny  
(buses leave every hour on the hour and return  
ditto). Return fare \$14.95.  
Disembark near Chateau Laurier where we can  
have lunch or else members can meet at the  
museum for the tour, starting at 1:00 p.m.  
Those wishing to drive independently can meet  
us for lunch downstairs in Chateau Laurier at  
noon, or at the museum at 1:00 p.m.  
Return trip by bus starts from terminus only  
(265 Catherine and Kent Streets).

Tuesday, April 6

10:00 a.m. Musée Marsil, 349 Riverside Drive,  
St. Lambert.  
\$1.00 entrance fee. "The America that Vanished".  
Use Champlain Bridge. Once across take Quebec  
Highway 132. Exit at Notre Dame Street,  
St. Lambert. Stop light at Riverside Drive -  
museum is to the right on the corner.



YOU ARE INVITED  
TO

## THE FÊTE OF THE PHOENIX

A BUFFET DINNER

MONDAY, APRIL 19th, 1971, 7:45 P.M.

AT

REDPATH MUSEUM, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

TO MARK THE CLOSING TO THE PUBLIC  
OF REDPATH MUSEUM

CASH BAR  
6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

R.S.V.P. BEFORE APRIL 10th  
Mrs. R.H. Stevenson  
931 - 1612



sponsored by:

BROOKE BOND FOODS LTD.  
CORBY DISTILLERIES LTD.  
McGILL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AUXILIARY  
REDPATH REALTIES LTD.  
REDPATH SUGAR COMPANY  
ROYAL TRUST COMPANY

organized by:

EDUCATION DIVISION, REDPATH MUSEUM  
AND  
McGILL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AUXILIARY

## PHOENIX FESTIVAL

- APRIL 17th, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. AND APRIL 18th, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.:  
FAMILY DAYS, FEATURING QUIZ BOOKS, NATURE  
TRAIL ETC.
- APRIL 19th, 8 P.M.:  
"FÊTE OF THE PHOENIX"
- APRIL 20th, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.:  
MONTREAL GEM & MINERAL CLUB EVENING,  
FEATURING SOAPSTONE CARVERS, CABOCHON  
WORK ETC.
- APRIL 21st, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.:  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY EVENING, FEATURING  
LIVE REPTILES AND THEIR HANDLERS
- APRIL 22nd, 8 P.M.:  
OPEN MEETING OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC  
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION, GUEST SPEAKER:  
MISS ALICE JOHANNSEN
- APRIL 23rd, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.:  
AUDIO-VISUAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY MUSEUM  
STAFF
- APRIL 24th, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. AND APRIL 25th, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.:  
FAMILY DAYS AS ABOVE



**GALA OPENING, REDPATH MUSEUM  
1882**

McGill  
University



communiqué  
news  
release

April 7, 1971.

"PHOENIX FESTIVAL" - a last chance to visit McGill's  
Redpath Museum

From April 17 to 25 inclusive, the Redpath Museum of McGill University will hold a special programme of events entitled "Phoenix Festival" to give the public a last chance to see the Museum before it closes its doors on June 1st. After this date the Museum's collection will be available for research and for the use of students only.

The Redpath Museum owes its existence to Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill from 1855 to 1893, and Peter Redpath, one of McGill's greatest benefactors. Dawson began the museum collection with his own private zoological and geological specimens. Redpath made a gift of the building for the museum which was completed in 1882. Principal Dawson described it as "the noblest building dedicated to that end in the Dominion". The collection consists of some million and a quarter specimens, unequalled in Canada.

This year, due to McGill's financial difficulties and after almost 90 years of playing host to an endless stream of visitors, the Museum will finally close its doors to the general public on June 1st.

The "Phoenix Festival" has been arranged by the McGill University Museums Auxiliary and the Education Division, Redpath Museum. The following is the Calendar of Events for the week:-

**PROGRAMME**

Saturday, April 17  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Family Days: Museum's Mystery programmes.  
Games and quizzes on the  
collections for all the  
family. Nature Trail.

Sunday, April 18  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm





## Origins and Background of the Phoenix Association

In 1933-34 a small group of members of the Junior League of Montreal were doing volunteer work at the McGill University Museums. They were Mrs. Stirling Maxwell, Mrs. Ralph Harper, Mrs. R.W. Sharwood, Mrs. M.F. MacNaughton, Mrs. Thomas Darling, Miss Dorothy Blair, Mrs. Montague Yates and Mrs. John Stairs. These pioneers managed to create 340 drawings for the basketry catalogue file, type 17,000 cards for the cross-reference file of McCord Museum, and sort huge piles of historical documents and clippings. <sup>many years later</sup> With growing public interest in the Museums, the Curator of Education of the McGill Museums and the Junior League decided that an auxiliary should be started. People with experience or interest in museum work such as the McGill Alumnae were asked to join.

Mr. Lionel Judah of the Ethnological Museum and Secretary of the University Museums Committee was asked by the League how the volunteers could be of most assistance. He offered to give a series of lectures for those interested. "Museum buildings as they are presently and as they should be", "Management of a Museum", "Arranging Museum Collections", "Popular Science in Museums", and

"Historical Museum Collections" were the titles of some of his lectures. Eleven of the twenty Leaguers who had been chosen to attend these talks offered their services. Eventually the numbers dwindled to three and the project ended with the closing of the old McCord Museum in 1936, followed shortly thereafter by the retirement of Mr. Judah. War work took priority over museums.

In 1950, the President of the Junior League, Miss Barbara Whitley, and Miss Dorothy Blair, Museum Liaison Officer, met with Mrs. Alice Johannsen and Mr. J. D. Cleghorn of the Museum staff of McGill. The staff members recommended that the Junior League assist with volunteers in the following capacities - Docentry, illustrating, repairs, and clerical work in the shell collection. One artist, one volunteer for repairs, three clerical workers and seven docents who were trained to give guided tours of the Museum, had found interesting work to do. In 1951, \$200 was donated by the Junior League to the Redpath Museum for a slide projector and a glass bead screen. Ten to fourteen volunteers worked at the Museum in the years between 1950 and 1957.

Volunteers took courses each year and acted as guides in the Museum mainly for school children - one of the most important dioramas was created by Mrs. HORNBY McNaughton of early dinosaurs which became a permanent exhibit in the Redpath

In 1957 there were nineteen volunteers, working, learning and enjoying the experience. The Junior League held an "Open House" for their members at the Museum on the occasion of the William Notman Photographic Exhibition (and to celebrate the League's 45th anniversary). In the following years there were as many as forty-six volunteers working at allotted tasks. (Sixteen of these were working on dioramas at Macdonald College, and the first diorama of dinosaurs was displayed at the Montreal Protestant School Board.) During that time the Junior League donated funds for film strips, exhibition cases and dioramas (\$1,725); augmentation of salary of the Education assistant (\$1,500), and the first instalment (\$1,250) for Mr. Paul Marchand's diorama of an Ordovician Sea Floor, depicting life in the Montreal area 400 million years ago. However, the number of volunteers had dropped by almost half.

In 1961 Junior League members and specially invited guests attended a luncheon to celebrate the League's 50th anniversary and the formation of the McGill University Museum's Auxiliary. Mrs. Donald N. Byers, the new auxiliary's first president, in her welcoming address, gave a brief history of the close association between the Museums and the Junior League, and gave credit to the founding members of 1933. She thanked McGill's Principal, Dr. F. Cyril James for accepting to be Patron of the new Auxiliary, and announced the creation of Honorary Members among whom were Mrs. I.B.M. Dobell, Curator of Prints and Documents at the McCord, Miss Alice Lighthall, famous Montreal Historian, Mrs. Alice Johannsen, Director of McGill Museums, and Mr. H. G. Ferrabee, Curator of Education. Members were encouraged to find more volunteers to man the museums.

The Auxiliary members made dioramas of Indian and Eskimo settlements, and some depicting the lives of our early settlers. These were taken to schools,

to help students understand more fully the daily life of our native peoples and our pioneer efforts to build a life in the new land, Canada. Other members helped to catalogue the William Notman Photographic Collection, and still others acted as docents in the Redpath Museum & Divinity Hall

In 1970, after many years of association with the Redpath Museum, started with Sir William Dawson's private zoological and geological specimens, and housed in the building donated by Mr. Peter Redpath, McGill found it financially impossible to keep open to the public. The Auxiliary was homeless, after devoting much time and effort, and enjoying a long association with objects of the past.

It had not been all work and no play for the Auxiliary members, as those who were present at the "Fur and Fashion Show" will recall. Members modelled the Indian costumes. Commentary was given by Barbara Whitley in the form of an epic poem from which we quote a few lines:-

*When the sun sinks on the prairie  
You should have this gown for evening,  
Heavy deerskin -- nearly strapless,  
Pretty daring -- nearly strapless.  
For the bodice decoration  
Fringe as well as beads and leather -  
Coily pinked with knives, not scissors.  
Note the smart trim at the hemline,  
And the fringe to keep bugs off.*

A "Phoenix Festival" marked the closing to the public of McGill's Redpath Museum, enabling them to take a last look at the collection before it closed its doors to all but researchers in June 1971. Meanwhile the members of the Auxiliary had decided to give themselves a new name, "The Phoenix Natural Science Association", and to look for new museum-type worlds to conquer.

## PRESIDENTS

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONTREAL MUSEUM PROJECT

1950-51	Miss J.C. Luke
1951-52	Miss Dorothy Blair
1952-53	"
1953-54	"
1954-55	Mrs. D. N. Byers
1955-56	"
1956-57	Mrs. J. D. McColl
1957-58	" (who resigned and Mrs. Byers finished the term)
1958-59	Mrs. D. N. Byers.
1959-60	Mrs. J. D. McColl
1960-61	Mrs. de Guise Vaillancourt

### MCGILL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS' AUXILIARY

1961-62	Mrs. D. N. Byers
1962-63	"
1963-64	Mrs. W. P. Carr
1964-65	"
1965-66	Mrs. J. L. Thom
1966-67	"
1967-68	Mrs. R. H. Stevenson
1968-69	"
1969-70	Mrs. M. F. Fitzpatrick
1970-71	"
1971-72	Mrs. Geoffrey Leyman

## The Phoenix Natural Science Association

The first year of the Phoenix Natural Science Association lacked any concrete project for the one hundred and ten active members. One general meeting, four board meetings and the annual meeting were held. Twenty-four members assisted the staff of the Redpath Museum for the "Meet McGill 1971" weekend, when graduates returned to their University for reunions. The Phoenix donated \$525 to Mont St. Hilaire Nature Centre, as well as the stock from the Museum Boutique, valued at 487 dollars. A donation of \$25 was also made to the "Friends of the McCord Museum".

In the second year the members still lacked an association with any Natural Science Museum. The Canadian Guild of Crafts contacted our group through Miss Alice Lighthall, and asked for help with tours, in-school talks, archives, etc., so some of the members took on these tasks. Miss Lighthall gave a series of six lectures on the arts and crafts of the Canadian Indian. Several volunteers worked for over a year to bring the archives up to date.

Mrs. D. Smith gave a talk on the Haida Indians, while Mrs. D. N. Byers and Mrs. Robert Stevenson refurbished two of the old Indian dioramas from the Redpath, in preparation for the in-school talks. Miss Lighthall was assisted in preparing an exhibition at the First Presbyterian Church for their annual luncheon.

Sitter-guards were provided almost daily at the Guild for the three exhibitions which ran from March until June.

A donation was given to Mrs. Johannsen at the Nature Centre at Mont St. Hilaire, and also one to Dr. Bider at Macdonald College for a project "Public Awareness of Wolves". Each donation was \$50.

The following year, 1973/74, members were still acting as guides and sitters during exhibits at the Guild, with briefings given by either Miss Virginia Watts or the artist, prior to the opening of these exhibits. A study programme was held weekly in the Library of the Guild with sixteen lectures given by talented and informed members, and by non-members.

Former docents were invited by Mrs. Smith to join the in-school talks. Exhibits for this project were designed and executed by Mrs. Neaga, Mrs. Ballon and Mrs. Byers.

There were only sixty-three members that year. When the name Phoenix was chosen it had been hoped that from the ashes a new Natural Science Museum would arise to house the Association, but they were still without a permanent base.

\* At the Guild, which was their headquarters in 1974/75, briefings were held by Miss Watts before the opening of new exhibits, and the members guarded the works of art and gave information to visitors over the noon hours to relieve the staff.

In-school talks were illustrated by dioramas and by priceless native museum pieces lent by Miss Alice Lighthall and by the Guild. More volunteers and more projects were needed, but the faithful few struggled on.

In the spring of 1976, the then President, Mrs. George Winters took her Father, Mr. Hugh Paterson, for a drive around St. Helen's Island, and decided that her Father, who had fought with the Victoria Rifles, would naturally be keenly interested in seeing all the mementoes of the Regiment housed in the Museum of the Fort. As they were inspecting the Sergeants' Mess, they were joined by Bruce Bolton, who remarked that he wished he had guides for the Fort's Military and Maritime Museum. Joan Winters then announced that she happened to have thirty-five auxiliary members, but she was afraid the long distance to the Fort from the City might dampen their enthusiasm. Mr. Bolton said he wanted to confer with Mr. David Stewart of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, and the result of this was a meeting where Mr. Stewart not only asked the more than thirty members of the Phoenix who attended the meeting to be attached to the Museum, but said transportation could

be arranged to drive the members from the Metro on St. Helen's Island to the Fort; he also gave them champagne. The enthusiasm was great, the members leapt at this opportunity. Mr. Stewart told them he would provide them with lecturers of the highest calibre. Three members immediately started to work every week with the Curator, and Mr. Stewart celebrated the event with a lunch for the members at the Festin du Gouverneur. Other members followed their lead and by the next autumn quite a few were happily at work in different capacities.

Meanwhile two members helped out in the archives of the Canadian Guild of Crafts. A marvelous two-day trip was taken to Quebec City, guided by one of the members, Mrs. Alice Le Normand, and another field trip consisted of visiting the Knowlton Historical Museum and Old School House.

In 1977, a trip to Kingston for a day included a boat tour of The Thousand Islands and a view of Fort Frontenac. The members also enjoyed a trip to Ottawa to look at the marvellously alive-looking birds at the Museum of Natural Science, followed by a happy reunion with Joan Winters and lunch in her new home in Ottawa.

We took another expedition to the Chateau de Ramezay, the oldest original building still standing in Montreal. Another memorable day was when Alice Le Normand made Marguerite Bourgeoys come alive for us at Notre Dame de Bonsecours. Later we visited La Ferme St. Gabriel, where the Filles du Roi stayed while awaiting the settlers who would choose them to be their wives. The Phoenix also toured the sites along the Richelieu River where the Rebellion of 1837 turned into open warfare, and another journey was made to the charming little Missisquoi Museum, followed by to lunch at the Murphys' home in Sutton.

Speakers at the Fort included Dr. Elinor Senior on the Rebellion of 1837; Mr. Stewart on the Sources of Immigration to

Canada; Mr. Lepine on Underwater Archaeology; Guy Vadeboncoeur, our Curator at the Fort, on the Development of Camouflage in Uniforms; and our own member, Mrs. Pim, on her trip to China with the Toronto Symphony, complete with slides. Two other members, Mr. D. R. Murphy and Mrs. L. H. Packard, reviewed some of the research they had been doing on the Museum's fascinating artifacts.

Groups were sorting, mending and storing military equipment and uniforms by the hundreds. Other members were cataloging prints for Mrs. Elizabeth Hale, the Librarian, and the dedicated members of the Education Department kept school tours going through the Fort Museum.

At the Canadian Guild of Crafts sitters were guarding and informing after briefings by Miss Watt before each new exhibit opened. At the briefings the membership learned about banners, Canadian porcelain, ceramic sculpture and Eskimo lithographs.

1978-79 was a fruitful year. At the Military and Maritime Museum eleven were working in the Library, and storage, and research, and seven in the school Education group. The fabulous new Library was officially opened by Mr. Stewart at a reception to which members of the Phoenix were invited. Mr. Stewart also gave us a permanent address (required by the Government of Quebec) at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation on Sherbrooke Street, as well as storage space for our files and other belongings. Our membership increased by sixteen to a total of seventy.

Talks by Miss Watt and sitting at exhibitions at the Canadian Guild of Crafts continued.

Fifteen Tuesday meetings were held with an average attendance of seventeen. Speakers included our members Jean Tombs and Sara Stevenson, and Mr. Bolton provided top lecturers ranging from "The Art of China" to "Canadian Pioneer Cooking", by Mme. Jehane Benoit.

In 1979-80 there were field trips of great interest. One was to a jewel of a Museum at Chateauguay, a film of the battle there, followed by a happy luncheon at Mrs. Stark's lovely home. The members on another occasion saw the magnificent model of the Montreal Harbour at the Port of Montreal's Headquarters at Cité du Havre, and heard about proposed new ideas and changes to the waterfront. The elegant costumes of well-known Montreal ladies of bygone days were to be marvelled at in the McCord Museum. We also saw the William Notman Collection of Children's Portraits.

At the Fort there was a tour of the new Library by Mrs. Hale, and of the whole Museum by Guy Vadeboncoeur, the Curator. Much rearranging and changing was being done at the Fort as it turned from the military exhibits to those that dealt with the lives of the soldiers' families and other settlers in those far-off days. Mrs. Andrew Collard spoke to the Phoenix on "China and Collecting"; Dr. Elinor Senior on the 1837 elections in Montreal; Mr. Stewart gave a slide showing of St. Malo and Jacques Cartier's home; Marian Bradshaw let us in on the secrets of Chinese porcelain; and Victor Suthren, Author and Curator at the National War Museum in Ottawa, was welcomed back.

The Phoenix also provided guided tours of the Museum for the University of Toronto alumnae.

In 1980-81, The Canadian Guild of Crafts for its 20th anniversary published its catalogue "Permanent Eskimo Collection", aided by a donation from the Phoenix Association. Volunteers continued working at the exhibitions. To the Fort, with the members gratitude, went a donation of an electric board, showing the military events in the Montreal area from 1642 to 1870.

There were tours of the Museum to note alterations, explained to us by the Curator. Mr. Bolton gave us a tour of the Island and outlined its history. The Phoenix had an early viewing of the

Chateau Dufresne, while it was not yet finished, and this made it all the more interesting when we saw the completed project. Watched with enthusiasm was the film "Glencoe", made possible by Mr. David Stewart and the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, and those with Scottish ancestors thrilled to the bagpipes and the sight of all those tartans.

We were fortunate enough to have Victor Suthren come to speak to us, as well as that brilliant scholar of Canadian history Dr. Elinor Senior, Mrs. Elizabeth Hale, Heather Stronach Lawson, Hector Quench, and Indian Chief Charlie Patton from Caughnawaga. Our own member, Margot Neaga gave a lecture on early navigational instruments. (She organized the Education Committee that year, as well). Another member, Alice Le Normand gave us a vivid description of the Middle East and Egypt, in the present and the past.

Jean Tombs organized a walking tour of Longueuil which was held in awful weather but was fascinating in its history and its importance to Montreal. Anne Byers organized a tour to the Old Hurtubise House with Miss Alice Lighthall giving us the history of this ancient house, which was built when the city was many a long mile away. We had lunch at the Byers', which is very near the Hurtubise house, which rounded off a most delightful day, with a large number of members turning out for this event. Miss Maysie MacSporran gave us a lot of interesting information in her lecture on Canadian stamps, and Barbara Whitley got us all on a bus and gave us a chance to change our religious affiliations, if we so desired, by taking the full bus to Christ Church Cathedral, St. Patrick's, Mary Queen of the World, and to a Greek Orthodox church where the members were invited for refreshments, and offered dancing lessons, which they were then too exhausted to take advantage of, which was a pity, because they could have been an interesting part of the following years' programme.

The school programme went well and was most popular with the young visitors, and the interest in the Library work continued, thanks to the enthusiasm of Mrs. Hale.

The Phoenix Association joined the Canadian Federation of "Friends of Museums".

In 1981-82 membership rose to over the hundred mark, with twenty to forty members attending each meeting. Volunteers again worked in the Library and on the Education Committee. The Guild volunteers continued their service for approximately three weeks of each of seven exhibits, and one member worked in the Notman archives in the McCord Museum.

There were twenty-seven meetings, ten of them field trips, which included a walking tour of St. Eustache guided by Dr. Elinor Senior, who had interested us all in the rebellion of 1837, and the politics behind the conflict. The Westmount Library gave new and rarely thought about insight into the delights and dilemmas of running a large and busy library. There were seven lectures at the Fort and three at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation. Elizabeth Hale spoke about rare books, and showed us some of the jewels in her collection. This had the membership totally entranced. Mme. Jehane Benoit gave us "Spices and How They Changed the Course of the World", with her usual wit and fantastic knowledge. Anne Byers, our first President of the Phoenix's predecessor, The McGill University Museum's Auxiliary, gave us a vivid description of her trip to New Zealand and Australia, complete with slides and ending with her own version of some native dances.

The name of the Phoenix Natural Science Association, in compliance with Bill 101, was made bilingual. The year's donations consisted of \$400 to the Fort's Museum, \$200 to the Canadian Guild of Crafts, and \$200 to the Mont St. Hilaire Nature Centre.

The year 1982-83 was a challenging and stimulating one for the Phoenix. Approximately thirty members attended each of the twenty meetings held prior to the Annual Meeting. Some of these field trips, seven in all, ranging from visiting the Argenteuil Museum in Carillon to a last ( and first for many) visit to the Mother House of the Congregation of Notre Dame before its conversion to Dawson College's new home. McCord was paid another visit; a lesson in brass rubbings was attended, and Martin Kevan read parts of his newly published novel concerning the voyage of Champlain to Canada in the early part of the 17th Century. At the Canadian Guild of Crafts we were treated to a viewing of the film puttogether, using the Guild's own artifacts, by Miss Virginia Watt. Three briefings were given at the Guild, where volunteers continued their jobs of sitting at the information desk during exhibitions.

Nine meetings were at the Fort Museum (or as it is now renamed, the St. Helen's Island Museum.) Mr. Bruce Bolton had arranged a series of very interesting lectures for the members, and for this we owe our deepest gratitude --- and to the Curator, Guy Vadeboncoeur, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Hildebrand, as well. Speakers included Mr. Christopher Watts; Mr. Victor Suthren, who explained the 17th Century model training ship from France which is now housed in the Museum; and Mr. Daniel Nelson described the finding of the two ships, the HAMILTON and the SCOURGE which were sunk in a storm on Lake Ontario during the War of 1812. We once again had for our Christmas meeting the joy of listening to that wonderful lady, Mme. Jehane Benoit.

The Phoenix gave \$200 to the St. Helen's Island Museum, \$100 to the Canadian Guild of Crafts (with an extra 75 dollars for the coffee fund), and \$100 to the Mont St. Hilaire Nature Centre. The Phoenix members also voted in favour of a group membership at the McCord Museum, similar to the one which we have held at the Canadian Guild of Crafts for many years.

At the Annual Meeting for the year 1984, the president, Mrs. F.L. Stark, reported that there were about one hundred members, some of whom regularly attended the meetings, others who came when the event or speaker was of particular interest to them. Amongst our most popular meetings at the Fort were, of course, Mme. Jehane Benoit for our Christmas celebration, and Victor Suthren, who once more entranced his audience with a description of the The Tall Ships and the background of the commercial navy. Field trips included the new museum at the old Fire Station at Youville Square and Jean Tombs, a past president of the Phoenix gave a vivid view or present day Korea.

Donations of the Phoenix for the year consisted of \$500 to the Fort Museum, \$200 to the Canadian Guild of Crafts, \$50 to the Craftsmen's Fund of the Guild, and \$150 to Mount St. Hilaire.

Soon after the annual meeting, the members of the Phoenix Association learned of the death of our great friend and benefactor, David M. Stewart. He will be remembered, with gratitude and affection, by all of us who knew him, for sharing with us his vast knowledge and love of our country's history. We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Stewart intends to carry on the work pioneered by her husband.

#### PRESIDENTS

#### PHOENIX NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

1972-73	Mrs. M.E. Allan
1973-74	"
1974-75	Mrs. George Winters
1975-76	"
1976-77	Mrs. L.C. Tombs
1977-78	"
1978-79	Mrs. R. Munroe
1979-80	Mrs. J.G. Telfer
1980-81	"
1981-82	Mrs. P. Mathewson
1982-83	"
1983-84	Mrs. F.L. Stark

## ART

# The Redpath takes a last fling

By MICHAEL WHITE  
of The Gazette

There is little doubt that within a reasonable period of time a new museum of natural sciences will be created in the Province of Quebec. This is the optimistic theme of the Festival of the Pheonix, the closing series of programs of the McGill Redpath Museum, that runs from April 17 - 25.

The Redpath will close its doors to the public June 1 and revert to a role of research and student activities. When it does it will mean that there will be no museum of natural sciences in the province open to the public.

## TOURS

The Repath had a yearly

attendance of more than 50,000 including 8,000 guided school tours. These figures comprised 90 per cent of visitors from off campus and a large percentage of tourists.

The most important of the collections still at the Redpath is the vast quantity of geological and fossil samples collected by Sir J. William Dawson, one of the early principals of McGill. Other collections that have more recently been removed from the Museum are the Philip P. Carter collection of shells, now at MacDonald College, the Henry Lyman Insect collection and others.

Since last Sept. 24, when the necessity of closing the Redpath was announced, efforts have been made to replace it. Aside from the McGill austerity program several

factors made the closing inevitable. Most serious of these was the urgent need of complete remodelling of the museum if it was to carry out its public function and do justice to the collections. McGill University also was anxious to opt out of the public museum role and return the Redpath to university uses in teaching and research. In addition to a need for more space for graduate study, the continuation of the public role would have created serious security problems.

## BUILDING

Concern about the building was also a consideration in the closing of the Museum, said David Sewell, education curator of the museum. Any increase in the use of the museum would have required ex-

tensions and change to the building, which when built in 1882 was considered unique as the only building constructed expressly as a museum.

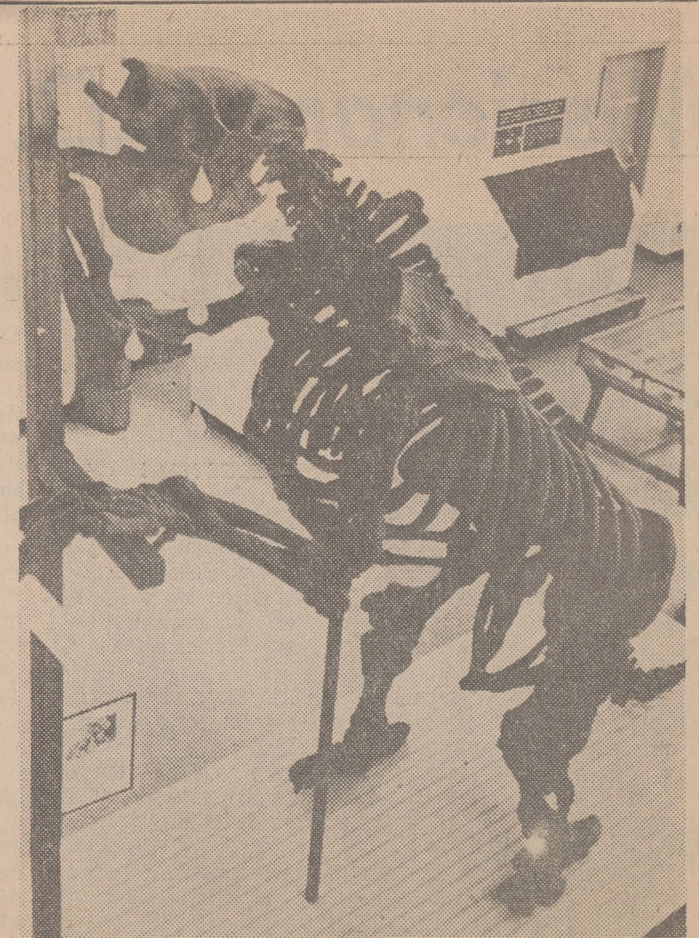
The hopes for the replacement of the Redpath are strong. Many of the 1¼ million specimens in the Redpath are duplicates. A large quantity of the material is in the form of display animals and would only be of use in a museum. The tourist interest and the educational value of a natural history museum in the city are also reasons for optimism.

Alice Johannsen, who recently resigned from the directorship of the Museum to become warden of the Gault Estate at Mont St. Hilaire, will outline the main aims and possibilities of a natural history museum in a talk to the

Province of Quebec Museums Association on Thursday evening, April 22. In other parts of the Pheonix Festival, organizations that have been involved with the Museum — including the Montreal Gem and Mineral Club and the Zoological Society of Canada, will provide demonstrations.

The formal closing of the Museum will be carried out by Dr. W. F. Hitschfield, Dean of Graduate Studies of McGill at an invitational dinner on Monday evening.

"Although the Museum will not be closing until June 1, the Festival of the Pheonix will be the last major program of the Redpath," said Mr. Sewell. "We hope that we can make people realize what they will miss and stimulate activity towards a replacement for the Redpath."



Dinosaur at Redpath—will it find a home?

Trudeau's open closed walls have a message





(Gazette — Garth Pritchard)

## Salute to the Phoenix

With the skeleton of a prehistoric megatherium in the background, **Mr. Murray Fitzpatrick**, **Mrs. Richard Stevenson**, **Mrs. Fitzpatrick** and **Mr. Stevenson** are photographed at a dinner, the Fete of the Phoenix, held by the Education Division of the Redpath Museum and the McGill University Museums Auxiliary on Monday evening at the Museum to

mark its closing to the public. Mrs. Stevenson is president of the Museums Auxiliary and Mrs. Fitzpatrick was dinner chairman. Among the guests were descendants of Sir William Dawson, president of McGill at the time of the Museum's opening, and of Mr. Peter Redpath, who provided funds for its construction.

Dinner-Dance

Mrs Stevenson

Annual Meeting

Mrs Fitzpatrick

volunteer guides

at Museum

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Redpath Museum

chairman Mrs

at the

## Catherine Bates

Each April for the past four years the Redpath Museum has opened its doors extra wide for a special spring open house. This is the last time it will happen. In six weeks the museum will close to the public, possibly forever.

Today and tomorrow, and next week-end as well, the museum will have Family Days, and this coming week groups associated with the Redpath are sponsoring special events. (See calendar for events and times).

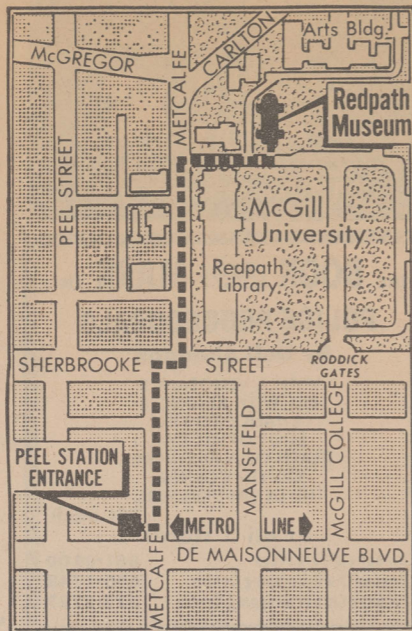
The Redpath is the only public museum of natural science that this province has. Come June 1, the past tense will be used with that description, and not because another museum has been added, but because the only one has been closed to the public.

The Redpath collections, started by Sir William Dawson in 1855, are largely of geographical and zoological specimens. Long a focus for scholarly research, the museum has also been open to the public for about 90 years.

Last year some 50,000 people came to the Redpath to get a feeling for the history of planet Earth, its flora and fauna of past ages as well as the various forms of life it currently supports. Over 8,000 school children were brought to the museum last year alone, and taken on guided tours. This program is headed by David Sewell, the education director, and the tours are guided mainly by volunteers.

Running the public education program on a shoestring has been standard, but now even that is not enough to keep the museum open. Cutbacks by McGill University, of which both the Redpath and the McCord Museums are a part, are forcing these museums to look elsewhere for the financial resources to carry on their public functions. In the future the Redpath will be accessible only to research scholars and to students taking courses that relate directly to the museum's contents.

The McCord (a museum of social history), already heavily indebted to private support for its remodelling,



was fortunate enough to find further private funds to allow it to open on a limited basis for a year. Its problems are partially solved, at least for the immediate moment.

It is ironic that it is the Redpath, with its already existing first-rate program of public and school-level education, that is going to close. What Montreal is losing then, is not the prospects of a good thing, but a good thing in fact.

And doubly ironic is that the city — the province — is losing its museum of natural history at a time when ecology has become a household word, and interest in the history of our planet and its ability to support life are uppermost in people's minds.

But the museum is not going out without a fight. By having its spring open house, it is focussing the attention of the public on the loss, so that when the Redpath cannot carry on its services, the public will demand the establishment of a similar institution to take its place. For it is clear with very little explanation that Montrealers are poorer for the closing of the Redpath.

The program for this coming week has been named The Phoenix Festival, and there was more than the appeal of alliteration that went into the choice of words. The Phoenix is a mythological bird which regenerated itself in a strange way. After a long life, it made itself a nest of twigs on which it died by setting the nest on fire and burning itself alive. From the ashes rose a new Phoenix.

The burning of the Phoenix has been equated with the end of life for the Redpath in its present form, and it is hoped that a new natural history museum will rise out of the present prob-

lems. As explained by Mr. Sewell, "We hope that when people realize what they're losing and that this really is the end of public attendance at the museum, their concern will be great enough to spur some reaction, some activity which will either change the cloistered future of the Redpath or will ensure the building of a new museum specially designed for the public. Just as the Phoenix rose from the ashes we hope a new museum will rise from the unfortunate circumstances of the Redpath."

The Phoenix Festival program is bound to attract large numbers of both adults and children. Last year, the Museum Mysteries program alone, run on two weekends in April, drew over 2,500 visitors.

When you enter this weekend and next weekend, you will be given a quiz booklet. Dinosaur tracks painted on the floor and walls will be your guide to display cases that answer the questions in the booklet. These nature trails take the visitor to all parts of the Museum. One trail shows the animals around the world, another shows those animals which can be found in the Montreal area. There are both French and English booklets.

This kind of program, directly involving the visitor, is one which gradually replaced earlier efforts at education. The first two years of open houses featured films only, but the museum recognized the value of audience participation, and changed its approach. Many visitors last year made the Redpath visit their outing for the day, taking along picnic lunches for the family which were eaten elsewhere on the McGill campus. There are no lunch facilities at the museum.

The Monday evening program is the only private affair, a buffet dinner

for members of the museum's auxiliary and those who have contributed to the museum in various ways. At that function the Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. W. P. Hitschfeld, will officially close the museum.

On Tuesday the Montreal Gem and Mineral Club will give demonstrations on soapstone carving, cabochon work, and stone-cutting. Exhibits of member work will be on display. Often the stone for a piece of jewelry has been found on one of the field trips taken by the club and is then cut, polished and set by the owner.

Wednesday night the Zoological Society is having its open meeting. Gerald Iles, the president, gave a delightful rundown of the program. Part one will be a show of live snakes by a junior member, Barbara Brown. She has, among others, "a rather attractive python, and a very nice boa".

Then Mrs. Elizabeth Collard will talk on the care of turtles. Mrs. Collard, known in other circles as an authority on fine china, is billed as a great authority on turtles.

As well, the Wednesday night program will feature "The Loch Ness Monster — Fact or Fiction," a dramatic presentation by Mr. Iles, Bud Knapp (CBC actor and commentator) and Mary Morter (co-founder of Instant Theatre and now associated with the Pendulum theatre in Place Ville Marie). Mr. Iles has done a great deal of research on this topic and is taking a group to England this summer to study the Loch Ness mystery.

Also as part of the Zoological Society's contribution there will be a conservation exhibition on the top floor showing pictures of endangered species of animals and what can and should be done to protect them.

The McGill University Museum's

Auxiliary and Mr. Sewell have been working hard to provide the public with a strong program. While it might seem a discouraging business to plan a program "to mark the closing to the public of the Redpath Museum," their aims do go beyond that. They are trying to tell the public that something it has taken for granted for so long will no longer be available, and that if individuals value it they must do something to replace it.

The role of any museum in public education is an important one. Within the last 10 years an outgoing educational policy at the Redpath has been developed. This is in keeping with trends all over North America.

Earlier in the century very few museums had any sort of organized educational programs. By 1960, about 45 per cent were offering such activities. And now, out of some 6,000 museums in the United States and Canada, over 90 per cent offer some kind of formal educational program. The public programs aim to interpret the facts of science and nature for the laymen and student, to help them assimilate the new information and relate it to their lives and goals.

Dr. James A. Oliver, director of the American Museums of Natural History, made the following comments at the centennial convocation of that Museum: "The learning experience that a museum offers through its exhibits is basic to the needs of our time. The exponential rate at which knowledge grows is staggering. Education, in order to be viable, must be a continuing, lifelong process. And nowhere is the process made more readily accessible than in a dynamic museum. As scientific data increase, as technologies advance, as exhibit techniques improve, these teaching machines we

call museums will become more and more an important source of refresher education."

It could be argued that McGill is cutting out the public from the Redpath Museum in order to save a relatively small amount of money (\$15,000 - \$20,000 per year).

But in the long run, the university feels it will be better able to use the contents and space for its particular purposes. The museum as it is now is really not adequate to fulfill both its scholarly and public functions to the optimum.

The Redpath officials have often said that a great deal of the present material at the museum, that part not of great value for scholarly research, would make excellent visual material for the public, and that such material could be donated to an appropriate future museum.

The public of this province should have a museum of natural history. A separate building is needed, and the total annual costs of running a new museum would probably range around the \$100,000 mark. Government funds are needed. Benefactors are needed. Contributions must be made by the public who would visit and benefit.

But the people of this city and province have to make it clearly known that they want a dynamic museum. The museum resources of this city are already meagre, and time is running out for the Redpath.

# A museum dies

# REDPATH MUSEUM



The grand opening of the Redpath Museum  
built with funds from Peter Redpath to house  
Sir William Dawson's geological and zoological exhibits.

\*  
Star April 17, 1971

## Of Many Things...

by Edgar Andrew Collard

## McGill university's oldest building

The Peter Redpath Museum, sketched by John Collins for today's page, is the oldest building on the McGill Campus.

The outer walls of the Arts Building are older; they go back in part to the 1840s, in part to the 1860s. But the Arts Building has been several times extensively reconstructed within. Nothing remains of the original building except the shell.

The Peter Redpath Museum, seen from the outside, is exactly as it was when completed in 1882. The interior has undergone a few modifications; but these are minor; within it is still a striking example of the massive woodwork and stately arrangements of the Victorian age.

Most beautiful

Taste and style and fashion in architecture have all changed drastically from Victorian standards. The Redpath Museum contrasts, rather violently, with the latest buildings on the campus. Yet it holds its own, in dignity and grace.

In 1931 Dr. Cyril Fox, a British expert in museum work, had words of admiration for the old building, when he made a survey of McGill's museums. "The Museum, an elaborately decorated late 'Neo-Classical' structure, has its faults," he said in his report, "nevertheless, it stands out as the most scholarly, the most distinguished, the most beautiful building in the University..."

Dr. Fox's opinion of the 1930s is supported by still more modern views. Prof. John Bland, Director of McGill's School of Architecture, believes that the Redpath Museum is a notable example of a late phase of the Greek revival.

"It gives the impression," he says, "that the man who designed it disposed its elements for maximum architectural interest and enjoyed doing so. The interior as well as the exterior has been carefully considered to be handsome as well as useful, and even though its decorations have been superseded by many fashions, it still appears well bred."

The museum was designed by the architectural firm of Hutchison and Steele — a partnership of Alexander Cowper Hutchison and A. D. Steele.

Closed to public

The Redpath Museum has been in the news during the last few weeks because it is being closed to the public. Its public role has grown in recent years. Classes of school children have been taken through it on conducted tours; societies, such as the Zoological Society of Canada, have held regular series of public lectures there.

McGill's policy of financial restraint has necessitated the closing of the museum to the public. It will now be confined to teaching and research at the university — always its primary purposes.

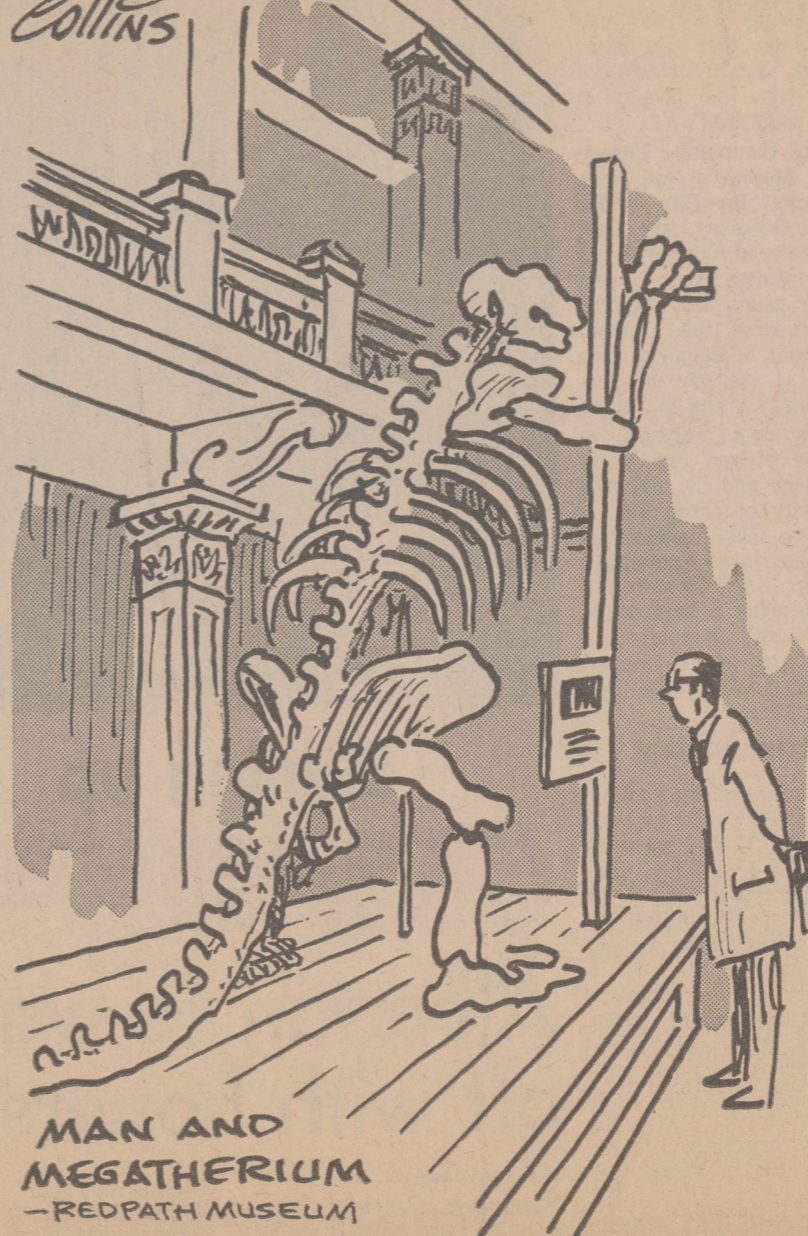
But the ending of the Redpath Museum's public role has left Montreal without any museum of Natural History. It is a serious curtailment of educational opportunity. Many in the city, especially those who have hitherto used the Redpath Museum as part of the educational experience of children, are hoping that some means will be found to remedy the lack.

Lasting impressions

To generations of visitors these exhibits have been the means of awakening the mind to nature as a wonder and a study.

The lasting impressions of early visits to the Redpath Museum have been described by Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge, daughter of Dr. Bernard J. Harrington, who taught applied science at McGill for 36 years, and grand-daughter of Sir William Dawson, for 38 years McGill's principal. Mrs. Winslow-Spragge writes:

"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 nine years old... With my hand in my father's I

JOHN SKETCHBOOK  
COLLINS

found myself climbing up the broad steps... My father opened the great heavy doors 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 lots of money so that the museum could be built for Grandpapa.

"Across from the front door was a solid stairway with heavy golden yellow bannisters. 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 mounting the stairs I had to stop to peer into the aquarium on the right of the hall. This large tank was full of all sorts of wiggly things and little fish...

"Climbing the brown shiny steps we soon arrived at the landing. Here we spent a short time looking at a large case of stuffed water birds — and then examined a huge cross section of a British Columbian tree. I tried so hard on many different visits to the museum to count the rings to discover the age of the tree, but it was very difficult to do and I doubt if I ever got the correct answer..."

Prehistorical monsters

"I looked through the large doorway into the main upper hall. Here at once my eyes rested on the huge skeleton of the prehistoric 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 was glad that these animals do not roam about the world anymore.

"Just beyond these creatures 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 Kohinoor diamond. Briefly we inspected all the beautifully colored minerals, which were housed around the sides of the hall.

"Seeing the enormous fossil footprints in the sand, 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 looking at.

"I was anxious to find a square glass case, on top of a cabinet where butterflies were kept in locked drawers. I paused for quite some time before I moved on to find my old friend the stuffed beaver sitting as he always did beside his little pond with water lilies 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..."

Shells and Birds

"We passed by the skeleton of the horse and the bison and continued our way 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 varicolored humming birds — it was so dainty and pretty. Then there was the great mounted skeleton of a whale which my father had caught in Metis and given to the museum.

"Finally we saw the huge Indian Totem Pole which came up through the ceiling from the second floor. What a wonderful thing it was, so enormous and majestic. It was a very important part of the museum to me..."

"These are some of my recollections of the many visits I made to the Redpath Museum with my father... These visits have stimulated me through the years and made a very lasting impression on my life."

Redpath's gift

The Redpath Museum is primarily the creation of two men. One was Sir William Dawson, whose first interest lay in natural history. The other was Peter Redpath, who provided all the money needed to build and equip the museum.

In a sense, the museum was Peter Redpath's gift to Dawson as much as to the university. About 1880, after 25 years as principal of McGill, Dawson had come to consider that he might resign.

He had always wished for more time for research and writing in

Natural History; the work of administration had meant largely the sacrifice of his career as a scientist. An offer had come to him from a university in the United States. It would release him from the details of administration.

Peter Redpath recognized that the resignation of Dawson would be a serious loss to McGill. He said that he planned to provide McGill with a separate building, devoted entirely to the study of Natural History. This exciting prospect drove all thoughts of retirement from Dawson's mind.

Montreal to England

Peter Redpath was the son of John Redpath, one of the pioneer industrialists of Montreal, the founder in 1854 of the Redpath Sugar Refinery. John Redpath had been a benefactor of McGill University.

When John Redpath died, his two sons, Peter and John James, inherited the sugar refinery. John James soon withdrew completely. But Peter continued in the business until 1880. He then withdrew and moved from Montreal to England.

At Chislehurst in Kent he bought an Elizabethan manor house. He now realized an old ambition to study law and was admitted as a member of the Middle Temple.

Yet Peter Redpath never lost his interest in Montreal or in McGill University. He had been a member of the board of Governors and had endowed a chair in mathematics. Now he was undertaking alone to provide McGill with a museum of Natural History and, subsequently, with a library.

He had a scathing view of the merchants and industrialists in Montreal who made fortunes in the city and gave nothing back. In a private letter to Principal Dawson, he wrote: "It is not difficult to find reasons for not giving. And there are persons who really do not feel it a duty to help any object. They have no more notion of such a duty than a man born blind has of colour. I have met such people and I fear they are not scarce."

No publicity

From his manor house in Kent he was closely in touch with the progress of building the museum. He was kept informed with reports, plans and photographs. He scrutinized everything. He made suggestions, notably about improved heating. He attended to details. He had the lock-plates specially made in England.

Peter Redpath shunned publicity, as in his other gifts. He regretted that he would have to make a public appearance at the formal opening of the museum, but resigned himself to it as inevitable.

Nor did he like the fact that his name was to appear on the invitations. "I am sorry that I did not make sufficiently clear my desire to keep my name entirely out of the invitations and cards of admission to the ceremony..." he wrote to Principal Dawson.

"If they have not been issued I should be glad if others could yet be substituted for them. Otherwise I am exposed to the charge of ostentation which is utterly repugnant to my feelings."

On the evening of August 24, 1882 the Peter Redpath Museum of Natural History was opened. Principal Dawson had spent the whole summer, in heat and dust, installing and arranging the exhibits. He was president that year of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The association was meeting in Montreal. He received the members as host in the new museum — an hour of intense satisfaction.

There was satisfaction also for Peter Redpath. He had kept Dawson at McGill. He had made him happy. And he had created a centre for the study of Natural History.

Came a long way

Ten years later the Peter Redpath Library was opened, only a few feet to the west of the museum.

And the university had come a long way largely because Peter Redpath, by establishing the museum, and then the library, gave a new impetus to growth, and stimulated a flow of gifts from others.